

Approved by the Board of Directors on June 26, 2025.

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

George Washington Academy

Thursday, May 15, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

The Board Evaluation Training was held at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting.

The Board meeting convened at 7:42 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer via Zoom

Roll Call: Casey Unrein

Prayer: Amanda Mortenson

Pledge of Allegiance: Casey Unrein

GWA Year Goals:

- Expanding student Leadership opportunities for ALL students
- Ensure ALL students are learning at High Levels
- Focus on Employee Mental Health with Better and Quicker Access

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

Approval of Minutes:

Laura P made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 24th, 2025 Board Meeting as outlined in the Board Packet. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Amanda Mortenson, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Blake Clark, and Kevin Peterson via Zoom. Shannon abstained since she was not at the April meeting.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:

Rachel Richens wants to say she appreciates all that everyone does. She is looking forward to working with the board as the PTO Board Representative.

Set time for adjournment

Amanda set time for adjournment at 8:45.

Teacher Reports:

Lexi Toia and Hannah Gillespie, Teacher Representatives gave the report. Lexi talked about the 5th grade. She said that last year the kids came to them at 64% proficient on their science rise and this year they will be leaving with a 72% proficient. Last year they came in at 57% proficient in math this year they are leaving at 67% proficient. As a team, each of the fifth grade classes are very proud of the progress their students have made. Today was an awesome day to celebrate the leaders the kids from kindergarten up to 7th grade are becoming.

Hannah talked about the kindergarten class. She said it was amazing to see these five and six year olds line up and take the microphone and give a whole presentation to their parents. The goal at the beginning of year was to have 80% of students be able to identify 30 numbers or more in one minute. There were 9% of students at the beginning of year that could do it. By the end of the year there were 59% of students that could do it. Tomorrow is Kindergarten graduation.

Administration Report:

Blake Clark, the Executive Director gave the report. On the first sheet of the board update there's always a section of charter goals that comes word for word out of the charter. The first one is "board members will review and discuss internal and external student data presented by the director to assess goal achievement and academic progress." Please always ask if you want something specific. The second section is the percent of students demonstrating proficiency on each state mandated end of year assessment as compared to the average of Washington County School District and the state of Utah. Number three charter goal is percent of students demonstrating growth in each state mandated end of year assessment subject. The school won't get the language arts or writing assessment until late fall early winter. Blake will just focus on the data that we do have. RISE math scores are the highest they've been since 2021. The RISE science scores are the highest they've been since 2018. In Acadience reading proficiency by grade level the third grade hit 82%. Fourth grade 87%. Fifth grade 85%. Sixth grade 84%. At the beginning of the year the lofty goal was 80% by every grade. The reading growth from beginning of year to end of year for kindergarten went up 13%, first grade 13%, second grade was 6% and third grade 12%, fourth grade was 11% and sixth grade was 2%. There was an increase in every grade. Math growth, so far the data that they have. First grade they improved by 14% and in second grade it was 19%. The notable academic achievements, last year they shared a not so shiny star where the sixth graders scored 16% in math this year the sixth graders went up to 35% and in seventh grade now that same cohort that was at 16% in math this year grew by 47%, which is EOY to EOY. Blake went on to say that they scored 68% and this year we scored 64% so only 4% different from past trajectories even with the makeup that our team had to do. He also wanted to give a special shout out to some of the specific teachers they did have teachers that reached their goals. Mrs. Willets third grade class scored 80% proficiency in RISE math. Megan Pulzella 81% proficiency in RISE science. Kiera Fronick sixth grade honors class was 86% proficient. Tracy Baker seventh grade honors math was 100% proficient. The teacher that scored 80% in every test she took was fifth grade Jeanne Rouff's class. They scored 86% proficiency in RISE math, 95% proficiency in RISE science which the state has never seen a score like that before. 86% in Acadience reading and Jeanne achieved over 80% in every assessment that went through that class. Finally the second grade team met the goal of 80% in

