

Approved by the Board of Directors on March 28, 2024

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, February 22, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

The Board Training was 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

Pledge of Allegiance: Amanda Mortenson

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

Others Present: Christine Giles, Spencer Adams, Deborah Odenwalder, Debbie Kauvaka, Chance Manzanara, Jocelyn Larkin, Joshua Serrano, Jenna Ayers, and Jaxynn Smith.

Approval of Minutes: Kevin motions to approve the January 25, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as outlined in the board packet. Amanda seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board: None.

Set time for adjournment: Blake set time for adjournment at 8:30 p.m.

New Board Member Oath of Office Laura Snelson took the Oath of Office and became a member of the GWA Board.

Teacher Reports: Jaxynn Smith reports from 1st grade: It's really exciting to see how our first graders are improving their fluency skills! Taking what they've learned from our LETRS training and applying it in our classrooms while integrating it with the state standards and the CKLA curriculum has made a big difference in their progress/success. We're thrilled to see them growing and learning so much!

3rd Grade: We just finished our LETRS course last week and had a great day learning all about how we can implement better/more effective writing practices for next year! We're so proud of our hard work and are so excited to implement the strategies more fully! We had the Division of Wildlife Resources come and teach the students about native and nonnative species. We've also been preparing for the first 3rd Grade Math Competition.

5th Grade: I recently had my 5th student complete my 25 book reading challenge! It's something that I do in my class to encourage kids to read, and develop a love for reading. I have 3 more students that are also getting close, and I'm thrilled!

Jocelyn Larkin reports from the 4th Grade: 4th grade recently had an in-house field trip with the Utah Dept. of Natural Resources. A biologist presented on the wildlife along the virgin river, which tied in great to our Structures and Functions unit in science. We have more hands-on learning opportunities coming up next month as well. We've scheduled a guest to bring in snakes, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, and each class will take a field trip to Zion National Park (through a grant-program Zion offers for 4th grade).

6th Grade: In 6th grade ELA we are learning about Howard Gardner's theory of intelligence. Students are researching and discovering what their intelligence is and will utilize skills and strategies into their learning at GWA in order to become more successful. They can navigate expectations while they comprehend information. They can discover how enjoyable the learning process is as they honor the intelligences inside of them!

Intelligences include: Linguistic, mathematical/logical, spatial, bodily/kinesthetic, musical, naturalistic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal intelligences.

7th Grade: Students in 7th grade science are completing their unit on Mendelian Genetics and have enjoyed learning about different traits being passed down to offspring. We are ending the year with one of our big 6th grade moments: "Immigration Day!" Students dress up and are each assigned a role for the day. They have to simulate what it might have been like to immigrate to America in the early 1900's through Ellis Island. Regina Kerr spearheads this exciting event through her Social Studies focus. The event takes a lot of student leader and parent volunteer help to pull off but is always a lot of fun and educational / perspective widening for our students.

Our grade level had Renaissance Day last week, and it was awesome! The kids got to pretend to paint the ceiling of the sistine chapel, make sculptures out of "marble", make inventions, paint the modern Mona Lisa, and try acting in a Shakespeare play.

Shauna also reported that the 4th graders also had their Utah assembly and Jaxynn reported that Lance Allred the basketball player came to visit with the kids. Chance asked what the progress was for the LETRS training and Jaxyann and Jocelyn report that all 8 sections have been completed. They also report that they learned so much and are able to keep all the resources.

Administration Report: Before Blake gave his report, Shannon gave a shout out to Blake and his admin team for all the hard work they have been doing to build relationship with the community. Blake reports that the schools relationship with Utah Tech has never been better in so much that he now teaches a class on Charter Schools and seeing a lot more success in hiring fairs. Blake reports that the biggest number change has been with Absences and Tardiness due to illnesses. Student Count is 1006 currently. Debbie is working hard with the lottery for next year which wrapped up the 1st of February, so we have the projected enrollment for next year. Christine and Blake worked with the 1st grade teachers to rework their teaching curriculum and are seeing an 8% increase on average for the grade so we're hopeful of these changes. All reports that have been completed. Casey states that the projected enrollment numbers look great and asks if there was space for more students. Blake reports that there is more space. Blake reminds the board of his previously reported idea for creating a 6th kindergarten class but it was decided against due to it requiring the art program to be moved to a transportable cart which art is a staple of GWA's curriculum. Casey asked if the projected numbers included students that may not return. Blake states that we're projecting a 97% retention rate for next year. In 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th we only have 3 openings currently for next year. 5th and 6th have more openings due to the school district transition between school buildings.

