These Minutes are Pending Board Approval

George Washington Academy
Thursday February 26, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

The Board meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President
Roll Call: Shannon Greer
Prayer: Kevin Peterson
Pledge of Allegiance: Shannon Greer

Board Members Present: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer Rachel Richins and Laura Snelson via Zoom and Shelbi Kelly.

Others Present: Chance Manzanares, Christine Giles, Debbie Kauvaka, Lisa Riel, Emily Winona, Jenna Ayers and Spencer Adams via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes:

- Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22nd, 2026 Board Meeting as outlined in the Board Packet. Laura Pressley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:
Jenna Ayers is an instructional coach with GWA. She shared her concerns that the group as a whole have perhaps not spoken up out of consideration. There is a serious concern that there is a pattern of a lack of accountability with one of the leaders. There have been attempts that on the surface may appear one way but the lived reality does not meet that reality. We receive information all the time, but it's how we respond to that information. She wonders if we are more concerned about the truth or being seen a certain way. This is the time that we should consider what we want to be known as and make sure we are holding ourselves accountable and to the

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standard we claim. She just wants everyone to seek the truth or ask themselves what they are protecting if they aren't seeking truth. Now is the time to lean into our integrity.

Set time for adjournment
Kevin set the time for adjournment for 8:45 p.m.

Strategic Planning was led by Sharna Rowe. The updated mission was presented. She said this is something that lives on the website but not something we need to memorize. It tells a prospective student or community member what the school is and what we focus on. Sharna laid out the Roadmap Overview for future planning. She said that we had jumped back to step one but with the committee working together we have moved along to step five. Conversation was had, Academics leadership community are still considered the values of the school but Shannon wants the committee to consider where they can be placed to make sure they are still seen.

Laura made a motion to approve the mission statement that was read by Sharna. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins and Laura Snelson via Zoom.

Sharna continued to talk about the strategic goals -
1. Excellence in Academics - are we delivering high-quality teaching and curriculum that actually leads to strong student learning.
2. Academic support & Enrichment - Are we helping struggling students catch up and giving advanced students opportunities to stretch?
3. Student Support (whole child) Are students supported academically, emotionally, and behaviorally so they're ready to learn?
4. Growth, Facilities & Demand - Are we managing growth responsibly and preparing the organization for the future?

What's next?
Goals within each priority
- Objectives
- Strategies
- Evidence/Data Sources

Timelines
Person Responsible

Teacher Report: Emily and Lisa put together a video of Hope and Spirit week. This was an event that was planned by the students, supported by staff.

Administration Report: Blake Clark had sent out the Board Update. Christine answered some of the questions about the data that was sent out in the Board Update. Shannon will reach out to make sure all the reports have been completed.

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Financial Report: Spencer Adams gave the report. Looking at the end of January, a little more than half way through the fiscal year. Not much has changed since last month. The main thing he wants to bring up is that there were more expenses than revenue. That is due to the construction costs coming in. Overall ratios are still looking good and healthy. All are above their goal. Looking at the actual budget report, they are right on target. Anything trending high, the majority has little to know change from the month prior. Overall in great shape. Last thing to point out is the enrollment. Usually schools have a slight decrease. Right now we actually have jumped back up to 1,030 thanks to Debbie working hard to fill the seats.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee –** Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **Benefits Committee** – They voted to not move forward with Talkspace for next year. They will have it through the end of this year. They haven't decided to move in a different direction, they just decided it was not fiscally responsible any longer. There are so few people that actually utilize it. 82/140 employees filled out a survey and they felt like they were able to get a good idea of what the needs of the employees were and it was not to move forward again next year.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Outreach Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **PTO Committee** – They are trying to nail down a day for the family appreciation day. The glow show was a success. Not as many participants this year. They are still talking about the taxes and filings and documentation to get that cleared up.
- **Board Development Committee** – Three individuals have put forward their names for the vacant spots on the board.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Kevin made a motion to approve the Power School Curriculum and Instruction (Chalk) Renewal as outlined in the board packet. Sharna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.
- Kevin made a motion to approve the Policy and Procedures 750 Time and Effort Standards as outlined in the board packet. Casey seconded the motion. Kevin asked if this is what the compliance officer needed. Debbie confirmed that it was. Casey wanted to make sure it doesn't add too much of a work load for Spencer. All present voted in favor:

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Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.

- Brady made a motion to approve the proposal for Administrative Training with Marci Houseman for year 2-2026-2027 school year. Casey seconded the motion. Shannon explained that the current contract is good through May. This is for the second year. Kevin's concern was that this was supposed to be a team building/collaborative thing. We are being asked to spend $15,000 and Blake has been asked but the team hasn't been asked. He also said that its okay to go a month or two without her. Sharna asked if we have goals for her and do we know what it looks like. Rachel wants to make sure with any upcoming changes being made we have a clear understanding of who will be a part of the admin team before moving forward. The motion failed. All present voted nay. Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.
- Brady made a motion. Trust Land Plan 26-27. Rachel seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.

Kevin made a motion to continue the meeting. Sharna seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.

- Kevin made a motion to approve the LRB Public Finance Advisors Compensation Agreement as outlined in the Board Packet. Casey seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.
- Kevin made a motion to approve the UCSFA Financing application Deposit in the amount of $30,000. Brady seconded the motion. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote.

Hughes Construction Update: Shannon Greer

- Bond Update - Kevin Peterson

Strategic Planning: Shannon Greer

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. Laura Snelson, yes. Sharna Rowe, yes. The vote was unanimous. The meeting went into a closed session at George Washington Academy.

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Reconvene — The board came out of the closed session at 10:22 pm. Laura Pressley made a motion that the policy committee review and propose amendments to policy 415 on drug-free workplace and reasonable substitution, as well as any related student safety policies to ensure clear assignment of responsibility, defined procedures, documentation requirements, and appropriate timelines. The review of the policy committee should also include recommendations for training on the updated policies and procedures. Lastly, that the policy committee will bring the proposed revisions back to the board for consideration in a timely manner once they are finalized. Brady seconded the motion. Casey said the board had received a formal report from a staff member about some past issues that were resolved. In that regard from his perspective there isn't a concern. However, it did bring up concerns about being able to address those items in a timely manner. Those items are known by multiple individuals, but still not getting to a resolution that the board would prefer to see happen quickly and timely. So for that reason not only the policies, but also a bit of a continued investigation to figure out what the challenge is with documentation and decision-making in that regard. Shannon wanted to state for the record that student safety is one of the most important things that we need to ensure is happening in our building. We take them seriously, particularly when they are brought to our attention and because it has just been brought to our attention we are now able to act on the complete information that we haven't had in the past. All present voted in favor: Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Brady Pearce, Casey Unrein, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Rachel Richins via Zoom. Laura Snelson was not present for the vote. Shannon will take lead on further investigation, research and write-ups while the policy committee will work through the policies.

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on March 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Brady made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 pm.

Written by Shelbi Kelly

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