

Approved by the Board of Directors on November 16, 2023

Mission Statement: *“We are a community of learners. We will do whatever it takes to learn. We are building a strong foundation by believing we can, working our plan, then feeling the power of success.”*

George Washington Academy

Thursday, October 26, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: George Washington Academy
Library
2277 S 3000 E,
St. George, UT 84790

The Board Training was held at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting.

The Board meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer, President

Prayer: Joshua Serrano (Public)

Pledge of Allegiance: Shannon Greer

Board Members Present: Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Kevin Peterson and Blake Clark. Shannon Greer, Shauna Mahoney, and Casey Unrein attended via Zoom.

Others Present: Christine Giles, Spencer Adams, Deborah Odenwalder, Debbie Kauvaka, Chance Manzanares, Jenna Ayers, Joshua Serrano, Adrian Bueno, and Karli Bueno.

Approval of Minutes: Amanada motions to approve the September 28, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes as outlined in the board packet. Shannon seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Kevin Peterson. Shauna Mahoney refrained from voting due to recovering from surgery.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board: None.

Set time for adjournment: Blake Clark set time for adjournment at 8:25 p.m.

Teacher Reports: Blake reports that both representatives were unable to attend. Blake asked Jenna Ayers and Chance Manzanares to report on their experience going to the PLC Solution Tree conference. They report that it was a great experience and that there were a lot of takeaways including giving time to teachers to collaborate and that adult learning should never stop as it is an ongoing work.

Administration Report: Blake reported that all reports were all submitted on time. Based on what was learned from the PLC conference, admin is considering pivoting on how GWA utilizes the professional development summer days. Instead of utilizing as has been done in the past, looking at an option to send all teachers/staff to the Las Vegas PLC conference but will meet with the teachers to get their thoughts before making decisions. Today the 3rd graders had a field Trip to Southern UT STEM Center at UT Tech and Atwood Innovation Center where they were able to code robots, learn about hissing cockroaches and snakes, etc. Admin's had its first planning call with Sean Covey. Sean Covey and the CEO of all the Franklin Covey, Paul Walker, which the first school Paul Walker has been to because the Vice Presidents thought we'd be the best school for his first visit. In addition to Sean Covey and Paul Walker, there will be a few Board members and their leadership team. They gave the suggestion of having a few student interview Sean Covey and Paul Walker on leadership skills and how they used those skills in their career. Blake and the admin is working on taking that idea and making it a Oprah type talk show with some students and parents (about 300) to be a part of the audience at a first come, first serve basis until the seats are full. They will also have a student tour, meetings with student leaders, and lighthouse coordinators. Blake reminded the Board the Veterans program for Nov 10th. GWA is partnered with the St. George Academy to do the Color Guard for the program. Students will be encouraged to invite a veteran to come for the program. Blake thanked the PTO for the Fall festival. Everyone was very positive about how it turned out.

Financial Report: Spencer reported on the Financial report as of September 30, 2023. Officially we are a quarter of the way through the Fiscal Year. We're doing great, already at 31% of our Revenue. Forecast is \$75,000 more than the original approved budget was. A big part of that was due to our interest in investments. We're nearing half of the forecast which means that we will be able to continue to increase it. We will see a little dip due to a slight dip in students but it shouldn't cause anything dramatic. Federal revenue is still matching up with our approved budget. We'll wait until we get the final numbers before we adjust anything on the budget. Expenses are looking great. Red line items are items that are purchased at the beginning of the year so nothing unexpected and when looking at the ratio we can see we're still in great shape. The new line in the ratio so it's easier to see if we're staying above that \$250,000 Unrestricted Net Income and we are. Everything is positive and will continue to be monitored as we go throughout the year. Once we get the trued up numbers from the state then we'll get them added in and be able to see where we're at. Spencer reported that all the reports that were due were submitted on time.

Committee Reports:

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – The land purchase is almost ready. Waiting for just a few things.
- **Audit Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Met with representatives of Amplify ELA last month to discuss what that curriculum would provide for our teachers and students. We have created an instructional vision to align what we feel we need here at GWA. We will circle back with Amplify ELA for a few questions and to review our instructional vision to ensure that we are on the right path with the right curriculum.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report.

