

**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, March 28, 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:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Blake Clark

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

Others Present: Spencer Adams, Deborah Odenwalder, Debbie Kauvaka, Chance Manzanares, Jenna Ayers, Christine Giles, Jocelyn Larkin, Jaxynn Smith, Steve Erickson, and Austin Reber.

**Approval of Minutes:** Kevin made a motions to approve the February 22, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as outlined in the board packet. Brady seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, 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.

**Teacher Reports:** Jaxynn reports from Kindergarten: Our class earned our WIG in March. We were working on focusing and finishing our work. We earned a planting party by planting seeds in pots and a treat! Our class has also progressed in our progress monitoring! Everyone is on grade level and many are above grade level!

From the 3rd Grade: Our 3rd Graders are preparing for their first RISE Assessments that will take place in April--they are getting excited to show what they know! Also, we've enjoyed learning about the earliest Americans and their cultures. We've made beaded necklaces, woven "baskets" out of yarn, decorated ceremonial masks, and read about how they lived in accordance with nature. I just had my 8th student finish my classroom 25 book reading challenge!!! We had the first annual 3rd grade math competition on Wednesday, and it was wonderful to see all of the 3rd graders cheering on our 15 finalists. One of my students, Jayven Cook, was the winner of the competition, and he was so emotional that he was brought to tears. The competition was awesome to witness!!!!

Jocelyn reports Beauty and the Beast Jr. We are in our final phases of putting our show together and would love to have the board join us April 19th @7:00 or 20th @ 2:00 or 7:00. It has been a huge undertaking with many parent and staff volunteers, not to forget our wonderful cast of 56 talented students. It is sure to be a magical event.

From the 5th grade: Our grade KILLED our RISE Science test this week!

Jocelyn also asked some 7th grade students what they have been focused on the musical, and, "We just have a few more weeks."

They also said there has been a graduation committee created to plan a great graduation program, and they are excited about graduating!

**Administration Report:** Blake went through the Admin Report and the Goals detailed there. Blake also highlighted the improvement in the behavior data in both the Teacher Managed (Minor Incidents) and Admin Managed (Major Incidents) categories from last month to this month. Shannon asked what "On-Task" behavior looked like. Chance explained what "On-Task" means and some of the techniques that are being utilized to encourage these behaviors. Blake described and reported on the SOAR matrix. Blake talked about the calculator competition with proposed changes to it and a potential spelling bee. Casey asked how these behaviors are being recorded or how the recording of behaviors are being enforced. Blake asked Jaxynn and Jocelyn to give a teacher's perspective. They gave examples of what they are recording and how frequent. All reports due have or will be completed on time.

**Financial Report:** Looking at the budget as of the end of February. The main changes are centered around the IDEA award amount we can expect for this fiscal year but are still waiting on the funds to be available for reimbursements. The other changes mostly have to do with the School Safety Grant. Overall looking great. As we are getting close to the end of the fiscal year, we are starting on next year's budget. The legislation session just ended so we have that information to utilize in planning the budget. Nothing to be concerned about at this point nor out of what's typical. Blake pointed out that this is the first month that expenditure is higher than saving and explained why and that it wasn't a surprise. Casey asked what the "Signed Indirect

Cost Agreements Forms” are and what they are for. Spencer explained and gave examples of what they are used for. All reports have been completed.

### Committee Reports:

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** – Stuff will be brought to the Board next meeting and a training on it will be potentially in May but is currently undecided.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **PTO Committee** – As of the last PTO meeting, most of the PTO positions have candidates and are waiting for parent vote. Emails to the parents are still to go out.
- **Board Development Committee** – Next month will be on the Legislative Update which is going to be a different night (April 24th) so the Board Meeting will start at 7:30 due to no additional training for the Month. May will be either on the Audit or Board Governance. June will be the UAPCS conference. Casey asked if any other Board member was experiencing an increase in spam. The board was instructed what to do in that situation.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

### Discussion and/or Action Items:

- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **HMH Math Curriculum** - Casey made a motion to approve the purchase of the HMH Math Curriculum consumables in the amount of \$36,566.36. Kevin seconded. Kevin asked with the potential change of the pilot program that we’re running now, how would this curriculum be implemented. Blake explained how GWA does Math tiers for students at different skill levels and how the pilot program is different as its intended result would be to create a Math center for students that are needing Math intervention. Amanda asked if this Math center would also work with students who want to go farther and Blake explained that though possible it wouldn’t be its focus. Casey noted that this price was more than last year and Christine explained that it was just an increase in unit price. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Chromebook Replacement Plan** - Shauna made a motion to accept the bid for the Chromebook Replacement from Protech Castle Rock in the amount of \$45,512.84. Amanda seconded. Kevin asked for the bids to be explained as the Best Buy one appeared to be cheaper. Steven noted that the Board was accidentally given the wrong bid as Protech had sent an updated bid that was \$45,166.84. Shauna amended her motion to list the correct amount and Amanda seconded the amended motion. Casey asked how the Chromebooks are selected for replacement. Steve reported that it is on which ones are in the most need but that they also try to do it by the groups in which they were purchased. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda

Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.

- **GWA Board Clerk Job Description Approval** - Shannon gave some background on the Board Clerk position and why there is a need for the new job description. Kevin made a motion to accept the GWA Board Clerk Job Description as outlined in the Board Packet. Laura P. seconded. Shauna pointed out that the “Up to 15 hours” could prevent some people from applying. Shannon asked Deborah her perspective. Deborah recommended that that line be changed to provide an estimated range. The Board discussed what options wording would be best to replace that line and the additional duties the clerk would be taking on. Kevin amended his motion to change wording to “estimated 10-20 hours”. Laura P. seconded. Casey asked if the board is going to be setting fundraising goals now with this new role. Shannon explained how this role fits. Shannon recommends that it’s a topic that is placed on the Board Retreat agenda. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Firewall Replacement Approval** - Kevin made a motion to accept the Superior Technical Solutions quote of \$6,547.48. Shauna seconded. Kevin asked about the 39 months on the bid. Steve explained that it is because it equates to 3 school years. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.
- **Talkspace Proposal Approval** - Amanda made a motion to accept the Talkspace proposal for \$52,000.00. Kevin seconded. Laura P. noted that the previous programs weren’t well used and asked if there are any incentives available to increase use. Blake gave what incentives were available currently and indicated that there are more potentially in the work. Also Laura P. asked what training available to help staff/faculty learn how to use the program. Amanda and Blake explained how the program is able to train and why this program is so much better than the previous program. Shannon also pointed out that with the track-ability of the program, we can address low numbers and encourage usage. Amanda also noted that all dependants are included regardless of age and marital status. The board discussed the importance of providing quality mental health care for GWA’s staff and faculty with cost efficiency and flexibility to pivot as needed. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Casey Unrein, Shauna Mahoney, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, and Kevin Peterson.

**Closed Meeting** – *none*.

Shannon proposed that the board have an open meeting before the April scheduled Board meeting for the sole purpose of discussing the back lot. Shannon will send out a calendar survey for

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

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

pm.

**Adjournment:** Shannon motioned to adjourn. The board adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk

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