

Approved by the Board of Directors on July 18, 2024

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

George Washington Academy

Thursday, June 27, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: George Washington Academy
2277 South 3000 East
St. George, Utah
Library

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 UAPCS Recap Training will be held at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting.

The Board meeting will convene at 7:30 p.m.

Board Welcome: Kevin Peterson, CFO

Roll Call: Kevin Peterson, CFO

Prayer: Josh Serrano

Pledge of Allegiance: Shauna Mahoney

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

Board Members Not Present: None

Others Present: Deborah Odenwalder, Chance Manzanares, Shelbi Kelly, Josh Serrano, Hannah Gillespie, Alexis Toia, Debbie Kauvaka, Reanna Odenwalder, Thomas Odenwalder, Carly Reber, and Austin Reber.

Approval of Minutes: Amanda motioned to approve the May 16, 2024, Board Meeting minutes as outlined in the board packet. Casey seconded the motion, The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Shauna Mahoney.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board: None

Set time for adjournment Blake Clark set the time for adjournment at 8:07.

Teacher Reports: The two new teacher representatives introduced themselves and talked about a takeaway from the conference they went to in Las Vegas. Lexie Toia is a 5th-grade teacher her takeaway from the conference was to not have an emphasis on teaching but on children's learning. She is looking forward to having the school implement this mindset. Hannah teaches kindergarten and felt the conference was affirming to go and see they were already doing a lot of things right and how they can continue to get better. Second, learning more about the acronyms and learning how to make their meetings more precise while they are looking at data.

Administration Report: Blake reported that he was able to complete all of the many reports that were due this month. He was very happy with how the pilot program went with Mathnasium during the school year, he will request the same data for the summer program. Blake reported that the enrollment numbers are currently at 1,066 but that it will likely go down to 1,010 once school starts as people forget to let us know they've moved or are going to a different school. Blake talked about the survey results from the conference that the teachers attended. It was a lot of money spent for a 2-day event, but well worth the money. Casey asked if the 39 respondents were the only ones to attend, and Blake confirmed there were 10 more. Kevin asked about the total number of participants in the summer Mathnasium program. There were roughly 20 participants. Shannon confirmed that it was a flat fee that was paid for the program. Kevin brought up the fact this year it was sprung on the parents and that next year will be different. Blake said that they can start advertising for it after spring break next year so that parents can schedule it into their summer plans. Parents have been grateful but wish they could have known sooner. Amanda asked about Talk Space. They were supposed to come at the end of the school year to present to the faculty but Abby got Covid. She is rescheduling to come in August. She has provided marketing videos that they will start pushing out in the next few weeks. They will be prepared and the app will be downloaded so they can just get started in August. Casey brought up the structure of the admin report, he doesn't see the overtime on it anymore. Kevin thought it was something good to keep in. Blake said it was inadvertently left out and that he would make sure it was there in the future. Casey asked about an education evaluation. Blake said that everyone with a teacher's license in the state of Utah needs to be evaluated annually. They do the evaluation and turn the scores into the state. Teachers' scales are 0, 1, 2, or 3. Charter schools don't need to abide by the same Utah effective teaching standards but they have chosen to do it. Blake, Steve, Chance, Christine, and Debbie will be going to a training to learn how to evaluate based on the new standards that just came out. Shannon asked when the faculty would be back for training for a board member to attend. Blake confirmed that it will be August 2, 2024, at 9 a.m. Laura S. asked about data on which skills students are mastering with Mathnasium. Blake talked about how each child receives individualized plans and work that each kid does. Kevin clarified that if a portion talks about 60% being deficient in a particular skill set then we could understand that there is a gap in that percentage of our students. Mathnasium gave us data that showed that numerical fluency is where our students struggled the most. Kevin asked what does numerical fluency mean. Casey found the definition from Mathnasium to say "having the mathematical understanding to find the most efficient way to express then solving a problem, even addition can be approached in a multitude of ways." Blake talked about how he and Christine and 17 other teachers are working to build an instructional framework that goes over how adults were taught is different from how kids are being taught. Parents come in regularly trying to understand how their kids are being taught. They are working to help parents

understand why there is a change in math. Blake loves that parents come in to talk about it and are problem-solving and now they hope to be able to better answer their questions.

