

Approved by the Board of Directors on August 22, 2024

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

George Washington Academy

Thursday, July 18, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting will also be available through Zoom. Anyone interested in participating via Zoom conferencing can email Shannon Greer at sgreer@gwacademy.org for call-in information.

The Board Training will be held directly after the Board Meeting.

The Board meeting convened at 4:00 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer, President

Prayer: Deborah Odenwalder

Pledge of Allegiance: Deborah Odenwalder

Board Members Present: Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Blake Clark, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder, and Austin Reber.

Board Members Not Present: None

Others Present: Debbie Kauvaka, Steven Erickson, Christine Giles, Amanda Mortenson, and Shelbi Kelly

Approval of Minutes: Deborah motioned to approve the June 27, 2024, Board Meeting minutes as outlined in the board packet. Casey seconded the motion, with two corrections to be made. In the financial report where Spencer is talking there is a bracket instead of a p. In Casey's comments about the audit committee it says "Spencer as the external auditor" instead of "Spencer and the external auditor". Deborah amended her motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes with the outlined changes that Casey mentioned. Casey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Deborah Odenwalder.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:

None

Set time for adjournment Deborah set the time for adjournment at 5:15.

Goals for next year = the same as last year. Emphasis on mental health. They need a structure to instruct. Talk space is going to start once the employees come back.

Giving the kids jobs changing from yearly to more often.

Teacher Reports: A lot of the teachers have started coming back to the school. All will be back by August 1.

Administration Report: Blake Clark, Executive Director

From the Board Update: Our current enrollment is 1,070. Blake said it's normal that our numbers are high, on the first day of school around 30 of these kids don't show up. The charter allows for 1,075. He mentioned an email that he had sent about making the class size 29 to some of the classes that have the biggest wait list. We are already seeing that some of these are coming down to 28. On the Board update you also see the charter goals and the years goals that are going to roll over. Overtime is back on the update and the number is 0. This is the time of year that we usually get overtime hours but it should stay between 0-5.

Blake brought up Mathnasium portion, and said they didn't get as many as they had hoped because they advertised for it so late. You can see that the attendance was spotty for some of the grades. 6th grade was the grade they were most worried about but they had the highest attendance. Christine and Blake met with Mathnasium recently and they will continue to get reports from them when the center opens up and they will share them with the board.

All state reports that are on the agenda have been completed. Deborah asked what the goal was for Mathnasium over the summer. Blake said that Mathnasium had the capacity to do 24 a day and have a Monday/Wednesday crew then Tuesday/Thursday. He said we should have been able to serve 48 a day. If they continue for the summer portion next year, they will make sure to advertise better and earlier in the year before parents start making summer plans. Towards the end they were accepting everyone. Shannon said it will be good to have the center in the school that way people can see it and be familiar with it.

Blake brought up the carpool email, they met with the city, they are the ones that made the carpool flow. It's important to make sure people know that the parking agenda is going to work out. The Board and administrators need to be on the same page, have one voice, it's all going to work out. They haven't received any complaints about it, however they have had a few emails just asking for clarification. The Board thought the email about the carpool flow was written very well. Shannon brought up that the board has helped in past years to help with the flow of traffic the first week of school. Blake said they would need help again this year. Blake asked for the Board to be available to help at meet the teachers Friday the 9th from 1-2. Shelbi asked if the wall that blocks the sidewalk in the back lot will be opened up. Blake said yes, at some point there will be an opening leading to a sidewalk, all the access points for the school should be opened up by July 31. Steven said that teachers usually park in the back, to open the front up to parents so they don't have to walk all the way around.

