

These Minutes are pending Board Approval

Mission Statement: "ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."

George Washington Academy

Thursday March 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.

Continuation of Strategic Planning was held prior to the Board Meeting business.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President

Roll Call: Shannon Greer

Prayer: N/A

Pledge of Allegiance: Shannon Greer

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

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

GWA Year Goals:

Blake talked about how the students met the school wide WIG. Tomorrow is leadership day.

Strategic Planning: Laura Snelson presented. Four Strategic Priorities and their leads were identified. Next steps were made. The time frame to have it all wrapped up - will require leg work and about an hour of meeting with Laura Snelson. Shannon asked to have a document all wrapped up by the next board meeting.

Strategic Priority 1: Excellence in Academics (Teaching, Learning, & Assessment)
4 pillars of academics: Ensure excellence in curriculum, instruction, assessment, practices, and student learning outcomes through coherent academic systems and high-quality teaching.

Lead by Christine Giles with Heather Erickson and Jenna Ayers as being part of the team.

Strategic Priority 2 - Academic Support & Enrichment

Strengthen Tier 1 academic support systems and expand enrichment opportunities to ensure all students experience academic growth, challenge, engagement, and access to extensions.

Lead by Blake Clark with Heather Erickson, Natalie Riley, and Jenna Ayers being on the team.

Strategic Priority 3 - Student Support

GWA provides strong and comprehensive student support systems (Advantage), strengthened by robust Special Education services, supports for diverse learners, counseling services, and a wellness center staffed by mental health professionals (Capability), demonstrated through consistent delivery of counseling intervention, and wellness services addressing academic, behavioral, and emotional needs (Evidence), resulting in equitable access, improved well-being, and readiness to learn (Impact).

Lead by Chance Manzanares with Merielle Dennis, Anjanae Merida, and Jenna Ayers.

Strategic Priority 4 - Growth, Facilities, & Demand

GWA continues to experience sustained enrollment demand and strong community interest (Advantage), supported by high retention rates, stable waitlists, and an approved expansion project that will increase capacity (Capability). These conditions are demonstrated through multi-year demand trends, consistent full enrollment and community growth (Evidence), resulting in long-term institutional stability, future readiness, and enhanced ability to strategically plan facilities, staffing, and resource allocation (Impact).

Lead by Steve Erickson with a team of Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Debbie Kauvaka, and Blake Clark.

Approval of Minutes:

Kevin made a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 26th, 2026 Board Meeting. Rachel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Casey Unrein, Sharna Rowe, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:

Laura Snelson wanted to express to everyone that she loves helping out. She wants everyone to do better with assessments and evaluations. She wants the teachers to feel supported and not controlled as she goes to help with assessments.

Set time for adjournment:

Kevin set time for adjournment for 9:15 p.m.

Teacher Reports: Emily Winona and Lisa Riel wanted to talk about leadership day. The theme is students leading the way around the world. Each grade was assigned an area of the world and a habit. Kindergarten was the colosseum with synergize. It took many people to build over many

years. Each grade level will have a leadership assembly. The kindergarten kids wrote their own talks. Each class will have their own presentations.

Emily said that the 5th, 6th, and 7th graders are excited about it. In 5th grade, every student has a job while the parents are in the classroom. 6th grade worked in teams to create brochures to use to teach the parents about what they are learning. 7th graders are reporting on a college of their choice helping them look to the future with excitement. She also wanted to say that they reported on the suicide prevention with the teachers and it was very well received. .

