

**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, September 28, 2023**  
**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 (Public)

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Holly Myers

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

Others Present: Christine Giles, Spencer Adams, Steven Erickson, Chance Manzanaras, Jenna Ayers, Will Crowther, Kim Townes, Jocelyn Larkin, Jaxynn Smith, Rachel Richins, and Joshua Serrano

**Approval of Minutes:** Kevin motioned to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2023 Board Meeting as found in the board packet. Shauna seconded. Amanda pointed out that the total received from sponsors was actually \$36,754 not \$4,000. The Board will ask the clerk, Deborah, to amend the minutes to reflect the \$36,754 rather than the \$4,000 in the committee report from the PTO. The motion for approval of the minutes was amended to reflect that change by Amanda. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.

**Public Opportunity to Address the Board:**

Joshua Serrano expressed his excitement upon seeing the updated school ratings for GWA. He reported that GWA's rating is what drew him to GWA in the first place when he was looking to move to the area. He also asked how to get involved with the GWA committees. Shannon

advised that the Committee Chairs take a look at their committees and if they are in need of people to compile that information and email it to Blake. Blake can then include that information in the weekly email that Blake sends out not this week but next week. Amanda also reported that as a GWA parent, Joshua is automatically on the PTO and is welcome to come to the meetings. Amanda provided the information on when the PTO meeting occurs. Holly also suggested that the Committee Chairs include a brief description of what their committee does so that parents can better understand when making decisions to join. Laura Snelson also expressed that the GWA teachers have done an excellent job at communicating the school rankings to the students and fostering pride for their school in them. Shannon requested that the teacher reps convey the messages from these parents back to the teachers, so that they see that there are parents that are noticing those things.

**Set time for adjournment:** Blake Clark set time for adjournment at 8:44 p.m.

**Teacher Reports:** Jaxynn Smith reported on the progress of Kindergarten through 3rd Grade. All the teachers have been able to do the instructional rounds on Tuesday and report that they have loved the opportunity to learn from others. They report that they have learned new class management tools and strategies, tips for transitions, and ways to keep students engaged. 3rd Grade report that the new SOAR behavior matrix has been amazing. It has made expectations very clear for students. Jaxynn reported that in her own classroom, she has the class rules posted, and also the consequences posted as well so her students are very aware of the steps that are taken if they don't follow expectations. Overall, it has been very successful, and she couldn't be more pleased. Jaxynn also reported on the field trips for the 3rd grade.

Jocelyn Larkin reported on 4th Grade through 7th Grade. The 6th grade science students are diving deep into learning about Einstein's Theory of Relativity, and how large bodies of mass warp the fabric of space and time, creating gravity. In Social Studies, the students recently celebrated Constitution Day and explored the Bill of Rights and the Amendments. Students are also exploring the contributions of Hispanic Americans through a biography project and presentation in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Students will begin studying the civilization of Ancient Greece next week. In ELA we are preparing to sing a song we wrote about habit 2 while playing the merry bells for next week's assembly! In math We are finding different ways to dive deeper as we solve how to divide fractions! We have seen a big decrease in behaviors due to the new SOAR matrix and behavior flowchart. We are reviewing and reteaching expectations daily. I have a student on a behavior plan and he is doing fabulous this year due to the clear expectations and logical consequences. I even had his parents email me saying he is teaching the family how to SOAR at home. Science classes are completing the unit on forces in nature where they have studied Newton's 3 laws of motion and the Universal Law of Gravitation. They will be completing an egg drop challenge to show their "mastery" of Newton's 3rd Law. My class has been working hard on our class wig to have quick and quiet transitions in under a minute. We have already been seeing a big difference.

