

Approved by the Board of Directors on October 24, 2024

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

George Washington Academy

Thursday, September 26, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Agenda

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

The meeting will also be available through Zoom. Anyone interested in participating via Zoom conferencing can email Shannon Greer at sgreer@gwacademy.org for call-in information.

The Open House for New Employees was held at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting.

The Board meeting convened at 7:35 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer, President

Prayer: Josh Serrano

Pledge of Allegiance: Laura Snelson

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

Board Members Not Present: None

Others Present: Hannah Gillespie, Christine Giles, Chance Manzanares, Steven Erickson, Debora Kauvaka, Lexie Toia, Josh Serrano, Lisa Riel, Shelbi Kelly, and Spencer Adams via zoom.

Approval of Minutes:

Deborah made a motion to approve the Minutes from the August 22, 2024 Board Meeting as outlined in the board packet. Laura Snelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce. Kevin chose to abstain because he was not present.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:

None

Set time for adjournment Kevin set time for adjournment for 8:45 p.m.

Teacher Reports: Lexi Toia started out by explaining that each month they will focus on two grades to report on and give shout outs to other grades as they come up. The fourth grade team said that they are feeling good about the growth in math, they are following the framework and getting consistent results across grade level. The module one pre-test got a score of 42% and their post test average was 69%. The module two pre-test was 41% and post test was 68%. Lexie went on to give a shout out from Sarah Lambs 6th grade class. They had a WIG to reach 80% proficiency on their phases of the moon quiz. Their lowest class average was 81%. They set a new WIG to hit 85% and will keep raising it until they get 100%.

Hannah Gillespie talked about the kindergarteners. She said its been challenging and exciting at the same time to deal with this new data that they've never had in kindergarten. Number identification, fluency, beginning quantity, discrimination all the new acronyms to remember they weren't sure how the students were going to do on the assessments. They decided to go with a goal of 80% of students will be able to identify 30 numbers between 1-100 in one minute, which is our number, identification fluency. That's our end of the year standard that we are setting. Right now it looks like 9% of students are already meeting that standard. They are setting quarterly goals to try and get it up to 80%.

Blake asked Lexie to talk more about the 5th grade Wax Museum the students did today. Lexie said they have been learning about the age of exploration since probably about the second week of school. Today, every student in 5th grade stepped into the role of one of the explorers. It was a lot of fun, they got to dress up and go all out. They were able to showcase their knowledge, parents and teachers were able to come.

Blake asked Lexie to talk more about the 5th grade Give Me Liberty project. Lexie said that Sharon Moss has really helped with that. There are signs in the 5th grade hall. The kids were excited at the beginning of the year but their interest has really skyrocketed. It's to the point that during their Fun Friday, one of the activities is to pass off Give Me Liberty. All the classes have a chart in the hallway and when a student passes one off they get to put a sticker on the poster. Every 5 they pass off they get a prize. It's become a competition, right now Mrs. Gerrits class is ahead. They are really off to a great start, so much better than last year and they think that so many more students will achieve a gold level this year.

Casey asked Hannah to explain what she meant by the new vocabulary and new data, he wanted to know if it was something from their framework or the State. Hannah explained that it was from the State and that Kindergarten has always done reading acadance but not math. Math Acadance is totally new and it's been really exciting. They've had to go to the 1st grade teachers to see what they are seeing and doing to understand what they need to teach the kindergarteners.

They decided that since the school goal has to do with computation fluence, and the foundation for that is that they need to be able to identify their numbers fluently. Normally we can look back on past data but since this is the first year they are learning and adapting.

Administration Report:

