

Approved by the Board of Directors on September 25, 2025

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

George Washington Academy

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Courtyard by Marriott
185 South 1470 East
St. George, UT 84790

Board Retreat was held at 4:30 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting.

The Board meeting convened at 7:15 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer

Prayer: Kevin Peterson

Pledge of Allegiance: Kevin Peterson

GWA Year Goals:

Reviewed and discussed new goals from the Admin team.

Academics- By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, GWA students and teachers will work together to achieve an overall 8% increase in math fluency, making steady progress of 2% each quarter through consistent effort, collaboration, and support.

Leadership- Teachers will lead their own professional development by sharing and modeling best practices in academic instruction and behavior support, fostering a culture of shared leadership and continuous growth.

Community- Foster a positive school culture that motivates by embedding regular meaningful celebrations that recognize student achievement, personal growth, and staff contributions.

Board Members Present: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson and Blake Clark.

Others Present: Debbie Kauvaka, Steve Erickson, Christine Giles, Chance Manzanares, Emily Winona, Spencer Adams, Jenna Ayers, Lisa Riel, and Miguel Munoz.

Approval of Minutes:

Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 17th Board Meeting as outlined in the board packet. Rachel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:

None

Set time for adjournment

Blake set time for adjournment as 8:30.

Teacher Reports:

Emily Winona, and Lisa Riel gave the report.

They talked with the kindergarten team, they are really happy with the culture that they are starting for a foundation for the kids. They are impressed with how prepared the students were. It went really well. They have taken to the routine very quickly

Administration Report: Blake Clark, Executive Director

Blake explained the board update that he sends out monthly, prior to the board meeting. Enrollment will be 1030 which is the highest he has seen ever. Blake explained the new attendance policy - they take it very seriously since they are there to protect the safety of the kids. There is a wait list of 149 students, mostly students K-4. He reviewed the summer Mathnasium report. Based on the numbers, attendance is important to mastering the skills. The kids that were there the most mastered more skills. He reviewed test scores for Reading, Math and Science. Blake brought up the back to school night, there was a great turn out. The PTO had a booth as well as the wellness center. Casey asked about the absentee number. 91% is good but if its always the same 9% that aren't coming to school is there a way to track that and is there something we should do about it?

Financial Report:

Spencer Adams gave the report. This is the first month of the year - July. There are a lot in red, thats because we have to use them before we get them. Regardless of where we are as long as we know why that's whats important. Overall starting the year really well. The finance committee keeps very detailed records. Once we get the trued up number we will know what the revenue will look like for the year. They are working with the auditors right now and will send the report once they get it.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report.

- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report. Sent an email to past members to gauge interest for this upcoming year.
- **PTO Committee** – Strong PTO team with good vision. Uniform sale went really well, almost doubling what they made previously.
- **Board Development Committee** – Just outlined what we will be doing the next couple of months. Nothing additional to report.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Shannon asked the new board members to choose a committee to be part of. Sharna and Sharon. Sharna accepted to be on the Audit committee and technology. Benefit committee Sharon. Policy committee needs

Rachel wants the technology and Health and Wellness, recruitment

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Casey made a motion to approve the Update to Policy 440, Corporal Punishment as outlined in the board packet. Brady seconded that motion. Motion was amended to change the second page header to match the actual policy. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.
- Laura P made a motion to approve the IT Service Contract in the amount of \$12,915. Seconded by Rachel. Rachel said that she did some research on it and it seemed like a good price. This was a multi year contract second of three years. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.
- Kevin made a motion to pass the TSSA Framework and Budget in the amount of \$304,399 as outlined in the board packet. Seconded by Sharon. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.
- Shannon abstained from the vote since she works for UAPCS. Kevin took over. Brady made a motion to approve the UAPCS Membership Dues in the amount of \$8,088 as outlined in the board packet. Rachel seconded the motion. Rachel asked to learn more about it. Blake said he outlined it in the packet but that they receive a lot of training from UAPCS and if they ever need extra support it comes out of this for no additional charge. Kevin commented that they have individuals that work with legislators. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson. Shannon Greer abstained.
- Kevin made a motion to accept the New Supplement -Highly Needed Educators (SHINE) Policy as outlined in the board packet. Laura S seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.

- Sharna made a motion to approve the Solution Tree Professional Development in the amount of \$9,700 as outlined in the board packet. Kevin seconded the motion. Rachel asked if all teachers get to attend the training with the author. Blake said yes. It will be held on a teacher prep day. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.

Hughes Construction Update:

They are getting close to having a finalized sketch. They are meeting tomorrow and want to spend the first 30 mins touring the campus.

Sponsorship Update: Shelbi Kelly updated the board on how many sponsors came in for the school year. There are 41 sponsors. Last year she raised \$42,600. This year it was \$46,500. Six businesses chose to upgrade to the Patriot level which was \$2,000. Several businesses donated gift cards. 18 Businesses have committed to do a booth at the 20 year anniversary celebration.

Closed Meeting – Kevin Peterson made a motion to go into a closed meeting in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act for the purposes of discussing the character competence of an individual. Sharna Rowe seconded. Roll Call vote: Shannon Greer, yes. Casey Unrein, yes. Laura Pressley, yes. Brady Pearce, yes. Kevin Peterson, yes. Sharna Rowe, yes. Rachel Richins, yes. Sharon Moss, yes. Laura Snelson, yes. The vote was unanimous. The meeting went into a closed session at the Courtyard by Marriott Conference Room.

Reconvene — Kevin made a motion to act on the decision made during the closed session. Rachel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held September 25, 2025.

Adjournment: Kevin motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Written by Shelbi Kelly