Financial Report: Spencer reports that we are looking at the budget as of January 31st so just over halfway through the fiscal year. He reports that everything is looking great! The finance committee minutes outline some of the adjustments that were made to the specific budget line items. Some of the biggest changes in the budget continue to be the interest. The interest rate is continuing to be great and are taking advantage of that. We did increase some of the expense line to reflect the current year actuals and for what we have planned for the rest of the year to make sure we are setting ourselves up to have a good bottom line when the fiscal year ends. Spencer drew attention to some of the changes that the Board will see on the Summary Page. There was a steep decline in the CASH section for the month of January and it's due to the recent land purchase. Spencer explained where this purchase was placed in the budget and why. Spencer indicates that the Board will want to ensure that this purchase is included otherwise we'll have more expenses than the Board has approved. Overall our ratios are looking good. Our unrestricted income is well above our goal. We're looking to end the year in a very healthy spot and are overall in great shape. We'll continue to monitor as we wind down the year. Kevin asked if we could add the land to the Balance Sheet. Spencer reports that he contacted the auditor on that and that he is just waiting for the Property Loss to finish and then the auditors will add that entry. Casey asked if the steep drop off in the expenses was the beginning of the year's start up expenses. Blake reports that the stipend is high in December. No reports in February.

Committee Reports:

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** – 2 bids are in and are working on getting a 3rd quote in March with the goal of picking 1 for approval by April. Shannon asked to have this approval added to the March Board Meeting Action Items..
- **Benefits Committee** – Amanda reported on the status of the Online Therapeutic Program bids and selection. 2 of the companies have given demonstrations of their program. And will meet on Monday to finalize this proposal. Shannon asked Amanda to give some

background on what this program is. Amanda explained what the program and purpose is with some of the tools available. Shannon also explained that this would be an upgrade from what we currently have. Holly clarified how the bids were being presented with transparency to both bidding companies.

- **Curriculum Committee** – Cristine reports that they are continuing their very scrupulous review of the curriculum. They are looking at one more curriculum called IXL Reading this next month. Davis School District has adopted this and she spoke to someone in the Davis School district. They want to make sure that they consider all the potential curriculums available. The committee agrees that it's important to find the curriculums that will support the state standards as they feel that other current or previous curriculums were not and thus resulted in the data not being where it could be.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **PTO Committee** – Amanda reported that raised over \$8,000 for the Cox benefit. Just did a teacher appreciation lunch on Valentine's Day with the funds that earned by one of the restaurant nights and had donations from parents. Still looking for PTO member replacements. Looking for a hired person to take over some of the workload over from the volunteer PTO members including the Sponsorships. Shannon gave some background information on the potential position. Shannon requests that the Board consider the situation and share their thoughts to Amanda via email. All of the PTO are leaving so it will be a new board due to personal life changes for the previous members. Blake expressed that the current PTO has been "gold" to work through.
- **Board Development Committee** – Next month will be on Board Evaluations. Shannon will meet with Laura Snelson for her new Board member on-boarding. .
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **SPIRE program proposal** - Kevin made a motion to accept the S.P.I.R.E program proposal in the amount of \$11,229.45. Shauna seconded. Kevin asked why there isn't a level 5. Christine reported that when the SPED population was tested, it was determined that we wouldn't need it. Christine expressed that she's excited for this program as it'll provide the teachers with the tools needed to help the SPED population. Shannon asked Christine to share the result data from this program change. Casey noted that the budget has a little over \$30,000 for SpEd curriculum and asked if this would be coming out of that line or if this was something above that amount. Christine confirmed that it would be coming out of that line in the budget. Kevin asked if we could not pay the tax as we should be tax exempt. Shannon states that if we do have to pay it then we can resubmit to the state to get that back. Kevin amended his motion to approve to not exceed to allow for the potential change that taking the taxes off would cause. Shauna seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Update Door System and Alarm System** - Amanda made a motion to approve the updated door and alarm system as outlined in the board packet for \$6,600.00. Kevin seconded. Brady asked if the service fee needed to be included in the motion. Shannon

clarified that the ongoing fee would not be something that we would need to approve. Casey asked if Steve will look into if there is any savings possible if we pay the fee in a yearly payment. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, and Kevin Peterson.

- **Land Trust Upcoming School Plan 2024-25** - Kevin made a motion to accept the Land Trust plan as outlined in the board packet. Holly seconded. Holly asked if this plan was close to last year's plan. Kevin confirmed and explained why with reasoning behind each goal including the after school programs. Brady asked how many take advantage of the after school programs. Blake gave the current numbers for each program. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.

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 March 28th, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Shannon asked if 2-3 Board members would volunteer to put together for the faculty years of service and retirement gifts. Kevin, Laura Snelson, Amanda, and Shauna volunteered. The date of the last faculty meeting of the school year is on May 17th. Shannon will get the numbers of each award needed to the volunteers for this.

Holly's last month will be next month.

Adjournment: Shannon motioned to adjourn. The board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk