

Approved by the Board of Directors on December 12, 2024

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

## George Washington Academy

Thursday, November 14, 2024

7:30 p.m.

### Board Meeting Minutes

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

*Expansion Training will 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:** Kevin Peterson

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Christine Giles

Board Members Present: Shannon Greer, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Deborah Odenwalder, Blake Clark, Brady Pearce joined via Zoom.

Board Members Not Present: Amanda Mortenson, Laura Snelson

Others Present: Chance Manzanares, Christine Giles, Steve Erickson, Jenna Ayers, Josh Serrano, Debbie Kauvaka, Lexi Toia, Hannah Gillespie, Shelbi Kelly.

#### **GWA Year Goals: Reviewed**

- 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

Blake talked about how Talk Space has been extremely helpful in tackling conversations that his team is not trained for, now the employees have 24/7 access to the help they need.

**Approval of Minutes:** Deborah made a motion to approve the October 24, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as outlined in the board packet. Kevin Seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Deborah Odenwalder, Brady Pearce via Zoom.

**Public Opportunity to Address the Board:** None

**Set time for adjournment:** Blake set the time for adjournment as 8:15.

**Teacher Reports:** Lexi Toia and Hannah Gillespie, Teacher Representatives

Hannah Gillespie said that the second graders have had a 7.46 words per minute growth in their reading fluency from the beginning of the year to now. They have had similar growth in Math, especially in their concepts and applications. They have also been having a lot of fun with their readers theater. They just finished up their Greek mythology unit and held their annual Greek Days at the park which was a big success.

Lexie read emails from the sixth grade teachers saying that Brittany Munoz the sixth grade ELA teacher recently had students take a comprehension quiz that focused on a short story and that the ELA class was 73.5% proficient and her honors students were 94.1% efficient. Munoz also said that thanks to Christine she was able to be mentored and become familiar with RISE in order to start introducing benchmarks and their first RISE benchmark they scored a 9/12 which is 75%. IXL is continuing to help them. She said that the overall point increase is over 55 in learning gains on IXL. She also wanted to celebrate the students whose hard work and dedication helped put together the speeches for the leader assembly as well as the Veterans assembly. Kierra Franek said sixth grade has experienced an increase in IXL performance with students averaging a 27 point gain. She said compared to the previous resource we had last year, Moby Max, she's observed significant growth in achievement using IXL. She said that students averaged 84% on the two most recent module tests from Into Math. She said she is starting to incorporate RISE benchmarks and that the most recent benchmark aligned with module five and students got 81% for efficiency. Performance demonstrates a connection between the rigor of RISE and the content covered in Into Math. Mathnasium has been a game changer for the students. Sara Lamb, who is the science teacher, also sent an email. She said she developed a proficiency roadmap for each of the strengths she's teaching this year. It's broken down into the standards so the students can see learning targets for each one, as well as what the final destination looks like. Once they complete it they get their maps out and discuss their progress. She said as a result their summative test scores have skyrocketed. The highest average on the last test was 93% followed by 91%, 90%, and 77%.

Shannon asked that they take back to those grades that they are thrilled about the growth they are seeing and the fun things they are doing.

**Administration Report:** Blake Clark gave the board update. The enrollment is at 1,018. Attendance is 94% with tardies at 91%. Blake went over the WIG data, students will increase their math fluency by 8% by May, with a 2% increase each quarter. The school average is at 2.88% for first quarter. All reports have been completed.

Shannon asked how the 7th grade math was doing. Blake said they are doing well. Christine met with mathnasium and they are able to graduate some of the students out and get new students in. He said right now we're seeing students that will show about 30-40% proficiency coming from where they began. That was just quarter one. The Curriculum Committee is going through a

book called Building Thinking Classrooms that is really supporting the new research of how to teach math. That is more of a collaborative hands-on process instead of the sit and get type lecture. Every grade has at least one teacher utilizing that, but our seventh grade math teacher is utilizing that tremendously. They were able to bring a few teachers up there last week to observe what is being taught. She said that she had been teaching fractions for weeks and that the students didn't understand it until it was taught this research way and it instantly clicked.