Financial Report: Spencer Adams gave the report. We are officially done with the fiscal year. We are looking at it from the June 30th day. He wants to preface this with the fact that these are not the final numbers that we will see. We need to wait for the audit process to play out. There are typically some adjustments that happen during that process, with last minute expenditures that happened at the end of the fiscal year. With that in mind this gives us a pretty good idea of where we are going to land. Looking at the revenue we are currently looking at 98% - 100% Local and State revenue are essentially 100% of that forecast. The only thing we are waiting on from the State revenue is that second request of the school safety grant. That as well as in the Federal revenue, we are waiting for the IDEA funds. Outside of those we are looking great. The local revenue came in a bit higher than what we were expecting. As far as the expenses, you see a lot of green there. Again that just means that we are more than 5% ahead of the forecasted number. There could be some end of the year expenses that haven't shown up yet but even with that we are looking to be in very good shape at the end of the year. Nothing alarming as far as the budget goes. Like I said we will just wait and see the numbers from the final audit. We usually see those numbers at the end of September. Then we can get those submitted to the State. The final will come after that. As it stands right now, everything indicates that we ended in a very healthy position. Casey brought up the idea that we should update the financial goals, wanting to update them within the next year or so. Kevin said that they would add it to their next finance committee meeting. He said the correlation of the 250 hasn't changed. We've gone from a 6.5 million budget to a 10 million budget. We've always tried to keep the margin the same as the percentage. It's just inflation. Blake said we've added a lot of systems and support since the budget was 6.5 million. A lot of the budget changes from 2018-2024 are year marked grants that we've been writing. Kevin said that the reports that are on the schedule either are or will be done later this month.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** –3 new policies in the board packet we have been working on.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Audit Committee** - Nothing to report
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Curriculum Committee** – Christine said they will not be selecting a new curriculum for any of the academic areas this year. She asked for the board's opinion on what the committee should focus on this year. On possibly taking a different approach this year with the committee focusing on these instructional frameworks and searching data. Shannon said she felt like that would be fair, especially as we search for evidence that the curriculum we have in place is working. Deborah agreed and would like to see the data, maybe a document that would be included in the committee's minutes. Christine said that now they are moving to a digital platform for math. This committee will be with those who are comfortable and can contribute to academic data. Shannon said the committee needs to stick to what is outlined in the charter. Shannon wanted to circle back to a conversation that she had with Blake in early spring when they got math scores back and they weren't what they had hoped they would be, they were going to do some internal testing. Blake said they saw that the students were not proficient in the state's standards. Even with the other testing which is in some aspects how the framework came to be. That's why we are changing so many things because curriculum is not written for the

state of Utah, it's written for the nation, unless you are in California or New York and can afford to change those types of things. They are trying to change the standards of the 48 states as much as possible and we all have different standards. In reality the curriculum covers about 70% of your state standards so when you have a teacher that follows the curriculum with fidelity you are guaranteeing that they are going to miss about 30% of what is asked of them on this assessment. That's why in the spring we changed it to you are first going to look at the state standards then you are going to look at the assessed standards that are going to be on these assessments then look at your curriculum of what pieces of the curriculum are going to support you in those standards. That is not mind blowing for new teachers coming out of college because that is how they are trained. It is mind blowing for other teachers that have taught, like I wasn't taught that way. We were curriculum fidelity, you open the book and read the script. So I feel like that is what the framework is changing into math is, from my understanding the best math program out there but it still wasn't written for Utah standards so how do we coach our teachers to do that. That is what me and Christine and Jenna will be doing all year as we designate more time with the teachers observing them in their classrooms, coaching them. The rise test was shocking in some areas, there were some holes that the instructor ignored but we also had to change as a whole. Laura S had a comment, she had asked her daughter why she wasn't preparing more for the RISE test and she said that the teacher told them not to worry about it because it doesn't impact your grade. She was concerned about how the test was being perceived. Blake appreciated the perspective and said that they had heard that a lot from parents and teachers, that when they got the scores back and they reflected the realized that how they sold the concept of the RISE test cost them a lot of points. Every classroom was handling it differently. Some classes were chill holding their laptop in their laps versus other classes that were facing forward. They noticed that there is a balance in autonomy and control and that they need to control it a little bit more. They are trying to figure out how to word the information around the assessment so they can encourage students to try more, knowing that it can boost their grade. Shannon brought up the older kids who may not do well in class but have the incentive to do well on the test, if they know their grade will go up. They talked about tools they can use for test prep.