every state assessment . In math they scored 87% and 81% in reading which was a lofty crazy goal and they did it. They are still waiting on some grades to finish the assessments which will be done on Monday. Shannon asked to circle back to RISE math, the third grade at 52% and the sixth grade at 51% with the state average being 59%. Blake said that third grade was down 10% from last year. They have already met with one teacher who reached out to them immediately after scores came in. Mandy Willets from 3rd grade scored 80%, she was the highest teacher in the grade using vertical learning boards. We are having everyone do that next year. They have set up ways to learn from the teachers that are using this method that were on the curriculum committee. The same type of thing was happening in the 6th grade. Blake gave percentages for past years, last year being 16%. in 2016 they scored 61%. 2017, 60%, 2018, 66%, 2020, 50%, 2021, 48%, 2022, 43%, 2023 and 2024, 16% and this year 51%. He said that the state average is at 36% and we are 15% higher than that. Even for third grade we are 5% higher than the state average. Kevin asked if they have the ability to look at those individual students that have been working with mathnasium to see the type of progress they've been able to make on the testing. Blake said they should have a report from mathnasium next week. Kevin said that he thinks that it would be good to look at specific data of the individual students that are getting that additional tutoring and seeing if there might be some skill sets that we could implement throughout the entire school to cover whatever gaps we're not seeing yet. Christine said that they qualified quite a few kids for special education that started out on the track of mathnasium but that intervention was not working so we tested and they qualified. The school went from 115 to 142 in special education this year. Blake said that they had 13 students which is the highest they've ever had graduate from ELL this year. Which is almost 20% of our students. They will be on watch for the next 2 to 3 years. When they started the ELL program we had one or two students to graduate, so they are on a good trajectory there as well. Amanda mentioned that her son had to leave GWA and that the new principal emailed her to say that he has some of the highest scores and she knows it's because of Ms. Baker and GWA. He has had two very different experiences but is doing so well because of the foundation GWA gave him.

Financial Report:

Spencer Adams the Business Administrator gave the report. We are 83% of the way through the year as of the end of April. Not a lot has changed since last month. As far as the ratios go we are in a good position. We are looking at the ratios right now that's based on the forecast and not necessarily the actual. When it's all said and done and we get those savings on the various line items we will see the ratios jump as well. So although the ratios are looking healthy and strong right now Spencer said he is very optimistic that the ratios are going to be better than they are right now. As far as the revenue and expenses, Spencer said they are working on getting those federal funds and some of the state funds reimbursed through Utah grants. There should be some on the May allotment and the rest hopefully in June. He is working hard to get those submitted sooner rather than later so they aren't submitting them at the same time as the other schools. Also so they don't have to deal with receivables on the audit and they recognize all the cash is in our days cash on hand. It's looking like we will be able to do that again. It's just a matter of getting those through the approval process not only on our side but on the state side as well. One positive side to waiting to this point is we're able to request everything all at once as opposed to requesting a larger portion and then waiting for the approval process to go completely through and then once that's done we'd be able to request the rest. We should see it by the end of May, if not May than June. We are in a very solid position to close out the year. He said that the final

budget for this year and the initial budget for next year to you for approval on the next board agenda. Blake asked the TSSA through legislation this year did it would also encompass another line item moving forward because it jumped from this year's proposed amount by almost 100,000. Spencer said he would look into it and get back to him. Casey asked if they are still pending that allotment invoice from special ed the repayment. Spencer said that it's sitting in our deferred revenue so once we do have to pay that then it's not going to impact the bottom line at all. Casey then asked if he believed that the numbers this year will be similar to the ones last year. Last year the audited financials came in at around 900,000 and we were projecting 759,000. Spencer believed it would be similar. No reports are due in May.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** -The State assessment team just left the school and they were very pleased with everything.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report, just what's in the packet.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Just what is in the packet. The Admin team and Jenna Ayers met with all of the grade level teams and each of them shared highlights of the year and every team mentioned the impact that vertical boards have had this year. The curriculum committee was composed of some key stakeholders that really did a tremendous job rolling this out and now its year two of implementation. Casey asked what it meant when it said non-curricular taste to be implemented in August. Christine explained the importance of teaching the students the expectations of the vertical boards with non-curriculum related material, something fun and less academic prior to introducing the curriculum.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – They are reviewing a large document. They are refining land trust so they need to review it. They will vote on some things as a committee but nothing for the board.
- **PTO Committee** – The new PTO was voted on. President is still Josh Serrano. Coming back as VP is Katie Haupt. Treasurer 1 is Delani Shaw again. Treasurer 2 is Tate Hoeffel Coolbaugh, she is new. Social Media Secretary is Jennifer Hare who is from last year. The new PTO Board Rep is Rachel Richins. Faculty appreciation was a success. They are still looking for a secretary. They have funded the graduations. The 16th will be when yearbooks are distributed. 16th and 19th are graduation ceremonies. May 20 and 21 are field days.
- **Board Development Committee** – They have reached out to 4 individuals to fill the vacant positions. One is grateful for the consideration but it's not the right time. Another one is interested. Shannon wanted to reach out to the board, if they know anyone who would be a good candidate, let her know. Hopefully we can get the position filled by the June Board meeting.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Kevin made a motion to approve the Leader in Me Coaching/Membership in the amount of \$8,600 for the 2025-2026 School year as outlined in the board packet. Amanda seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Amanda Mortenson, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer and Kevin Peterson via Zoom.
- Shannon made a motion to approve the Paragraphology in the amount of \$5,900 as outlined in the board packet. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Amanda Mortenson, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer and Kevin Peterson via Zoom.
- Amanda made a motion to approve the proposal for Talkspace to renew in August of 2025 in the amount of \$52,000 as outlined in the board packet. Laura P Seconded the motion. Casey had requested that more information be sent, and Debbie gave him more information. Casey said that he remains skeptical about the \$52,000. He wondered about possibly hiring a full-time therapist. There were 59 in person meetings. Each participant gets one in-person meeting per month. Amanda said that this program also gives access to dependents. They can also attend group classes. Casey said that they had 50 participants out of a possibility of 260. Blake confirmed it needs to be offered to all employees not just the possibility of 100 because that's how many are using it. Other options have longer wait times. Brady asked if it was only available during business hours. Amanda confirmed they can text their therapist at any time. Casey said that the additional report he received said that the therapists were sending twice as many texts as the participants, suggesting they are very involved. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Amanda Mortenson, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer and Kevin Peterson via Zoom.
- Laura P made a motion to approve the Intercom system for the school, installed and purchased from Marshall Industries in the amount of \$89,707.16 as outlined in the board packet. Amanda seconded the motion. Kevin asked if the new system would be integrated into the new school. Steven said yes. Laura P asked if it would be done by the time school started, Steve said yes. Steve confirmed they will integrate with our current school speakers. Shannon asked if this is a not to exceed amount. Steve said this is the current amount and he can't foresee an issue where the price would change. Kevin asked why we went with Marshall instead of the other cheaper option. Steve said that Marshall has experience working with schools. The other option had some issues that they did not necessarily have solutions for. They had more confidence going with Marshall. Steve wanted to point out that this company did not provide switches. It should be about \$3,000, they will come back to the board if they need more. The motion passed unanimously. Amanda seconded. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Amanda Mortenson, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer and Kevin Peterson via Zoom.
- Amanda made a motion to approve the Mango Phone Bill in the amount of \$9,659.99 as outlined in the Board Packet. Brady seconded. Steve pointed out that the amount includes tax so it will actually be less. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Amanda Mortenson, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Shannon Greer and Kevin Peterson via Zoom.

Hughes Update - Amanda said that they have met with Hughes twice now. The first time they presented different layouts for the building. They listened to our feedback and came back with new plans. They have been very patient and kind to work with. The auditorium is going to be tricky. They are working to help us stay within our budget. Phase one will be the road to make sure carpool runs as smoothly as possible.

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 June 26, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Amanda motioned to adjourn. The board adjourned at 8:45

Written by Shelbi Kelly.