

**These Minutes are Pending Board Approval**

**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, August 24, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

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

*New Employee Meet and Greet will be 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:** Casey Unrein

Board Members Present: Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers Shauna Mahoney, Shannon Greer, Casey Unrein, and Blake Clark. Kevin Peterson will be joining the meeting shortly.

Others Present: Deborah Odenwalder, Christine Giles, Spencer Adams, Steven Erickson, Chance Manzanares, Jenna Ayers, Will Crowther, Kim Townes, Jocelyn Larkin, Jaxynn Smith, Rachel Richins, and Joshua Serrano

**Approval of Minutes:** Holly Myers motioned to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2023 Board Meeting as found in the board packet. Amanda Mortenson seconded. Shannon expressed her appreciation for all that were in attendance last time and that she was excited for the potential options. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Shauna Mahoney.

**Public Opportunity to Address the Board:**

Joshua Serrano asked what GWA policy is in regards to gender identification in treatment of the affected students and if it was taught. Shannon Greer stated that there are laws that affect GWA's policies for this and asked Blake Clark to explain GWA policy and what laws impact those policies. Blake reports that gender identification isn't in any of the curriculum and the teachers won't teach it. By law, GWA isn't allowed to teach it and must refer to the child by the gender on

their birth certificate or as they are registered when using gender specific terms. Utah does have a transgender required policy that states when a student wants to have access to a bathroom different than the gender on their birth certificate then GWA will meet with the parents and if determined that it will be in the best interest of the child, will give the student access to a single stall bathroom so that they are not using the multi stall bathrooms. The teachers are actually trained to not only teach that subject but to also direct students that bring it up to discuss the matter with their parents instead.

**Set time for adjournment:** Blake Clark set time for adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

**Teacher Reports:** Jaxynn Smith reported on the progress of Kindergarten through 3rd Grade. Kindergarten finished the Kindergarten assessments last week and had a great time meeting the new students and parents this week. Kindergarten started this Thursday and it went smoothly. 1st Grade report that the new flow charts will be very helpful this year to streamline behavior and academic protocols. They are reporting that they have had success already. The admin has set a goal to check-in everyday and teachers like these check-ins and appreciate them. 3rd Grade is starting a new Math competition that will be classed and grade based on March 20th at 8:30 AM. They will also utilize the calculators that Blake ordered to increase fluency. Finally they have had 6th Graders come into the 3rd Grade classroom and work as teacher assistants and the teachers and students have been enjoying this program.

Jocelyn Larkin reported on 4th Grade through 7th Grade. 4th Grade: Students have enjoyed daily writing in their composition book. They share ideas with each other and have felt proud of their writing. 5th Grade: We are working hard on the 7 habits and setting expectations. We are having success with the new behavior standards and positive narration. Our students are loving and enjoying a lot of STEM challenges and Team Building games. 6th Grade: Our 6th graders have had a wonderful first week of school! Students are eager to learn and are excited to move into the role of being in intermediate school; which comes with new responsibilities and special classes! We have noticed such a positive culture between our students and we appreciate their enthusiasm to learn! We created our class mission statement by writing it into a grade-wide rap! We are looking forward to performing it for the school someday! Coming together as a new team of teachers, we are united in putting each student first as we support each other! Intermediate Theater is so much fun! We have done pantomime and are currently working on improv. which the students seem to be loving. Providing electives is genius! Mr. Weber: A great start to the year! Thank you for letting me work with your young musicians!