- **LAND Trust Committee** – Filed the paperwork that we needed to and we'll meet up in the next week or two. Got enough parent volunteers needed for the committee.
- **PTO Committee** – A huge thanks to everyone that came to the Fall Festival and helped out. We made money this year. We averaged around 2,000 people that came so we had great support from the school and the community.
- **Board Development Committee** – Nothing to report. After Board members are approved then there will be training specific for the Board members.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Appointment of New Board Members** - The Board Development committee would like to recommend that the Board appoint the following 4 individuals: Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Deborah Odenwalder, and Brady Pearce to the Board. Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Brady Pearce will be nominated to positions for a term beginning in November of 2023 and concluding June 30th of 2026 provided Board approval and their acceptance. Deborah Odenwalder will be nominated to a position for a term beginning in February of 2024 and concluding June 30th of 2026 provided Board approval and her acceptance. This will allow time to find a replacement for Deborah's position as Board Clerk. Shannon made the motion to appoint Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, and Deborah Odenwalder. Amanda seconded. Kevin asked if there were any insights the interview panel would like the Board to know on these individuals. Shannon expressed that she felt that all of these individually had unique strengths, talents, and skill sets that would be beneficial to the Board as we move forward. Casey expressed his agreement with Shannon's statement. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, and Kevin Peterson.
- **465: Internet Safety Policy (Board Packet Pg. 12)** - Amanda made the motion to approve the 465: Internet Safety Policy as outlined in Board Packet. Shannon seconded the motion. Kevin asked if this policy had any way to notify parents if the system has been hacked. Blake will check into that. It's not outlined in this policy but will check with the system provider. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney
- **Special Education Contractor Agreement for Occupational Therapist, 2023-2024 (Board Packet Pg. 15)** - Holly made a motion to approve the Special Education Contractor Agreement for Occupational Therapist as outlined in the Board Packet. Amanda seconded. Blake expressed how well this therapist has worked out so far. Holly asked if the therapist was still working to catch up and Blake clarified what she is working on and that she has already confirmed that she was fine to drop down to the normal amount once she was able to catch up. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Special Education Director Salary Schedule Change (Board Packet Pg. 21)** - Casey made a motion to approve the Special Education Director Salary Schedule Change as outlined in the Board Packet. Amanda seconded. Blake explained why the change was necessary and when the posting would start. Blake would like to remove the SPED requirement but keep the degree lanes. Lane 1 - Associate's Degree, Lane 2 - Bachelor Degree, Lane 3 - Masters Degree, SPED Bonus that can be added to any Lane. The Board

discussed questions on market rate, budget impact, and experience steps. Casey amended his motion to approve the Special Education Director Salary Schedule Change with the adjustment of the salary schedule to reflect Lane 1 - Associate's Degree; Lane 2 - Bachelor's Degree; Lane 3 - Master's Degree where the starting salary equals the current Total column in each lane with an optional SPED licensure salary bonus of \$3,000 for any lane. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Kevin Peterson. Shauna Mahoney refrained from voting due to recovering from surgery.

- **Update Policy 735 - Fiscal Accountability (Board Packet Pg. 30)** - Shannon motions to accept the Update Policy 735 - Fiscal Accountability as outlined in the Board Packet. Amanda seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.

Closed Meeting – *none*.

Reconvene — Take all appropriate action in relation to closed session items.

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on November 16th, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Blake asked to talk about his experience in Chicago regarding Mission Statement. The biggest take away is that we have been working on the Vision statement instead of the Mission Statement. According to his training a Mission statement is not meant to talk about how. Blake also reported that October 1st was the lowest count all year. GWA is seeing that parents are saying yes right away but then the longer they are on the waitlist the less likely the parents are to move their kids over to GWA mid-year. Blake's team is working on creating a way to say yes to more people and how they are doing that. The Board discussions how this growth will affect the school in the future.

Adjournment: Holly motion to adjourn. The board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk