

These Minutes are Pending Board Approval

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

George Washington Academy

Thursday, April 25, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

The Board Legislative Update Training was held on April 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the GWA Lunchroom.

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

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer, President

Prayer: Josh Serrano

Pledge of Allegiance: Steve Erickson

Board Members Present: Amanda Mortenson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, Blake Clark, and Shauna Mahoney

Others Present: Spencer Adams, Deborah Odenwalder, Chance Manzanares, Jenna Ayers, Christine Giles, Jaxynn Smith, Steve Erickson, Megan Thatcher, Clint Brown, and Josh Serrano.

Shannon drew the Board's attention to the new structure of the agenda to include the school goals and asked for feedback if any.

Approval of Minutes: Kevin made a motions to approve the March 28, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as outlined in the board packet. Amanda seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.

Kevin made a motions to approve the April 09, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as outlined in the board packet. Brady seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board: None.

Set time for adjournment: Kevin set time for adjournment at 8:36 p.m.

Teacher Reports: Jaxynn reports from Kindergarten: 25 out of 26 Students passed off the most difficult word list yet! These kindergartners are on fire with reading! The handwriting fairy has also started to make appearances in our classroom when she sees excellent handwriting on papers!

From 2nd grade: We have set goals for our students in both math and reading. We have met our goals (10% growth in reading and math fluency) and we are so proud of our students! We have used LETRS so much in our instruction and we are SO grateful for LETRS! It's been a great year of learning!

From 3rd grade: Finishing up our RISE testing this week. Excited about Rise testing because of a mindset shift.

From 4th Grade: Western rock talked with the class about rocks and how they are used in real-world situations. After talking about how they are used the students are able to create handprints in cement. Then they participate in a hands-on activity where they mine for "rocks" by dissecting chocolate chip cookies. The students are given pretend money and have to pay for their mining materials. Then they have a discussion about protecting the environment and safety in a worksite. As they are mining the adults walk around and fine for unsafe working conditions. They are also fined if they spread their materials outside of their construction site "polluting" the environment around their site. As a wrap up, they have a discussion about some of the stereotypes around construction work. The presenters talk about all of the career opportunities in construction and educational paths that can lead there.

From 5th Grade: We had a super fun field trip to the STEM outreach center at Utah Tech!

From 6th Grade: Our 6th graders have been working hard discovering their learning intelligences, writing essays, participating in Book club and creating and presenting book report projects!

From 7th Grade: Recently the 7th grade team has been thinking about ways to have more 7th grade students participate in leadership roles as recommended by the Leader in Me program. We have formed three committees: Dance Committee, Leadership Day Committee and Graduation Committee. The students have enjoyed planning and carrying out the upcoming events. They have learned about what it is to stay within budget, to make decisions as a group, and about how much work it takes behind the scenes to put on a great event. One student said to me, "Thank you so much for electing me to the Graduation Committee Mrs. Aikens! This is the first time I've done something like this, and I really like it." We've had such success with these groups that we are already considering how to have committees on-going all year next year.

Administration Report: Blake went through the Admin Report and the Goals detailed there. Blake also highlighted the change in the behavior data in both the Teacher Managed (Minor Incidents) and Admin Managed (Major Incidents) categories from last month to this month. He noted that what appears to be an increase of behaviors is a result from an increase in reporting and GWA focus in allowing teachers to work with the students on their behaviors to avoid students being escalated to the office when possible. Blake changed the outline of his email report to accommodate the feedback of the board. Shannon expressed appreciation of the charter goals being prominently visible. Blake agreed and noted that he hopes to improve these goals so that it will better fit GWA's culture. Blake drew attention to the picture included and indicated that he is planning to start including photos of activities happening around the school each month then explained what was happening in each photo. All reports are done or will be by the due date.

Financial Report: Spencer reported that we are 3 quarters of the way through the fiscal year. So far everything is looking good. At this point a lot of our focus has been on next year's fiscal year budget creation. As far as this year's report, we're right on track where we should be or trending towards some savings for next year. Everything indicates that we'll end strong and be set up well for next fiscal year. No concerns that need to be addressed at this time. The Board had no questions or concerns. All reports and submissions that were due have been completed.

Committee Reports:

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** – Casey noted that 1 more Board member will need to serve on the Audit committee as we are above 7 members. Shannon asked Deborah to add the volunteering of an additional board member to the Audit committee to next month's Board Agenda. Next month will be our Audit training so Casey will send out some training modules for the Board to go over before the next board meeting training.
- **Benefits Committee** – Blake reports that the contact for TalkSpace is going to be in town so Blake will meet with her to discuss creating a video to assist staff with the program. Shannon asked if the staff will have an opportunity to speak with her as well. Blake reports that she will be back in town at the beginning of August/end of July and he will look at setting up a meeting with the teachers/staff then.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Outreach Committee** – Blake went over the decision process the committee used to create the new Mission statement and the committee's appreciation for all the feedback. Shannon asked Deborah to change the chair of this committee from Holly to Shauna.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Plan has been submitted and accepted. Shannon asked Deborah to change the chair of this committee from Kevin to Brady.
- **PTO Committee** – May 4th is the family appreciation event. Amanda invites all to come and to bring clothes to get wet in. The new PTO board has been voted in by the parents for the next school board. Last PTO meeting will be May 1st. Amanda will stay in until July.
- **Board Development Committee** – Next month training will be on the Audit. Next month we'll have a new Board clerk joining us.

- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report. Shannon expressed her appreciation for the further explanation on the reasoning of the Guard law. Blake did express that they are going to be actively looking at. Shannon reported that safety will be discussed outside of the Board meeting but it will be finalized in a closed meeting with the Board. Blake and Shannon expressed appreciation for Steve’s work on this even prior to the new law.

Presentation from Mathnasium: Clint Brown and Megan Thatcher presented the data results from working with GWA students that were identified as needing additional support in math and a brief summary of what their program looked like while they worked with the students. Shannon asked them to explain how Mathnasium selects and trains their staff. Megan explained they are hiring Math teaching students or existing Math teachers and that they are given training above and beyond. Casey asked how the results seen here are GWA compared to the results of students attending Mathnasium privately. Clint expounded on the data, gave the data of the private students and explained that because GWA students are attending more frequently the scores are increasing faster. Shannon asked Blake what is the expectation for the schedule. Blake gave the current expectations but reported that there is flexibility available for those students that need more. Megan agreed with Blake and gave evidence of this need in the data that they presented. Blake explained that GWA is looking for this program’s goal to be where the students are graduating out of the program and going back to the regular classroom. Amanda asked would there be a way to expand this to the greater student population. Blake indicated that it really depends on how much we as GWA are willing to pay and that GWA teachers have more resources for Math expansion but do not currently have the resources for intensive intervention which is why we are looking at Mathnasium. Casey asked if there is a concern about proprietary information transferring. Clint explained yes it is proprietary but there isn’t currently a concern as the risk is low and the impact is more important. Shannon asked if there is a concern that the terminology is different in the classroom. Megan reported that the focus is different than what is being taught in the classroom so the terminology wouldn’t conflict.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **Leader in Me Subscription** - Kevin made a motion to accept the Leader in Me subscription with the note that this is coming out of the 2023-24 budget in the amount of \$8,600.00. Shauna seconded. Amanda asked if they come to campus or is it done off campus. Blake indicated that they are flexible. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **2024-2025 CKLA Curriculum Material Purchase** - Casey made a motion to approve the purchase of the CKLA Curriculum Material from Mountain State in the amount of \$35,262.30. Kevin seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **2024 Mathnasium Tutoring Summer Program** - Amanda made a motion to approve the 2024 Mathnasium Summer Tutoring Program in the amount of \$11,200.00. Brady seconded the motion. Shauna asked how GWA will ensure that this program will be utilized to its fullest so that we avoid paying without utilization. Blake explained what

assessments and requirements admin is currently planning to use. Kevin asked if certain grades are going to take priority. Blake said it will be discussed. Shauna asked how these deficits occurred in the students. Blake gave background of the causes as currently known. Amanda asked how we are going to ensure accountability in use. Blake stated that we'd need to finalize some of that but generally it will be similar to programs we've done in the past. Amanda asked if we'll be assessing at the beginning and end of this program to see if it's working and do we have any specific metrics we'll use. Blake indicated that we will be getting data throughout the program and Kevin stated that it should be 3-4% according to their data. Casey states that we shouldn't utilize their data only. Blake agreed and said that we'd want to assess them against state standards in the Acadience testing. Shannon asked Blake to bring to the board what metrics admin will utilize for assessing these students. Shannon asked Deborah to add this request as an item in the May Board Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.

