Approved by the Board of Directors on September 24th, 2026

Mission Statement: *"ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."*

George Washington Academy
Thursday August 27th, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

OPMA Training was postponed due to a power outage. The Board meeting convened at 7:00p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President
Roll Call: Shannon Greer
Prayer: Sharna Rowe
Pledge of Allegiance: Shannon Greer

Board Members Present: Shannon Greer, Sharna Rowe, David Stillman, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, and Ericka Ivie.

Board Members not Present: Miguel Munoz

Others Present: Blake Clark, Chance Manzanares, Jaycee Rogers, Debra Kauvaka, Spencer Adams, Emily Winona, Lydia Mooney and Sadie Carter.

A quorum was established.

GWA Year Goals:
Annual school goals TBD. The goals will be established by the September meeting.

Approval of Minutes:
Casey Unrein made a motion to approve the Minutes from the July 16th, 2026 Board Meeting as outlined in the Board Packet.
Laura Pressley seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Sharna Rowe, David Stillman, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Ericka Ivie. Brady Pearce via phone.

Casey Unrein made a motion to approve the Minutes from the July 16th, 2026 Board Retreat Meeting as outlined in the Board Packet.
Laura Pressley seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Sharna Rowe, David Stillman, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Ericka Ivie. Brady Pearce via phone.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:
None

Set time for adjournment:
Laura Pressley set time for adjournment for 7:45pm.

Strategic Planning: Laura Snelson gave the report.
The Board discussed the governance evaluation process as part of the school's strategic planning efforts. The evaluation will provide Board members an opportunity to reflect on Board governance, identify areas of strength and areas for improvement, and assist in establishing priorities moving forward.
Board members will receive an email with a reflection survey to complete. Results from the evaluation will be used to support the ongoing strategic planning process and help guide future Board development and priorities.

Teacher Reports: Emily Winona and Lydia Mooney gave the report.
Teachers reported positive results from the school's behavior management systems, noting increased effectiveness in addressing student behavior and greater confidence in the support systems established by administration. The sixth and seventh grade teams were recognized for strong collaboration, morale, and commitment to their students.

Fourth and third grade also reported success with the new ranked SOAR card initiative. Teachers shared that the program has helped motivate students and reinforce respectful behavior throughout the school and expressed enthusiasm for its continued implementation.

Administration Report: Blake Clark, Executive Director gave the report.
Enrollment is at approximately 1,045 students, exceeding budgeted enrollment projections. Student retention is currently at its highest level school wide, with particularly strong retention entering sixth grade. Sixth grade classes are at or near capacity. Administration is collaborating with sixth and seventh grade teams to maintain this momentum and support continued retention.

Strategic Priority #1 Academic Excellence: Academic data remains unchanged from the July report. Updated Acadience and MAP assessment data will be presented in September. Mr. Clark noted that comparisons with Washington County School District data will be available once results are published, typically in October or November.

Strategic Priority #2 Student Support: Administration reviewed current behavior data compared with the same period last school year. Both administrator managed behaviors and behavior support calls have decreased. B1 and B3 support calls are significantly lower, with no B2 calls reported at the time of the

report. No in school or out of school suspensions have occurred, compared with three in school suspensions during the same period last year.
Mr. Clark explained that rather than implementing an entirely new behavior management system, the school elected to strengthen and refine its existing practices. Behavior data will continue to be monitored and reported monthly to evaluate effectiveness and identify areas requiring additional support.
The Board also received an overview of the updated SOAR card program, which incorporates common, rare, epic, and legendary cards distributed by different staff groups. Students may collect and exchange SOAR cards for monthly historical figure trading cards connected to leadership principles. The program is designed to encourage positive behavior throughout the school, increase staff participation in recognizing students, and provide opportunities for recognition during school activities and events.

Strategic Priority #3 Capacity and Sustainability: Mr. Clark reviewed enrollment and waitlist data by grade level. Professional development is also being aligned with the school's strategic priorities. Teacher preparation days will be structured as mini conferences with rotating training sessions, each connected to a strategic priority.