Casey asked about the after school programs. Blake said that last year the Lego Club had 12 kids and this year there were 73. Per Lego rules you can only have 10 members per team. This year they have 2 teams made up of 6th and 7th graders. The 4th and 5th graders are participating in the service project. After school reading and math are going great. Mrs. McCoy and Ms. Mangelson put together a 12-week course to be better prepared for the musical. The art teacher is considering putting together an after school art class like Mrs. Lindsay. That should be set up around January. The Lego Competition is in December then that after school program will dissolve.

**Financial Report:** Spencer Adams gave the financial report. Spencer said we are  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way through the fiscal year as of October 31. During the last finance committee meeting they made some changes to more accurately reflect where they are and where they anticipate ending up. The biggest thing you'll see over in the ratios, the unrestricted income had some changes that were made today, overall everything is looking good. We don't have the true up yet. Hopefully we will get that by the end of this month. Hopefully we can have it updated for the next report. It's usually the majority of them at this point, but it generally flows over a few months to get everything all true up. We did come in 16 students higher than we originally budgeted there, so there will be some increases in the state revenue. The biggest jump we will see is in the local replacement, 46,000 just in that line item alone, that will definitely help the bottom line. The growth factor should bump up the regular school program k-12. Overall we're in a good position. We will just continue to collect all the interest we can. He said we have a lot in the PTI account and they set up a sweep account to try and maximize all the dollars in the accounts. Casey mentioned that the idea of trimming up, we want to be as transparent as possible particularly as we go to work, look towards bond funding. So there's no major gap, we budgeted really conservatively. The potential bondholders say well, you're not making money right now like you did in the past, we are trying to make sure its a bit tighter.

**Committee Reports (3 min each):**

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Next meeting is in December.
- **PTO Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Board Development Committee** – Nothing to report.

- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

### **Discussion and/or Action Items:**

#### **2025 Employee Benefits Insurance Renewal**

Kevin made a motion to approve the 2025 Employee Benefits Insurance Renewal as outlined in the board packet. Laura P seconded the motion. Kevin said the way the insurance world work they come back with 22-24% then you claw back as much of it as possible. By the time we ended up clawing it back we were still within budget. We were able to add some additional options in regard to the dental and life insurance policy. That's the biggest change we've asked our insurance providers to not only bring back those options but bring other options that they have. They have 10-15 other programs that are available. Items like gap insurance kind of policy or an additional policy like that. They've got 5-6 of these other policies you can opt into yourself that you could pick up individually from there. We kept everything as close to the same as we could and added a bunch of different options. Dental is immediate. We created a secondary kind of plan B policy where if we hire somebody from out of state there won't be any barriers as currently they need to be an in-state resident. Blake said they got quotes back from Select Health and they had made a 42% increase, so we are glad we bailed with them when we did. Casey asked if they thought about changing the deductible stipends. Kevin said that once they got it down to the 22% we started doing the analytics on it and seeing what that would be for paycheck and everything else. But once we got it down to where it needed to be, then the other items didn't change. It would fall in line with what it is in terms of bank. He said that they kept them the same so that it wouldn't affect anyone. The teachers will have a \$14 per paycheck difference. Nobody is waiting on insurance cards. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Deborah Odenwalder, Brady Pearce via Zoom.

**GWA Expansion:** Shannon Greer gave the GWA Expansion report: She said there is nothing new to discuss. We are meeting with the State Charter Board in January to hopefully get an approval. Then we will move forward with the process of working with RFP. Once we determine that we will take the two year time frame that would allow us fundings, support, and time to do what we needed to do, the rush to get it all done right away has subsided. We want to make sure we are moving at an expeditious pace. The 15 passenger bus has been reserved for everyone to drive down together.

**Sponsorships:** Shelbi Kelly gave the update. She said that she delivered a thank you basket to Alturas for their generous donation at the Fall Festival.

**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 January 23 at 7:30 p.m. In place of a regular board meeting, December will be designated to preparing for the State Charter School Board which will be held in January.

**Adjournment:** Kevin made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Written by Shelbi Kelly