- **2024-2025 Math Center Powered by Mathnasium** - Kevin made a motion to accept the Mathnasium Center Program for the School year for 80 students as outlined in the board packet in the amount of \$84,000. Amanda seconded the motion. Amanda asked why there is a price difference between the summer and school year pricing. Blake and Kevin explained what was negotiated and the reasons given. Shauna gave a testimonial from her experience with her own child. Kevin expounded on the scheduling of the 80 slots. Blake reported that there has been discussion about using land trust funds in the future to assist families in need with the Add-on math center. Casey asked what is the possibility of bringing it in house. Blake explained how it isn't a current option. Shannon did indicate that it will continue to be assessed as an option. Amanda asked what our backup plan would be if this doesn't work. Blake reports that currently there isn't one but that they will continue to be as proactive as possible. Laura S. expressed that she felt that it was awesome. Casey thanked Blake for his work. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Selection of External Auditor** - Casey made a motion to approve the selection of Eide Bailly as an External Auditor for an anticipated period of 5 years in the amount of \$16,600 per year. Kevin seconded the motion. Blake noted that this is per year on the P.O. Casey indicated that we have the opportunity to change auditor if needed. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **IT Services Contract** - Kevin made a motion to accept the IT Contract from Superior Technical Solutions in the amount of \$12,300 per month for 3 years starting July 1st, 2024. Shauna seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Carpet Cleaning Contract** - Kevin made a motion to accept the carpet cleaning contract for 3 years, projected to be done as we normally have done in July and December from 3:16 Carpet Cleaning in the amount of \$4,260.00. Casey seconded the motion. Shannon asked for clarification on the price. Kevin explained that since it was a 3 year contract, the total brings it over \$5,000. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in

favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.

- **Copier Purchase and Service Agreement** - Kevin made a motion to accept the purchase and 3 year service agreement of the 4 copiers from Les Olson in the amount of \$28,309.46. Amanda seconded. Casey noted the click charge on the fisher would work out to a savings and clarified that Les Olson was chosen over Fisher due to service response time. Casey asked if GWA was selling the printers? The current plan wasn't to but the Board asked the admin team to try selling them. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Transparency of New Sound System in Gym** - No voting on this as it was brought to the Board prior for approval for cost and this information was for transparency. Shannon asked Steve to send Deborah the contact information so the Board can send a thank you note to the parent.
- **Policy 705 - Procurement Policy Update** - Kevin made a motion to approve the Policy 705 - Procurement Policy update that any single equipment item over \$5,000 must be approved by USBE when using federal funds. Casey seconded. Blake reported that this isn't something that has happened before. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **FY25 Proposed Salary Schedules** - Kevin made a motion to accept the FY25 Proposed Salary Schedules as outlined in the Board packet. Amanda seconded. Shannon expressed appreciation that the WPU is a little higher this year. Casey asked about the requirement to match the state parental leave benefits. Blake reported that GWA already doubles that requirement. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Addendum to current Agreement with Red Apple Financial** - Kevin made a motion to accept the Addendum to the current agreement with Red Apple Financial as outlined in the Board packet. Shauna seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Revised Mission Statement** - Amanda made a motion to accept the Revised Mission Statement as outlined in the Board Packet . Brady seconded the motion. Laura P. expressed appreciation for it and indicated that it's exceptional work. Shannon indicated that we need to get approval from the state charter board with our Exhibit A. Shannon will reach out to them tonight but we should be able to move forward with ordering supplies. Casey noted that when we order, if we avoid the phrase "mission statement" we should be fine either way. Amanda asked if the students would be stating anything. Blake said they will be reading out the Operational Mission statement daily. Shannon expressed appreciation for all the work put into this. Blake expressed the committee's appreciation of the input and feedback they received in the development of the new Mission statement. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.

Shannon gave an update on the marquee sign up front. Blake reports that the Admin is not finding a company to remodel for the Mathnasium area. Kevin and Brady will work with Blake to find a solution.

Closed Meeting – *none*.

Shannon reminded the board that the May Board Meeting will be earlier than normal. Shannon also notified the Board that Chris Helvey, from Freedom Prep will come to the next meeting to give us an overview of their Pre-K program.

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

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 16th, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment: Kevin motioned to adjourn. The board adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk