

These Minutes are pending board approval

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

George Washington Academy

Thursday, September 25, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

OPMA Training was held at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Board Meeting.

The Board meeting will convened at 7:30 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer

Prayer: None

Pledge of Allegiance: Casey Unrein

Board Members Present: Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Sharon Moss, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, Kevin Peterson, Blake Clark, and Shelbi Kelly.

Board Members Not Present: Sharna Rowe

Others Present: Steve Erickson, Chance Manzanares, Christine Giles, Debra Kauvaka, Jenna Ayers, Mandy Willets, Emily Winona, and Lisa Riel.

GWA Year Goals Reviewed:

- Academics- By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, GWA students and teachers will work together to achieve an overall 8% increase in math fluency, making steady progress of 2% each quarter through consistent effort, collaboration, and support.
- Leadership- Teachers will lead their own professional development by sharing and modeling best practices in academic instruction and behavior support, fostering a culture of shared leadership and continuous growth.
- Community- Foster a positive school culture that motivates by embedding regular meaningful celebrations that recognize student achievement, personal growth, and staff contributions.

Blake talked about how he and Heather Erickson have been discussing new ways of measuring growth. He have the example that if a student gets a one, then the next month they get a two, its a

100% increase, where the goal is a two percent increase there needs to be a different way to measure.

Approval of Minutes:

Rachel made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 27th, 2025 Board Meeting and Retreat. Sharon seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Sharon Moss, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, and Kevin Peterson.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:

None

Set time for adjournment

Rachel set time for adjournment at 8:43.

Teacher Reports: Emily Winona, Lisa Riel

Lisa Riel talked about things they learned from the conference they went to over the summer. She said that when they got back they got to work as grade levels and created vision and mission statement. For kindergarten their mission statement is to nurture a strong foundation for continued learning by fostering academic, social and emotional development. The vision statement is that by cultivating an environment centered on safety, belonging and curiosity, we empower students to lead their own learning, grow through mistakes, and thrive beyond kindergarten. All grade levels made their mission statement then their vision statement which says how they will accomplish their mission statement. It's up in the hallways. Emily Winona talked about the counseling mission statement which is to approach each student with genuine curiosity and empathy to identify needs and provide timely support for their social, emotional, academic, safety, and belonging development. Their vision is that they foster a safe space where students feel seen, heard, and supported to grow into wise, kind, and effective leaders. They handed out the character education proficiency placemats. They shared some wins from the teachers. Ms. Smart said that one of the students in her class had been struggling with math but lit up when he realized he was able to explain it to his partner, they jumped up and down and hugged. He later told his parents in SLC that he was getting smarter. Mrs. Garrett said that they have finished 2 placemats and are on their third, they have been handing out a lot of level up stickers. The fifth grade also had the wax museum for the revolutionary war exhibit. Rachel asked if the stickers create comparison between kids. Emily explained that they can start at any level and will level up as they improve. The stickers just say "ask how I leveled up today" or things like that. Casey asked about how they developed the placement mats. Lisa said it was the grade team that develops the placement mats. For the counseling mats they use the standards from the American School Counseling Association.

Administration Report:

Blake Clark, Executive Director gave the report. Current enrollment is at 1,030. He went over the Board Update that was sent out earlier in the week. Based on the conversation last month, the second page of the update tracks actual charter roles in numerical with the rubrics that is