Blake Clark, Executive Director gave the administration report. Mathnasium data came in today. This is from 3 weeks of data. They will give updates quarterly. One thing that will be discussed during the next finance meeting is something that was discussed last year which is to add possible scholarships for students to do Mathnasium after school. They are seeing a need for that. Enrollment is at 1,014 which is great for this time of year. Overtime hours are zero. The attendance is 94% and tardies are at 84%. Christine and Blake stood at the back crosswalk and could see that the tardies were because of traffic being backed up. With cars moving through faster tardies will most likely increase while increasing the amount of people on time. Blake talked about how Acadience Math data is not new for 3rd, 2nd, or 1st but it is new for Kindergarten. Reading Acadience for the kindergarten students are already really close to accomplishing a lot of the school goals, just as they came in, that's in terms of math as well. In Kindergarten 72% of the kids are at grade level or above, which is a crazy place to start everyone is excited to see where they go from here. First grade is at 51% which is down 7% from our first grade group last year. Second grade is up 7% from the group last year at 67% of the kids already being on grade level or above in the skills Acadience assesses. Third grade is at 55% which is down 5% from last year at the beginning of Acadience. Having this data will give them a helpful foundation for math and the skills to focus on. For third grade and up there is the Mathnasium data for students that qualify for the in-school intervention and the students that are paying to do the afterschool tutoring program with Mathnasium. Shannon asked if Mathnasium will at some point be able to talk about retention and mastering skills. Blake will ask about it once they have more assessments. They can already see how it has been retained from the students who did the Mathnasium over the summer. Casey asked if the 16-18 who are participating are in the red. Blake confirmed that they were. Casey asked if it was safe to assume that there would be an additional 5 or so students who are not in the program, which was also correct. Casey wanted to know if they could track to two groups the one using Mathnasium and the ones that aren't to see how they both do. Christine said that with the iXL data they would be able to follow it. They have talked about what they can do to help those extra 5-10 students in each grade that need the additional help, such as a scholarship or getting the groups to be 20 instead of 16. Christine said that the admin team needs to decide if these students who are in Mathnasium now, move up to yellow if they can join their Patriot time classes and get a whole new group in to the math center. Kevin asked how many students the math center can hold, Christine said 20 and that Mathnasium is looking to hire a 4th TA. Christine said that she has had at least 1 teacher from each grade level ask to send more students. It's eye opening to see the varying levels. Amanda asked if these are new students or past students. Christine said they are a mixture of both. They have even had some students went through the testing process with special education but did not qualify because of whatever reason they were just slightly off. So they have kids that certainly have the cognitive need for support in mathematics kind of in no mans land. Shannon asked Blake if they were planning to use money from the student assessment fund. Blake said yes and finding other ways to help the kids get the help they need. Blake did a tour last week for a new family. He said that they have tried many different schools and they were very impressed with all the support the

school has for the kids from the wellness center to math center and reading center. All reports have been completed.

Financial Report:

Spencer gave a report via zoom. Its a hectic time getting reports done. Looking at the budget report as of the end of August. Not a ton of changes so far. The change column is mostly just shifting funds around. Mostly just canceling each other out. There have been a few changes as you read through the finance committee minutes. The biggest thing we want to focus on is the unrestricted net income. We are in a good position in the local revenue. State revenue, same thing. Just as a reminder we won't have the trued up state revenue until November. The state needs to get that and do calculations on their end. As far as the expenses go. We are looking good. A lot of yellow. We are right on track with where we want to be. The red is not concerning, most were from wrapping things up at the end of last year. The federal revenue is in the red but again that just has to do with timing. Don't be too concerned with that. Overall we are starting the year strong, we are finishing the audit out for last year.

Casey asked if there was any progress on the SPED return of funds. Spencer said the state did meet. Their finance committee recommended not extending it. The auditors handle that the funds were set aside. It won't be impacting this year. Spencer said they would need to cut a check. We will wait to send it when they tell us they need it.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Audit Committee** - Nothing to report
- **Benefits Committee** – Regina Kerr spoke with Gerine
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Outreach Committee** – Debbie and Blake updated the website.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Next meeting is December 9, 3:15. Shannon asked if they discussed any monies that can be allocated to after school tutoring and Brady said that they reviewed where things are for last year and that everyone is coming up with some recommendations for the next meeting.
- **PTO Committee** – Fall Fest is October 12, 3pm-6pm.
- **Board Development Committee** – Nothing to report, next board training meeting we will meet with Erin Preston on the steps and things we need to be aware of as we move through an expansion. Shannon also said we will have our expansion proposal. We will submit it after next month's meeting.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Steve mentioned that we needed to table a security bill for the time being. Last week the state met and decided they wanted to have some testing so that people at other schools have the right film in place. The Company we had has a state contract. As soon as they know, they will let us know. We do have funding and the grant that I put out, hopefully it doesn't cost us more than that. There is a chance that the testing might change the price tag. Shannon asked if there was anything internal that we would need to do with the remodel of this part of the building if we add on? Steve

said no because unless we take a window out because all the windows are what we're going to be putting the stuff on. Shannon specified the front office, would we need to change that at all with an addition. Steve said that if we did anything with the office, that was one small piece of how much it all cost, it would be like \$2,000 or \$3,000 so it won't effect it too much. This item in the packet is tabled until January or until it's been resubmitted.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **UAPCS Membership Dues:** Shannon abstained due to a conflict of interest. She is an employee of the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools. Casey made a motion to approve the renewal of the UAPCS membership dues in the amount of 7,968. by Casey seconded by Brady. Casey said he believed it was \$1,000 less this year. Shannon explained that they go off of the last years count. Then when the state closes their due, they send you a true up. So that price tag was the same for like 12 years then last year we increased it. We have no intention of changing it for the next 5 years. What will change is the number of students we have in the building, which we hope to increase. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson. Shannon Greer abstained from voting.
- **340: Student Fee Policy:** Deborah made a motion to approve the amendments as outlined in the board packet for the 340 student fee policy. Kevin seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson
- **345: School Fee Waiver Policy:** Kevin made a motion to approve the School Fee Waiver Policy as outlined in the packet. Seconded by Amanda. Shannon said that she appreciates the work that has been done but under the fee waiver eligibility we need to include McKinley-Vento piece which gives homeless students would also qualify. Shannon recommended that we add this to be compliant with the state. Kevin amended his motion to add the McKinley-Vento policy to the Fee Waiver Report. Amanda seconded the amendment. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson.
- **720 Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships Policy:** Kevin made a motion to approve the 720 Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships Policy. Laura Snelson seconded the motion. Casey asked if we ever recorded any in kind donations accounting wise. Kevin asked if we have ever received any. Shannon thought about the time that Brady has put in. Spencer and Blake are not aware of anything. Kevin brought up someone's time. All equipment or things get paid for but many people donate their time. Shelbi brought up the donations that she has received and asked how they relate. She will look more closely at the policy and speak with Shannon more about it and report. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson.

- **725 Fundraising Policy:** Amanda made a motion for 725 Fundraising Policy as outlined in the Board Packet. Kevin seconded the motion. Kevin said there is no mention of in-kind donations. Casey said there is no official policy on it. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson.
- **20th Anniversary Logo Design:** Blake brought up that this is not something they are looking to vote on but wanted to show the two logo's that they will be using.
- **2025-2026 School Year Calendar:** Amanda made a motion to accept the 2025-2026 school year calendar as outlined in the Board Packet. Deborah seconded the motion. Kevin mentioned that August 8, 2025 is early for the first day of school. Shannon thought it was going to be interesting to start on a Friday and how many students may not be there. Blake thought many would treat the 11 as the first day of school. Shannon talked about how we are trying to follow the district since many parents have students in different schools. Blake said they wait until the Washington county school district post their calendar since there are so many who have kids in different schools. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson.
- **TSSA 24-25:** Kevin made a motion to accept the TSSA 24-25 as outlined in the Board Packet. Brady seconded the motion. Shannon asked if the proposal says up to 5% of that, but going down to like english language learners we've got 10%, what kind of flexibility within the plan do you have? Blake said it was the most flexible, they set goals and want to meet the goals but unlike the early learning grant that Christine does, there is no consequence if we don't meet those goals. So we strive to meet the goals but with TSSA we have complete flexibility. Shannon asked if they have more students who would benefit from the Math rather than the ELL. Blake said the ELL need continues to grow but this is something that needs to be brought up in the finance committee meeting that they can look at other line items and find ways to support those students. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson.
- **Outside Lettering Update:** Kevin made a motion to to accept the bid not exceed 18,000. Casey seconded the motion. Shannon said the finance committee talked about the potential need to clean the building once the letters are removed. Blake said the company is having us pay \$120 to remove some of the lettering so they can look at it and see what the next steps are. Casey specified that the lettering on the photo of the higher letter is to be moved farther north. Shannon said it will be left aligned and not centered. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson.
- **Safety Film Project:** Tabled until further notice.
- **LEA Specific License:** Amanda made a motion to approve the LEA Specific License for Diane Owen the 7th grade science teacher. Laura Snelson seconded that motion. Blake clarified she has a teaching license, she just needs an endorsement for science portion. Shannon asked where we can find that information about licenses on the website. Debbie said it is under resources, LEA educator license notice. Kevin asked what specifically we are approving. Shannon said we are approving the timeframe. It's different for different people. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Deborah

Odenwalder, Laura Pressley, Austin Reber, Casey Unrein, Laura Snelson, Brady Pearce, Kevin Peterson.

Closed Meeting – *No*

Reconvene — Take all appropriate action in relation to closed session items.

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on October 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Deborah motioned to adjourn. The board adjourned at 8:37.

Written by Shelbi Kelly, Board Clerk