**Administration Report:** Blake Clark reported on the Administration Report. Blake reported that the State called GWA regarding our math data. GWA scored relatively high compared to the state at the BOY. However with the beginning of year to end of year measurements, GWA didn't hit

the goal of the State established when adopting SMACK, which was 60% growth. Blake indicated that it may be because GWA started at a higher level than most of the state, but it's still something the administration spoke to the teachers about. GWA met with every team lead within 8 hours and came up with a plan. They're bringing a more rigorous approach and monthly process monitoring. Shannon inquired about how frequent will Admin be checking on the progress and Blake reported that it's what the monthly process monitoring will do. Kevin noted that the Board hasn't seen the data laid out like that before. Blake reports that that will be a part of the Board training for next month. Casey confirmed that the Board hadn't received all the data yet. Shannon reports that it will be talked about more in depth in that training that Christine will do next month. Christine was able to clarify how the data was sent out to the school and why it wasn't until now that GWA was receiving the data. The Board discussed the data from the State versus GWA's data and why an issue was identified from the State's data but not GWA's data. Blake reported on Acadience Reading BOY with both the 2022 and the 2023 data. Amanda asked if it was common for the lower grades to have lower scores than the older grades. Blake confirmed that is very common. Shannon and Blake discussed how the tool worked. Blake also reported on the GWA's ranking data for both Utah and in the country. Though the date is not announced yet, Sean Covey is going to be coming to GWA and will be meeting with GWA's leadership team, the teachers, the students, getting a student tour, and then for them having their board meeting in GWA. Last week, the State superintendent, Cindy Dixon was here. The students gave her a tour. She went into the 5th grade Collaborative meeting and a meeting with administration. She was very complimentary of the collaborative and the school as a whole. Blake extended an invitation to the Board to attend with Sean Covey coming to the school and Shannon indicated that she wants to have the Board present. Shannon asked to go over the yearly goals. Blake reported on the progress of each goal. Casey asked to review the Salary discussion from the previous meeting. Blake was able to review what decisions were made and why.

**Financial Report:** Spencer Adams reported on the Financial Report. Spencer reported on the budget report as of the end of August. Not a whole lot to look at this point but a few key things. Local revenue is looking great. Our interest in investments continues to do awesome this year. We're hoping that continues throughout the whole fiscal year. We're approaching halfway to our forecast in that line item and only 16% of the way through the year. It looks like we'll be able to increase that forecast as we approach that. For the State revenue, we are still operating on that forecasted number that the Board approved. We should start seeing some of those adjustments as they are calculated off the October first count and then the State will need time to run the calculations and true up the allotment. So that typically happens around November through January which will likely change those forecasts. As for the Federal Funds, same as last month as we haven't seen any of those come in yet. If any, it'll be the lunch funds that we'll see for the majority of the year and then towards the end of the year we'll start seeing some of those other reimbursable grants. On the expense side, we're pretty much right on track. A couple of these major line items are trending high but that's pretty typical as it reflects the purchases that have to be made prior to the school year. Our cash continues to look great. We have the majority of that in the PTIF (Public Treasurers Investment Fund) account which allows us to get that interest on investment. We also have another account that we recently opened up at Cash Valley Bank that is allowing us to get more interest on some of the funds that we may need to utilize quicker than what's in the PTIF. Overall, sitting pretty good. Our revenues continue to exceed the expenses even with the higher spending for the beginning of the school year. Ratios look great. Our