provided in the charter. There are some areas that don't meet the charter growth and others that do. The next few pages are the cohort from the EOI of last year to the EOI of the end of the year to the beginning of the year. You see areas that went up and down a lot of that is mirrored throughout the state. In education, there's this term called the summer slide of students that, of course, aren't at the same academic grade level over the summer months and we see a bit of a slide. The rest of the packet reviewed the IXL data for each grade. Fifth grade stands out as using IXL far more than most grades. It will be interesting to see how what comes of that data. Sharon brought up how IXL gets used to teach the kids who are ahead instead of from the teachers. Blake said that the goal is to have the placemats go through the depth of knowledge to really design, create and speak to their depth of knowledge. The goal is not to have a lot of educational software or tools to provide extension. Its for a teacher leading that group to provide those necessary instructional points to deepen their understanding. Kevin asked what the 123 incomplete numbers are. Christine explained that especially for the kindergarten class it takes quite a while to get those benchmarks complete. Casey brought up the increase in far below category of the chart - Christine said it was something she was looking into understanding more about. She is looking at the amount of time the kids spend on HMH vs the IXL. She also said it could be result of the summer slide. The next month can show us more since the kids are spending time now their numbers might be higher. Laura Snelson asked what the target for achievement is. Blake explained that the hope is that this is an educational tool, just like IXL for them to use to hopefully build those skills so they can transfer over to the RISE, or Adherence of State Mandated Assessments. Hopefully they will eventually be able to see the crossover of more skills on IXL completed with the higher RISE scores and joint proficiency. Casey said that 77 students have hit the five day threshold. Between Blake, Steve, Christine and Chance they are all over different grades to keep track of the amount of time students are missing.

Financial Report:

Business Administrator, Spencer Adams gave the report. Looking at the budget report a few months into the year. Looking at the major categories we are in a good spot. Healthy ratios. Not a whole lot has changed. The variance column has changed just because we've switched things around from various restricted programs. For the most part as a whole things didn't change. The difference from last month to this month is just under \$8,000, it's outlined in the finance committee meeting minutes. Overall we are in a good spot. He'll continue to monitor things as they go. Nothing concerning to report on. They are currently knee deep in the audit. AFR APR is uploaded and Blake has it certified.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report just what's in the packet.
- **Finance Committee** – Nothing to report just what's in the packet.
- **Audit Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report just what's in the packet.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report. The 20-Year Anniversary Celebration is coming up and any and all support from the board is welcome.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report.

- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report. Anyone who wants to be on the committee needs to email Brady.
- **PTO Committee** – Great turnout at the first PTO meeting. Donuts for Grownups and the book fair were a success.
- **Board Development Committee** – Date settled with Suzanne Metzger it's set for Thursday October 30, from 4-8.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Casey made a motion to approve the Emergency Response Plan for the year 2025-2026 as outlined. Kevin seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Sharon Moss, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, and Kevin Peterson.
- Kevin made a motion to approve the Update to Policy 320- Bullying, Cyber-Bullying, Hazing, Abusive Conduct as outlined in the Board Packet. Brady seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Sharon Moss, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, and Kevin Peterson.
- Rachel made a motion to approve the New Policy 495 - Suicide Prevention Policy as outlined in the Board Packet. Sharon seconded. Rachel asked if we could add something about age appropriateness. Shannon mentioned that nothing has been approved. Shannon wants to make sure procedures and policies are separate. She mentioned she is happy that they are being proactive but the way it is written does not sound like a policy yet. Kevin wants to know, who is going to teach this, what will be taught will it be an assembly or in class, do they need to have a permission slip. Kevin wants to know what the requirements and obligations for reporting it would be. Discussion was had about having a third party determine the risk of the child rather than the school counselor. Rachel called to amend her motion to table this policy. Sharon seconded. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Sharon Moss, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, and Kevin Peterson.

Hughes Construction Update: Shannon Greer said they met with them today. The total as of right now for the structure and the outside is \$16 million. Not the desks, chairs and things on the inside.

Closed Meeting –Shannon Greer made a motion to go into a closed meeting in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act for the purposes of discussing the character competence of an individual. Roll Call vote: Shannon Greer, yes. Casey Unrein, yes. Laura Pressley, yes. Brady Pearce, yes. Kevin Peterson, yes. Rachel Richins, yes. Sharon Moss, yes. Laura Snelson, yes. The vote was unanimous. The meeting went into a closed session at George Washington Academy Learning Lab.

Reconvene — Casey made a motion to contract with Chase Impacts Marcy Hausman for the purpose of providing admin coaching and support for our team. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Kevin Peterson, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Sharon Moss, Rachel Richins, Casey Unrein, Shannon Greer, Laura Snelson.

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held during the retreat on October 23, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Rachel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Written by Shelbi Kelly