- **Outreach Committee** – We need a new chair and really need to set some goals. Blake said he would love to have this committee work with his team. They have the new mission statement and they can brainstorm how to market it as well as the new property. If they say no to the new marquee discussing where to put one. There is a lot of work that this committee can get started on.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report
- **PTO Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Board Development Committee** – Upcoming training is in our paperwork. If there is anything you think would be valuable to train on for the upcoming year this can be changed. A couple of schools may be coming in for the September meeting, we would need to extend the 30 minute training. Shannon is working with Erin Preston, she does a great job, the training would probably be more like 1 hour.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Expenditures over \$5,000:** None
- **Asphalt Area behind the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms:** Kevin made a motion to approve the Asphalt area behind the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms in the amount of 17,408. Brady seconded the motion. Brady said this was a really good price and asked if they were doing us a favor on purpose. There was some discussion that further costs may come up like having to put the fence back up. All agreed this was a great price. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote)
- **East Playground:** Kevin made a motion to approve the proposed East Playground in the amount of \$23,150. Deborah seconded the motion. Deborah asked about chat. They explained that the chat will last longer. They want to make sure to indicate where to put the rocks that are removed so we can use them later if needed. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote)
- **280: Criminal Background Check and Reporting of Arrests Policy:** Deborah made a motion to approve the amended Criminal Background Check and Reporting of Arrests Policy as outlined in the board packet. Kevin seconded the motion. Shannon asked how long the background checks are good Debbie said they are good forever. She asked to make the wording for background checks to be singular. Deborah made an amendment to the motion that section 2.3 in the policy to state background checks instead of checks. Kevin seconded the amended motion. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote)
- **490: Medication Administration Policy:** Laura Snelson made a motion to approve the Medication Administration Policy as outlined in the packet. Casey seconded the motion. Kevin asked if it would have made any difference if the previous individual would have been an RN. Shannon said the policy is coming from the state. Blake said that even though she is an RN she is still acting under the direction of the actual school nurse. Shannon asked if the students gave their own shots. Blake said there are a few that receive a shot. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote)
- **515: Kindergarten Policy:** Kevin made a motion to accept the Kindergarten Policy as outlined in the Board Packet. Brady seconded the motion. Deborah questioned what is proof of being potty trained. Blake said they are taking parents' word for it. He said they would sit down with the parents if it happened frequently to discuss with them. Shannon asked if they have always been required to offer part day kindergarten. We have always prided ourselves in offering the full day kindergarten. Blake said they initially had 3 families that opted for half day. If it went into the teens they would have had to consider something. We talked to these families about some data. There is an end date for when the parents need to tell them if they want the kids to have half day kindergarten. Laura P asked how it was worded. They said there was a google form that they needed to fill out. Chrisine said that the 3 kids will start out as half day and try to add time over the first few

weeks. Casey confirmed that the kids need to be given all the academics during that half day time. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote)

Reappointment of Board Member

Casey made a motion to appoint Kevin Peterson to another 3 year term. Brady seconded that motion. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote)

Kevin made a motion to appoint Casey Unrein to another 3 year term. Laura P seconded that motion. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote).

Shauna has resigned from the board but was invited back in August so we have an opportunity to thank you properly. Shannon entertained a motion for a new board member to take Shauna's place. Kevin made a motion to have Amanda Mortenson join the board for a 3 year term. Deborah seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote).

Reappointment of President/Chair

Kevin made a motion for Shannon Greer to be Board Chair for 1 additional year. Laura S seconded that motion. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer, Deborah Odenwalder (Austin was not present for the vote).

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 August 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Kevin made a motion to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 5:17 p.m.