

**These Minutes are Pending Board Approval**

**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, April 09, 2024**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** George Washington Academy  
Faculty Room  
2277 S 3000 E,  
St. George, UT 84790

***The Board meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.***

**Board Welcome:** Shannon Greer, President

**Roll Call:** Shannon Greer, President

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

Others Present: Spencer Adams, Deborah Odenwalder, Debbie Kauvaka, Chance Manzanares, Christine Giles, Steve Erickson, Joshua Serrano, and Austin Reber.

Jenna Ayers, Jocelyn Larkin, Jaxynn Smith,

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

**Set time for adjournment:** Blake set time for adjournment at 7:00 p.m.

**Discussion and/or Action Items:**

- **Expanding Our Horizons: Exploring GWA's Expansion Opportunities discussion.**  
Blake handed out several handouts that included survey results from teachers and parents on what they would like to see as a result of a new building, a satellite image of the property with a potential option detailed on it, and a summary of what the mission and charter is with additional information. Shannon gave an outline for the meeting's discussion and some of the likely procedures that we'd need to do going forward.
  - **GWA Mission statement:** Shannon asked Blake to start the discussion by reading the current Mission statement. Blake indicates that the current mission is more of the how to or vision statement as in his experience the mission statement is no

more than 10 words. Shannon asked when we'd need to approve a new mission statement for the next School year. Blake reported that they would need to get the approval by June so we'd need to approve it in April and May. Shannon indicated that we may not be able to get feedback from the State representative but she doesn't think that would be a problem. The Board discussed the option of creating a new mission/vision statement and it was decided to move forward with it. She asked that Blake start the process and to update the Board at the April monthly Board meeting. The goal will be to bring it to the Board in the May monthly Board meeting for approval. Blake went over the proposed Academic Pillars of Culture, Leadership, and Academics. Amanda suggested that the Culture pillar be adapted to include the parents and families. Brady suggested that the Culture be changed to Community. Casey also suggested Trust. Laura P. suggested that we change nurturing to engaging. Blake drew attention to how potential families need to be able to take away what GWA is in a clear and concise way. Blake also went over the core values but he noted that they haven't been published yet as the changes in the Missions statement, vision, and pillars will be adjusted.

- o **Teacher/Parent Suggestions:** Blake went over the results from the surveys that he sent out to the parent and the teacher. The biggest 2 that came back were more room for the existing grades and additional grades. The Board discussed adding additional grades, discussing GWA's history of older grades, the challenges that charter schools tend to have in this area, etc. Blake gave background to the suggestion of moving the older grades to the new building. He detailed that if we do that we could build the middle school to address some of the reasons parents are taking their kids out of GWA after 5th grade. Brady asked about if we make the new building a middle school then would we be able meet some of the needs of the Elementary. The Board discussed the possibility of adding a Pre-School/TK. Laura P. pointed out that we have listed what parameters are in our charter and maybe we should focus on that then creating new focuses. Shannon suggested that we talk to the parents to get some input of what they would want to see to bring in the engagement in the community. The Board also discussed the possibility of moving 5th grade with the middle school.
- o **Next Steps:** The board discussed the applications that will be needed to get a large school expansion. Blake recommended that we create a bi-annual event where other schools could come into our school where GWA could provide teacher/professional development. An additional benefit would be that we could charge a fee that could then be turned around to be invested in our teachers/faculty's professional development. If we did the Preschool it would have to figure out how to do it within our Non-Profit status also would we look at TK or Pre-school. The board is in favor of looking at both but more interested in the TK side of things as it fits with our focus. Shannon and Blake will look into that and get some more details. The Board is good to move forward with the new building being a middle school with 6-7 grades. The Board discussed why 8th grade alone isn't a viable option. Blake asked about whether 5th grade should be moved over as well. The Board will want to see the numbers first and then could make the decisions. Shauna recommends that we look at making a timeline/priority list. Blake agreed and indicated that he doesn't want to overtax his administration team. The Board discussed what electives we would focus on.

The Board reviewed the discussion about adding a Pre-school into the new building and decided to hear

**Closed Meeting** – *none*.

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

**Next Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held on April 25th, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** Amanda motioned to adjourn. The board adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk

DRAFT