Financial Report: Spencer started by saying this is the end of the fiscal year, the report is as of the end of May, it gives us an idea of where we are going to end up. As a finance committee, they went through and trimmed up the forecast and made some adjustments that are a bit different from last month. They wanted to make sure they were staying conservative. Even with those trimmings, there is a good cushion. Spencer said our ratios are looking great. Once the audit comes in we'll see these ratios increase quite a bit. Outside of that not a lot to report. Spencer also wanted to mention that later in the agenda we will approve two budgets. This current year will also include the land purchase which is on the summary. It's not on the detail sheet because it's being pulled from reserves. For next year there was a good overall increase from the legislative session. There was a 5% increase in the WPU. He said that a few of the major line items in state revenue, mainly regular school programs \$192 per student. Between those two that's the vast majority of what is received annually. A lot of the blue lines are more competitive grants, we didn't know if we were going to receive them, but we will more than likely get some of those. Again we just wanted to be cautious and not budget for something we didn't know for sure. The last point to make is the interest on investments, not knowing that rates will do, we opted to be more conservative. It dropped by nearly \$150,000 from what we were anticipating for this year, but again we just wanted to be conservative, Kevin asked Spencer to take a moment to explain the SPED funds. The state sent out 3 years ago, they wanted schools to spend down and carryover amounts. The balances were getting bigger and bigger. They encouraged schools to utilize the funds. It's an unearned revenue on our balance sheet. They have been working with the state trying to determine the timing and if we can wait to see how this year's spending will impact it. They said yes we can wait and see how much we will be spending for SPED. They have a meeting with the state next week. The amount we will need to send back should be less than what we anticipated. Cased asked if one of the budgets included the SPED 35%. Spencer said it doesn't impact the operating budget, we will see it impact the APR. We will see less revenue in SPED because we were able to transfer the 35% into unrestricted funds.

Committee Reports

- **Policies Committee** – Blake Clark and Debbie Kauvaka met to review policies that need to be changed, tweaked, or are good based on the new legislation. There is a lot to do and a lot of new committee members
- **Finance Committee** – Kevin Peterson we have two budgets to approve.
- **Audit Committee** - Casey Unrein will be following up with Spencer and the actual external auditor.
- **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.

- **PTO Committee** – Amanda Mortenson confirmed that the new PTO members have been trained.
- **Board Development Committee** – Shannon Greer, the board retreat is scheduled for July 18, 2024, from 4-9 at the Marriott Hotel. By way of training, all new board members have completed their onboarding.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **Lexia Core5 Reading** - Shannon made a motion to approve the Lexia Core5 Reading in the amount of \$26,200 for 2 years. Casey seconded the motion. Deborah asked why we are doing 2 years instead of 3 when there is more savings. Casey explained that with the interest rates, they will actually be saving money. Blake talked about new software and standards and how things are constantly changing, 2 years was long enough. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **2024/25 Powerschool Annual Renewal** - Casey made a motion to approve the Powerschool Annual Renewal for the two different services in the amount of \$11,433.04 and \$10,832.40. Amanda seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **FY24 Final Budget**- Shannon made a motion to approve the 2024 Final Budget. Casey seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **FY25 Proposed Final Budget**- Amanda motioned to approve the 2025 Proposed Final Budget. Shauna seconded the motion. Casey asked for clarification that food services and SPED were approximate numbers. Spencer clarified the actual numbers may be different which we will know once the audit is complete. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **2024/25 GWA Early Learning Plan**- Shannon made a motion to accept the 2024/2025 Early Learning Plan. Amanda seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **GWA Board Audit Committee Members Update and Approval** Brady made a motion to approve Board Audit Committee Members Update. Laura S. seconded the motion Kevin made a clarification that the committee members would be Casey, Kevin, and Shuana. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Shannon Greer, and Shauna Mahoney.

New Board Member Oath of Office Deborah Odenwalder and Austin Reer took the Oath of Office and became members of the GWA Board.

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 July 18 at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment: Shannon motioned to adjourn the meeting. The board adjourned at 8:14.

Written by Shelbi Kelly, Board Clerk