operating margin is a little bit lower than the goal but we still have the true up on the allotments to come so that interest on investments will increase. Spencer noted that the Margin percentage isn't accurate anymore and Shannon asked if it could be updated to reflect what the current goal is. Kevin said that the Finance committee could look into that and he reported on interest earnings that are coming from the Cash Valley account. Shannon also reported that we are much closer to finalizing on the lot so earning money everyday will help us with that as well with whatever we decide to do on it. Casey asked Spencer to explain the Federal account receivable line and Spencer was able to explain what that line was, funds that we're waiting on from the government. He also verified that all the paperwork has been submitted and approved. We're just waiting for the funds to come through. Spencer reported that all the required reports have been submitted.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report. Shannon asked Blake regarding the library online platform so the parents would know what the kids are checking out, if he know what platform we'd be using.
- **Finance Committee** – Audit Committee is now up and running.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report. Should be a report soon. Shannon asked Spencer to look into the income ratio between salary and benefits compared to other schools.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Created an instructional vision as a committee.
- **Outreach Committee** – Will be emailing the next version of the mission statement for feedback. Blake reported that they will have 2 more banners for the next few days, number 1 Teachers and number 1 school.
- **Technology Committee** – Nothing to report
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **PTO Committee** – The Fall Fest is October 21st from 3pm to 6pm here at the school.
- **Board Development Committee** – Next month we'll have the presentation of student data by Christine. We'll also be adding Board members next month. Those interviews are now complete
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

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

- **Expenditures over \$5,000**
- **UAPCS Membership Benefits & Dues (Board Packet Pg. 13)** Shannon recused herself from this vote due to conflict and asked Kevin to conduct this part. Amanda motioned to approve the UAPCS Membership Benefits and Dues as outlined in the packet for the 23-24 school year in the total of \$6,018.00. Casey clarified that this amount is only 75% of the total membership costs. Shannon was confirmed and explained how the invoice was broken down. Amanda modified her motion to approve the UAPCS Membership Benefits and Dues for the school year of 2023 to 2024 for up to \$9,000 per release. Casey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Teacher Student Success Act (TSSA) Framework (Board Packet Pg. 23)** Kevin motioned to approve the Teacher Student Success Act (TSSA) Framework as outlined in the Board packet. Amanda seconded the motion. Shannon asked how the accountability

of the TSSA worked. Blake explained the limitations of accountability with TSSA. Shannon asked if Blake could report to the Board then to accomplish that accountability to which Blake agreed. Deborah will add the TSSA to the May Board meeting agenda. Blake also clarified the funding difference between the higher and lower grades. Casey asked if there is a committee that oversees those funds. Holly asked if this fund will take over the technology cost from the Land Trust fund. Blake clarified that Technology pulls costs from 3 funds including Land Trust, TSSR, and the general fund. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.

- **2024-2025 Student Calendar (Board Packet Pg. 26)** Amanda motioned to approve the 2024-2024 Student Calendar as outlined in the Board packet. Shauna seconded the motion. Holly notified the Board that some of the local elementaries have changed how they do their Parent/Teacher conferences so that instead of doing a full week of half days as GWA does, they now do 2 full days off with the conferences being from 2-6 instead. Not necessary for a change but something to be aware of. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Policy 320: Bullying, Cyber-Bullying, Hazing, Abusive Conduct and Retaliation (Board Packet Pg. 28)** Kevin motioned to approve the Policy 320 as outlined in the Board Packet. Amanda seconded the motion. Kevin asked if this came from the State legislation and Blake confirmed that it did, specifically what part was changed. Shannon noticed that the intent was that the materials that are being sent out to the parents were going to be included in the Board packet but didn't. She asks that they get sent to the Board so that the Board can answer questions as necessary. Blake will send those documents to the Board. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Shannon Greer, Amanda Mortenson, Holly Myers, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, and Shauna Mahoney.
- **Occupational Therapist Contract Discussion** Blake reported to the Board that the OT provider that the Board had approved last month has pulled out and will no longer provide services. Admin has found another provider and they received the new providers contract 3 hours before the Board meeting. Blake summarized the contract and explained that by law we are required to provide these services for GWA students. Casey asked if this approval would be a budget thing or a Board approval. Shannon explained that the Board is responsible for approving all contracts. Shannon also recommended that the Board give Blake direction to engage in services with this provider until it can be approved at the next Board meeting as it is required by law to provide these services. The Board discussed this recommendation and agreed to give this direction.

**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 October 26th, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** The board adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Kevin motioned to adjourn. Motion carried.

Written by Deborah Odenwalder, Board Clerk

DRAFT