

**Approved by the Board of Directors on August 24, 2023**

**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, July 27, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

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

*The Board Training was held at 4:00 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:** Shannan Greer, President

Board Members Present: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers and Shauna Mahoney. Shannon Greer, Casey Unrein, and Blake Clark.

Others Present: Deborah Odenwalder, Debbie Kuavaka, Christine Giles, Spencer Adams, Steven Erickson, Chance Manzanares, and Joshua Serrano.

**Approval of Minutes:** Casey motioned to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2023 Board Meeting as found in the board packet. Amanda Mortenson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Shauna Mahoney.

**Public Opportunity to Address the Board:**

None

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

**Administration Report:** Blake requested a moment of silence for Ace Butterfus-Ramirez that passed away this summer. Blake reported on how the school did on data results from state testing. Blake indicated that it should be the last month of overtime the board will see due to

decisions made by the Board previously. Kevin asked if there was any more data coming from this past year's testing and Blake clarified that there isn't. Shannon reminds the Board that there will be a training on the state testing for the Board expected in November. Blake presented a video that he created regarding what GWA is doing now and he's planning on posting this video on social media. The Board gave feedback on the video and requested that it be added to the website in addition to the social media pages. Holly suggests that as the Board sees this video on the social pages, the Board should comment, like, and share as it will help with spreading its visibility. Shannon asks if all administration reports are complete for the month of July and Blake reports that all reports are complete.

**Financial Report:** Spencer Adams gives a report on the Financial Summary as of June 30, 2023. Spencer indicates that though close, this report isn't complete yet as the audit still needs to finish and it's expected that some transactions will trickle in. Overall GWA is doing great. Spencer reported that we had more than expected local revenue and are still waiting on some federal funds. Spencer explained the audit process briefly and then went through the expenses indicated. Overall a successful year financially and looking forward to another successful year. Kevin asked if this report has the parking lot second invoice. Spencer was waiting on to confirm that all three parking lot invoices were to be from last fiscal year from the financial committee. Kevin confirms that they were and Spencer will get that added to this report. Shannon asks if all Financial reports are complete for the month of July and Spencer reports that all reports are complete or will be done by the end of the month.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report. Minutes are in the Board Packet.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report. May need new committee members. Shannon explained what this committee was to Joshua Serrano
- **PTO Committee** – Currently struggling to find sponsors. The Board gave suggestions on how to network for getting the word out to the community. Holly asked if the information that goes out has on it what the funds will be used for and Amanda reported that it did. Amanda will send information to Blake and he'll get it sent out to the parents.
- **Board Development Committee** – Shannon discussed increasing the Board members to 9 members with the focus on particular skill sets. Blake asked if the potential candidates should be emailed to Shannon and Shannon indicated yes. Shauna asked if we should send out this request to the parents and Shannon said that we should announce this search at Back to School night. Shannon expressed that we need to be open and upfront with potential members. Shannon put a timeframe of recruitment through the end of August with interviews beginning in September.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Steven reports that he's been speaking to the admin team about the All Staff Safety meeting and is requesting assistance in the Reunification training from the Hope Squad, the Lighthouse students, and the Board. Reunification is the process of getting students back to their parents after an unplanned separation. The

Board would be able to help by bringing their families to participate in the training on Friday, August 11th at 10:00 to 12:00 with the first half hour being instructional for how the parents and students will help with the training.

**Discussion and/or Action Items:**

- **Nomination and Voting on Board Leadership** - Shannon explains that we need to have a Secretary and the Chair position is open for nominations as well. Shannon reports that Holly Myers is stepping down from the Board once her position is filled. Chance asked if Shannon was willing to stay on as the Board Chair. Amanda made a motion to appoint Shannon Greer the Board Chair. Kevin seconded the motion. Chance asked how long Shannon was planning to stay with GWA and Shannon reports that she has no plans on leaving the Board in the foreseeable future. Shannon will recuse herself from the voting for Board Chair. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Shauna Mahoney. Kevin Peterson made a motion to appoint Shauna Mahoney as the Board Secretary and Shannon Greer seconded the motion. Shauna asked what duties it would entail and Shannon discussed what would currently be expected of the Board Secretary. Shauna Mahoney recused herself from the vote. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, and Casey Unrein.
- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **Roofing Project Transparency (Board Packet Pg. 14)** Steven included the information that was previously missing from the Roofing Project request at last month's Board meeting as requested by Blake. Steven gives an update on the status of the roofing project.
- **2023-2024 GWA Early Learning Plan (Board Packet Pg. 23)** Kevin made a motion to accept the GWA Early Learning Plan as outlined in the packet. Shauna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Policy 515 - Kindergarten Policy (Board Packet Pg. 31)** Casey made a motion to approve Policy 515 - Kindergarten Policy and Kevin seconded the motion. Kevin asked if Kindergarten half-day is just an option. Blake confirmed that it is and Shannon explained that the option was necessary as per changes in the State Legislation. Holly asked if the admin is anticipating this option being used and Blake explained that GWA had already been allowing half day in certain situations. Blake reports that these legislation changes will allow GWA to be paid for full day Kindergarten which means that tracking will have to be devised. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Policy 565 - Instructional and Supplement Materials Policy (Board Packet Pg. 33)** Casey makes motion to approve Policy 565 - Instructional and Supplement Materials Policy and Amanda seconded the motion. Blake explains that parents can challenge only supplemental and not instructional material. Casey explains that it's because instructional is approved in Board Meetings which is where the parent has the opportunity to challenge. Shannon asks questions on specific lines in the policy. Casey and Blake explained how the policy was modeled. The Board discussed how the committee should

be made up with. Board asked to change the line of the composition of the committee in policy and switch the term, “Supplement Material Review Committee” to “Curriculum Committee”. Casey amends his motion to approve Policy 565 - Instructional and Supplemental Materials Policy, changing line 3h which defines the Supplement Material Review Committee to indicate that it will be composed of the existing Curriculum Committee, as defined by the GWA by-laws, at the time of the Challenge and to change the policy to reflect this change at any other mention of the previous Supplement Material Review Committee throughout the document to avoid the confusion and to change line 6j from “...Executive Director or Board Chair...” to “Executive Director and an additional Board Member”. Amanda seconded the amended motion. Before the vote, Shannon notes that it’s the understanding that this policy will come back for Board Approval once changes are made in August. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, and Shauna Mahoney.

- **Policy 570 - Individual Freedom in Public Education Policy (Board Packet Pg. 41)**  
Casey made a motion to approve Policy 570 - Individual Freedom in Public Education Policy and Holly seconded the motion. Casey and Blake report that this policy is almost word for word from the State and Shannon notes that this policy will need to be adjusted as the State rolls out changes. The Board discussed the terminology in the policy and the law. Due to Holly leaving before this vote, Holly recused herself from the vote. Shauna seconded the motion in Holly’s leave. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, and Shauna Mahoney. Holly was absent for the vote.

Holly Myers left the Board Meeting at 9:00 PM

**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 24th, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** The board adjourned at 9:12 p.m. Kevin motioned to adjourn. Motion carried.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk