

Gateway Academy School Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, Jan 29, 2026, 06:00-8:00 PM

Location: Gateway Library

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://gpacharter-org.zoom.us/j/87548930995?pwd=MmxsoaUpDLzltkoGFw18GhQpuSjcek.1>

Meeting ID: 923 112 8979

Mission Statement: *Our mission is to provide children with an individualized education emphasizing practical life skills and demonstrations of student learning in a safe, respectful, and supportive environment*

Agenda Items	Presenter	Materials/Notes	Time
Call to Order	Michael Bahr	The board meeting was called to order by Michael Bahr at 6:02 p.m., with board members Amy Arnold, Roger Carter, Paul Dail, Diana Girtain, Diana Salazar, and Jessica Walker in attendance. Staff members in attendance and presenting at the meeting included Dave Armour, Jonada Munk, Amy Gibson, and Erin Waldman.	1 min
Public Comment	Public Attendees	No public comment	5 min
Consent Calendar	Diana Girtain	Amy moved to approve the Dec. 4 minutes, Diana seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed.	3 min
Exhibit A Review (schedule overview)	Paul Dail	<p>Paul discussed his board walkthrough of the school. He mentioned that he was pleased to see all exterior doors locked and that the children seemed well-behaved (especially for a morning that started with “Muffins with Misters”). His only concerns dealt with modular access and not seeing neck lanyards on a couple aides.</p> <p>His biggest observation connected to his review of Exhibit A, section 6d. He said he was pleased to see an elementary class that demonstrated this section of the charter, with kids working both in groups and independently in true Montessori fashion while also learning material that aligned with State standards.</p>	5 min
Director’s Report	David Amour	<p>Dave presented his Director’s Report, which included enrollment. The school lost 3 onsite students and gained 476 OpenEd students as a result of their twice-yearly enrollment push, for a total of 2,645 students.</p> <p>He said teachers and Honor Society presidency students went up to Salt Lake City for Charter Day on the Hill.</p> <p>Erin discussed the literacy award from the State Legislative Office in connection to being in the top 10%, which was mentioned at the December meeting.</p> <p>Dave also reported on winter festival numbers: 99% completion of projects by students; attendance at the festivals was highest in 2/3 at 92%, likely because of performance. He said they are working on figuring out how to get higher attendance for the other grade levels. He lauded the Christmas concert, where he said instructors did a great job of letting as many kids as possible have their “moment in the sun.”</p> <p>Dave mentioned a Montessori conference in April in Milwaukee, as well as a recent trip to northern Utah to observe other charter schools. Amy Gibson would expand on this later in the expansion report.</p>	15 min

		<p>Regarding National School Choice Week, Dave said he loves that GPA provides the opportunities for kids to bring their parents or guardians.</p> <p>Finally, he said they are still working on roof and lights before June deadline for safety grant spending.</p>	
Expansion Committee Report	Amy Gibson	<p>Amy presented the Expansion Report dashboard. She said impact fees for the new construction were waived, but the school is over budget on permits.</p> <p>She discussed legislative updates, including SB34 regarding student-to-teacher ratios, adding that GPA will be watching that bill to ensure the school is in compliance with OpenEd students.</p> <p>She also discussed the request by the Legislature to the USBE to model what a 5% reduction in the state's education budget might look like as a result of general tightening of the overall state budget this year.</p> <p>Diana G. asked if we were worried about this request, to which Ada responded it was more of an exercise and that no action had been taken, adding that none of the proposed cuts would impact GPA's main revenue streams, such as WPU or local replacement funding. She also said that the proposals weren't necessarily "cuts" but a "reduction and reallocation" to other areas.</p> <p>Amy talked about the trip that administrators took to northern Utah to evaluate three separate schools for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early learning program approach - Public Montessori alignment - Online/hybrid model <p>Along the lines of the early learning program, Amy also mentioned that there have been staffing changes at the SCSB and that GPA has been instructed to hold on amending its charter while they figure out the new framework.</p>	10 min
Finance Report	Ada Munk	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>Ada presented the finance report for the month of November. She said it is a "big month" when GPA determines adjusted revenue numbers once the Oct. 1 enrollment numbers are calculated and ADM (average daily membership) numbers are finalized from the previous year. The school had budgeted for 1,299 students and ended up with 2,223. Impact of increased enrollment was huge to revenue line items. She reiterated that there is more cost to our online vendor, but the school has other revenue to cover that.</p> <p>Single audit work has been completed.</p> <p>Ada said she is part of a state SPED funding work group tasked with coming up with the best way to minimize the impact of some overdistribution of SPED dollars to charter schools. She said GPA shouldn't see a huge impact, as the school's business office had planned for less funding than it received.</p> <p>Ada also said her office is monitoring cash flow very closely because of the decision to use school funds to cover the expansion construction project, adding that the project's GC said they will be honoring the cash</p>	10 min

		flow statement they sent and which was shared with the board at the Oct. 2025 meeting.	
FY25 Single Audit Review	Ada Munk/Roger Carter	<p>Ada said the single audit report is required in federal code for organizations that receive over \$1 million in federal funds, such as SPED, Title I, COVID. Auditors look at different programs each year in more detail than an external or annual audit. For GPA, they reviewed the USDA loan and found no issues.</p> <p>Michael said the school is so fortunate with the work that Ada does and grateful for how engaged we are with other schools and state leadership.</p>	5 min
2025-26 School Year Calendar	David Armour	<p>Regarding a potential change to a four-day school week, Dave said that while it has come up before, GPA was primarily looking at it most recently because the Iron County School District (ICSD) was considering it. He gave a recap of the ICSD meeting on 01/27 where they voted for the traditional calendar for the upcoming school year and to continue to explore the option for 2027-28 school year.</p> <p>There was considerable discussion, with the general board consensus being that most board members felt the process had been rushed and that it was important to be more prepared and proactive versus waiting to react to ICSD.</p> <p>Board members raised concerns about the welfare of children on Fridays, especially lower income children or children of two working parents, to which Dave responded that GPA would want to have a Friday program in place for those children. The question of test scores was also raised and the fact that there didn't seem to be overwhelming evidence that four-day school weeks positively influenced scores and may even negatively impact instruction.</p> <p>Erin spoke on behalf of the staff who voted in favor of the four-day week, highlighting the workload of teachers who regularly work on the evenings and weekends and the increased state and federal expectations and that the four-day week offered a possibility of a little relief and helped mental health and work/life balance.</p> <p>There was procedural discussion of what sort of action needed to be taken at this meeting.</p> <p>Diana G. suggested the formation of a committee to continue examining the issue.</p> <p>Amy Bates asked if the school staff members were asked the question about how ICSD's action might influence their preference for four- or five-day weeks, to which Dave said that question was not on the staff survey. Several board members said they would like to see another version of the survey go out with a little more depth, and Roger said the open ended responses of the parent survey could help guide future surveys and discussions.</p> <p>Several members of the board complimented the administration for their background work and research.</p>	20 min
2026-27 School Fees Hearing	Amy Gibson	The first hearing was held for the 2026-27 school fee schedule. Amy said the only grades the school can charge fees are 6-8, but that otherwise, there had been no changes to the schedule since the current year.	5 mins

2024-25 Land Trust Final Report Review	Ada Munk	Ada presented the Land Trust report for SY2024-25. She addressed how the state reporting doesn't capture the instructional coach salary but that it has always been an issue that is ultimately resolved by the state. All funding was spent was spent, and the school did meet all RISE goals.	5 min
Digital Citizenship and School Safety Report	David Armour	Report Dave presented the Digital Citizenship and School Safety Report, which he said is part of Land Trust as well. He said all links had been updated and new actions added at the end.	10 min
Action Items:			
Fundraising Policy	Amy Gibson	Policy Amy presented the Fundraising Policy, which was previously sent to board members for approval. Diana G. moved to approve the Fundraising Policy, Jessica seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed.	10 min
2025-26 School Year Calendar	Dave Armour	Amy Arnold made a motion to approve a traditional five-day calendar, Paul seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed.	
2026-27 School Land Trust Plan	David Armour	Dave presented the 2026-27 Land Trust Plan and drew the board's attention to the fact that the goal changed from the previous year's goal of a 2% increase to 1%. He said the percentage was lowered because they are not sure the impact from the increase in OpenEd students. He also pointed out that with the increase in enrollment, there was an increase in Land Trust funding. Diana G. moved to approve the 2026-27 School Land Trust Plan, Diana S. seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed. Paul moved to close, Jessica seconded, and roll call vote went as follows: Amy- yes, Jessica- yes, Diana G.-yes, Diana S.- yes, Roger- yes, Paul- yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.	10 min
Discussion: Executive Session: In accordance with UCA 52-4-205 (for one or more of the following purposes):			
Action from closed session, if any:			

Rules of Procedure:

- All meetings are open to the public, and the public is welcome to attend.
- The agenda of each upcoming meeting with draft minutes of the prior meeting will be made available to all council members at least 24 hours in advance, will be posted on the school website and made available in the main office. The agenda will include the date, time and location of the meeting. If School Land Trust is on the agenda, the agenda will be posted 1 week in advance.

- Minutes will be kept of all meetings, prepared in draft format for approval at the next scheduled meeting.
- The board will prepare a timeline for the school year that includes due dates for all required reporting and other activities/tasks that the council agrees to assume or participate in. The timeline will assist in preparation of agendas to be sure the council accomplishes their work in a timely manner.
- The council consists of the governing board of Gateway Preparatory Academy (Two Parent Majority or 5/7 parents) as well as the school director.
- The chair conducts the meetings, makes assignments and requests reports on assignments. In the absence of the chair the vice-chair shall conduct meetings.
- The board must have a quorum to vote. A quorum is equal to a majority of board members.
- The board completes a Conflict-of-Interest form annually and the board will follow the conflict of interest policy.
- Meetings shall be conducted, and action taken according to very simplified rules of parliamentary procedure as required in 53G-7-1203(10). Council actions will be taken by motions and voting with votes and motions recorded in the minutes.

Public Comment Procedures:

- Comments are limited to 3 min per individual,
- Personnel matters cannot be addressed during public comment,
- All public comment materials should be shared with the board of directors at least 24 hours in advance,
- The preferred communication method with the board is email: board@gpacharter.org, and
- No board action can be taken on topics addressed during public comment and that are not listed as an action item on the meeting agenda.