**Administration Report:** Blake Clark reported on the Administration Report. Numbers on the student count in the Board Update are increasing as of Monday to about 1019 but there is no waitlist in any of the grades. Blake has pushed out a post on social media. Debbie Kauvaka and Blake Clark have given multiple tours in the past few days. Absences, Tardiness, and Overtime are also listed on the report. The 2023-24 Year Goals have changed based on the Board Retreat and have been communicated to GWA Faculty and Staff. Shannon had previously asked Blake to make sure that these goals were evident somewhere so he will be adding documentation here and

there throughout the year. The first attached is the upcoming event calendar that has been correct since the Board Retreat. Another goal is focusing on employee Mental health so the second page is a recharge and reconnect support groups for GWA educators that is being led out by GWA's social and emotional team. Blake and Amanda are working on getting the Mental Health program (TalkSpace) set up for the teachers but that it will have to go through the Benefits Committee. This program will provide a text feature for mental health check in. Blake thanked Amanda for doing the leg work on this and they now have a couple of quotes for discussion. Blake reports that the positive feedback has had a very positive impact on the staff. The last page is a QR barcode that will always be on the Patriot update and placed around the building that can be scanned to allow for the collection of positive feedback. Every Monday, Blake will take the ones from the previous week and share it with all the staff. To which the staff has responded positively to this as they work to create this culture change. The carpool system is going well and gets better every day. The back road has been extremely helpful, the parents have been really patient, and Steve has been great at communicating with the city and to pivot when needed. Blake reports that this year has been one of the most positive that he's been a part of in his 6 years here. There is a very united group of employees that care about the students and the parents are more on board than ever. The PTO brings a great energy and positivity that has influenced as well. The teachers included a sign-up sheet in the back to school information so GWA is seeing more involvement of parents than before. Blake reports that all the Reports Due in August have been completed and submitted. OEK report is no longer a valid report so it should have been taken off and Blake will share the new updated Reporting calendar with the Board Clerk. Board compliments that the pick especially has been noticeably faster.

**Financial Report:** Spencer Adams reported on the Financial Report. This report doesn't have a lot of information at this point because we are only one month into the fiscal year and it was a month with school not in session. On the summary page, Spencer pointed out that the Supplies and Materials line and the Property, Equipment line are both red and states that it's pretty normal for where the budget is at in the year. Spencer explained that these expenses are consistent with the ramping up for the upcoming school year and gave examples of these expenses from the Budget detail. There is nothing unplanned or unexpected at this point. Overall the budget is looking good. Are in a good place with revenue and have a good outlook on investments. Already at 25% of the forecast of revenue. The forecast is conservative to take into account variance of interest.

**\*Kevin Peterson joined the Board meeting\***

**Committee Reports:**

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report. Still working on small updates. Blake reports that the policy from last month was in the board packet again due to the request from the Board to come back once requested changes were made. Not to vote on again but to verify that changes were made as requested.
- **Finance Committee** – Casey and Kevin note that money has been moved from the Money Market fund from the Checking account to allow for the collection of interest that

wouldn't be collected in the Checking account. The new back lot property is still being worked on but no change at this point. Casey asked what is happening with the fill that is being dumped on the property. Blake and Kevin reported that it was a part of the purchase agreement of that property.

- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report. Meeting should happen soon. Blake will have Reigena start the process.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report. Holly states there is a lot of work they need to do but they have nothing to report at this time. A lot is coming from the Board Retreat.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – GWA did get the allotment so now they need to work on next year's plan.
- **PTO Committee** – Donuts with Parents is on Sept 5th and Amanda invited the Board to come and bring their family. That event will kick off the PTO's money drive. The PTO wanted to thank Blake and the Board for the help with Sponsorship. Amanda reports that they have been able to raise \$4000 from sponsorships including 18 returning sponsors. Blake thanked the PTO for the Snack bar they provided to the employees during their first staff meeting. The Board expressed their appreciation of the PTO as well.
- **Board Development Committee** – Nothing to report. Schedule is in the email that was sent previously.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Steve gave an update on the roof project. They are still working on it and are on the second part now. GWA has had a few leaks during the recent storms mostly in the Kindergarten area. He also pointed out the Emergency PBA. It is required that GWA refresh their Emergency plans every 3 years so that is why it's included for the Board's approval.

#### Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **Yearly Renewal of GoGuardian (Board Packet Pg. 54)** Holly motioned to approve the yearly renewal of GoGuardian in the amount of \$9,550.95. Kevin seconded the motion. Holly asked if STS was the only vendor that bid this program. Steve responded that it was the better deal from what they had before. Chase asked if the older grades were able to bring home the devices and it was clarified that none of the grades are able to bring the devices home. Casey asked how the monitoring worked with the program. Blake and Shannon explained how the teachers were able to monitor physically and through the program. Casey asked if the teacher and admin side was necessary and Steve explained how GWA utilizes reports that are only available through the admin side but it needs the teacher side in order to generate some reports. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **565 - Instructional and Supplemental Materials Policy (Board Packet Pg. 11)** Informational only. No vote necessary.
- **Emergency Management Plan (Board Packet Pg. 17)** This is necessary to approve every 3 years. Kevin motioned to accept the Emergency Management Plan as outlined in the Board packet. Holly seconded. Casey pointed out that the Room 124 on the Teacher Room Assignments was listed as Music Adams whereas the current Music teacher is Mr.

Weber. Kevin amended the motion to replace Room 124 with “Music Weber”. Holly seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.

- **LEA - Specific License (Board Packet Pg. 51)** Kevin makes a motion to approve the LEA-Specific License approval with amending the assessment time frame to 3 years instead of 2 years. Amanda seconded. Blake gave some background on this situation and why it was necessary. It’s possible for this to be completed as early as 1 year but this requirement allows for 3 years. Casey asked if the accreditation system will flag us and Blake explained how that system works in relation to this requirement. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Updated Food Services Coordinator Salary Schedule (Board Packet Pg. 52)** Holly makes a motion to accept the Updated Food Services Coordinator Salary Schedule as outlined in the Board packet. Shauna seconded. Casey asked if this was requested by the staff member and Holly asked how many staff would this change effect. Shannon informed that this request came from the finance committee and that it would affect 1 employee. Shannon gave some background on this proposal. Holly asked when this was in effect. Shannon clarified that it should be in effect once it was approved, not at the beginning of the month. Board clarified when the effect date should be on the schedule and it was determined that it should be the 16th of August. Holly amended the motion to approve the Updated Food Services Coordinator Salary Schedule as outlined in the Board packet with the change of effect date to be 08/16/23. Casey asked if we had any hourly employees left after this. Shannon stated that the custodial staff would still be hourly. Shannon also recommended that the financial committee will look at it at the next financial meeting. Shauna seconded the amendment. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Occupational Therapy Contract, 2023-2024 (Board Packet Pg. 57)** Holly makes a motion to accept the Occupational Therapy Contract for the 2023-2024 school year as outlined in the Board Packet with Richard Hagan. Amanda seconded. Kevin asked if there was another option to split one with another school. Kim and her team have been looking since April but there isn’t an option currently. Blake reported that the contract in the Board packet has already been modified as Shannon requested the per diem to be changed in the contract. Mr. Hagan was uncomfortable taking the per diem out of the contract completely but agreed to the changes proposed. The Board asked how the OT program would work in regards to frequency and who would come each time. Kim answered questions of the Board. Casey pointed that this is a 2 year contract that has a 90 day cancellation policy but the old one didn’t. Kim clarified that the 90 days are with the company not with a specific OT. The Board debated the understanding on this part of the contract and determined that it did not include extreme situations regarding the well being of the student(s). Casey also pointed out that there used to be an hourly limit but didn’t see it in this one. Shannon pointed out that the financial committee could watch those numbers as a precaution. Shannon points out the changes on contract as she has it. Holly makes an amends her motion to include the changes on per diem as detailed in the updated contract. Amanda seconded the amended. The motion passed. Those in favor:

Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney. Those against: Casey Unrein.

**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 September 28th, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** The board adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Shannon motioned to adjourn. Motion carried.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk

DRAFT