Administration Report: Blake Clark reported that all reports have been completed. Blake will keep the 26-27 enrollment projections on the board update, which will be good for the conversations for strategic planning. Enrollment for next year is at 1,073 with 223 on the waitlist. The school WIG was accomplished. The goal was for 85% of students to show growth from the beginning of the year until the end of the year in math fluency. The beginning of the year was 77% from August to September. March Growth was 91% from the beginning of year. The growth was 14% from the beginning of the year until March. The student lighthouse team chose a dance party with free dress day and ice cream sandwiches. Blake reviewed the behavior data from Q3. Self-control incidents: 78 (down 34% from Q2). On-task incidents: 27 (down 48% from Q2). Respect incidents: 76 (down 35 % from Q2). There were 21 suspensions, 3 were out-of school (down 25% from Q2) Chance talked about the data for behavior and the patterns that they've seen. Ideally they would like to keep track of behavior data as much as academic data. There was discussion about the groundbreaking event that will be held on April 23 for the new building and how many seat will be needed.

Financial Report: Business Administrator

Everything is looking great. Not a lot has changed since last month when looking at the report and the forecast column. The federal revenue column has been red the whole year, we finally got the Federal Special Education Funds allocated. So they are getting close to being able to get those in Utah grants. Then they can draw those into the bank account. The cash at the bottom left the cash value account dips, then the PTIF account has an increase there. It was intentional. They transferred \$500,000 into the PTIF account. He said that there is just under \$8 million now. The one thing he wanted to mention 56,000 in new construction expenses went out. There is more revenue than expenses but the construction is giving us a few spikes. Overall looking like we are in a great position, ratios are very healthy.

Casey asked what adding 6 students tomorrow does for the revenue. Spencer explained - Average daily membership. If we lost a bunch of students this year, we wouldn't see the impact until next year in the revenue.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing but what is in the board packet.
- **Finance Committee** – None.
- **Audit Committee** - None.
- **Benefits Committee** – None.
- **Curriculum Committee** – None.

- **Outreach Committee** - Laura asked who can help with live streaming the ground breaking on April 23.
- **Technology Committee** - None.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – None.
- **PTO Committee** – PTO would like to have clarification on who the board needs to help. May 8 is the family appreciation night at a farm in Hurricane from 6-8. The PTO is taking care of teacher appreciation week. Rachel and Sharna will represent the board on May 8th for the faculty meeting.
- **Board Development Committee** – Nothing other than what has been discussed during strategic planning.
- **Campus Management Committee** – None. The school was inspected by the fire marshal. They are slowly making those changes.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Kevin made a motion to approve the Facility Manager and Maintenance Pay Schedule as outlined in the board packet. Brady seconded the motion. Kevin asked if the person replacing Rod will know the secret handshake to get the HVAC to work. Steve said he was confident that the next person will have skills in HVAC repair. Sharna asked what changes were made. Blake explained that they changed it to match the other pay scales. Casey asked if the job description has changed. It has not. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Casey Unrein, Sharna Rowe, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer.
- Casey made a motion to approve the revision to Policy 126 Land Trust Council Election Procedures Policy as outlined in the Board Packet. Sharna seconded the motion. No discussion needed. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Casey Unrein, Sharna Rowe, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer.
- Sharna made a motion to approve the revision to Policy 535 Cheating and Plagiarism Policy as outlined in the Board Packet. Rachel seconded the motion. Shannon said that she was happy that this came up. This is something like the calculator and it isn't going away but using it appropriately is important. Laura explained that it was intentionally vague. They didn't want to call out specific tools. They wanted it to be general so that procedures could follow but it would be more of a long-term policy. Steve said that the State may be making a model policy encompassing all AI. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Casey Unrein, Sharna Rowe, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer.
- Rachel reviewed candidates for the board. It was recommended that their committee nominate Miguel Munez, to begin next board meeting. Erica Ivy to be the PTO representative and begin in June and David Stillman to start in June. Motion from Rachel seconded by Kevin. The motion passed unanimously. All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Casey Unrein, Sharna Rowe, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins,

Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. The PTO must also approve Erica and put her on the ballot.

Hughes Construction Update: Kevin made sure everyone had seen the numbers that were sent out by Hughes. The renderings were in the gym and everyone got to see them.

Closed Meeting – *None*

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on April 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Rachel made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

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