Financial Report: Spencer Adams gave the report.
The Board reviewed the financial report for the first month of the new fiscal year. The budget is based on an enrollment of approximately 1,030 students and was developed conservatively to provide sufficient flexibility should enrollment fluctuate. Current financial ratios are stronger than typically seen at this point in the fiscal year.
Several budget line items are currently trending above their annual percentage targets, primarily due to expected beginning of year expenditures such as textbooks and technology. Spencer indicated that sufficient funds remain within these categories for the remainder of the year.
Approximately $461,000 in additional building related expenses were reflected in reserves. These expenses are associated with ongoing construction costs and are being covered through bond proceeds.
Spencer also provided follow up regarding the Board's previous concern about salary expenses. A reconciliation of staffing positions identified savings within salary line items due to previously budgeted placeholders and duplicated position estimates. It was reported that the school remains in a strong financial position and anticipates maintaining the ability to consider future salary increases while accommodating upcoming bond related expenses.
The school is currently working with auditors to complete the prior fiscal year audit. No significant financial concerns were reported at this time.

Committee Reports (3 min each):
Policies Committee – Nothing to report.
Finance Committee –Sharna Rowe is the new Finance Committee Chair.
Audit Committee – Nothing to report.
Benefits Committee – Debbie Kauvaka is the new Benefits Committee Chair.
Curriculum Committee – Jaycee Rogers reported that the Committee will begin meeting next week to review the school's current curriculum and identify opportunities for improvement or potential additions. The review will also focus on identifying existing resources and tools that may be underutilized and ensuring teachers are aware of available support.

Outreach Committee – Nothing to report.
Technology Committee – Nothing to report.
LAND Trust Committee – Mr. Clark provided an update regarding the Land Trust program and recent audit requirements. An audit of the 2024–2025 Land Trust budget identified approximately $1,200 in expenditures that should have been allocated to the general budget rather than Land Trust funds. This represented a small portion of the approximately $150,000 Land Trust budget, and overall feedback from the auditor was positive. In response to updated requirements, administration has strengthened purchasing procedures to ensure all Land Trust expenditures are directly aligned with an approved Land Trust goal and are specifically for student use. Purchase orders will now identify the applicable Land Trust goal to ensure continued compliance.
PTO Committee – Ericka Ivie reported that the PTO has been productive this past month. Ashley Ririe stepped in as President. Interviews were conducted for the open Vice President position. Brittani Sprunt was elected as the new Vice President. The 26/27 budget has been finalized. Fall festival planning is underway for October 10th with a Circus theme. Donuts with grownups will be September 8th, it was asked that any Board members attend if possible.
Board Development Committee – Nothing to report.
Campus Management Committee – Nothing to report.

<u>Discussion and/or Action Items:</u>
Casey Unrein made a motion to approve UAPCS Membership Dues in the amount of $8,248.00.
David Stillman seconded the motion.
The Board discussed the services supported by membership dues, including legislative advocacy, Board training and professional development, shared services and legislative events and updates throughout the State. Additional information outlining the services and advocacy efforts was included in the board packet.
The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, David Stillman, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, and Ericka Ivie. Shannon Greer abstained from voting.

Laura Pressley made a motion to approve the Great Basin Engineering Fee Proposal in the amount of $7,865.00.
Brady Pearce seconded the motion.
Shannon provided an update regarding the consolidation of the school's existing property and previously purchased additional land into a single plat. The requirement was identified as part of the ongoing development process and must be completed before certain project work can proceed. The Board discussed associated costs and confirmed that the expense is eligible to be covered through the bond process.
The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Sharna Rowe, David Stillman, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, and Ericka Ivie.

<u>Hughes Construction Update:</u> Mr. Clark gave the update.
Mr. Clark provided an update on the ongoing construction and expansion project. A recent water leak resulted in some temporary disruptions and office relocations, however, Mr. Clark reported that the situation has been managed effectively and communication with Hughes has been responsive.

Rebar installation and foundation work are anticipated to begin within the next few weeks, with framing of the initial office areas and expansion currently projected to begin in early November. Overall, the project continues to move forward smoothly.

Closed Meeting:
None

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held September 24th at 7:30pm. Training will be held at 7:00pm.

Adjournment: Brady Pearce made a motion to adjourn at 7:50pm.

Written by: Sadie Carter