These Minutes are Pending Board Approval

Mission Statement: *"ACADEMICS. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY."*

George Washington Academy
Thursday April 23, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

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

Continuation of Strategic Planning was held prior to the Board Meeting business. The Board meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Board Welcome: Shannon Greer, President
Roll Call: Shannon Greer

Strategic Planning: Laura Snelson reported that they had met as a committee. They outlined goals for each of the strategic priorities that will be a component of the strategic plan. Shannon talked about the reason for putting the strategic plan in place is not because things are going poorly but to ensure they continue to grow and be better year after year even after the nine of them have moved on. Next steps include figuring out the systems that will be in place to collect the data.

Oath of Office: Miguel Munoz was sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors.

Approval of Minutes:
Kevin made a motion to approve the Minutes from the March 26th, 2026 Board Meeting as outlined in the Board Packet. Casey seconded the motion. Casey added that on page 4 Miguel Munoz name was spelled wrong and asked that it be changed. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Casey Unrein, Sharna Rowe, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer. Miguel Munoz abstained from voting as he was not present for the last meeting.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:
None

Set time for adjournment:
Rachel set time for adjournment as 8:49.

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Teacher Reports:
Lisa Riel talked about the last faculty meeting. She reviewed the new decision operating system. First the decision must clearly advance GWA's mission of Academics, Leadership, and Community and move the school closer to its long-term vision. If it doesn't move one of those pillars forward, it doesn't move forward. Next the decision must positively impact academic growth, behavioral success, or student experience and well-being. Next Those most affected by the decision- teachers, faculty/staff, parents, students, must have meaningful input before the decision is finalized. Input informs the decision, even if it does not determine it. NextThe decision must fit within our current and sustainable capacity, time, staffing, energy, budget, and training. If it creates overload, fragmentation, or burnout, it is not ready. Next, the decision must support long-term excellence, not just short-term relief. Finally, the decision should simplify, not complicate, reducing confusion, duplication, and competing priorities.

Emily Winona talked about how they practiced the decision operating system. They introduced the Houses of leadership system, which is inspired by Harry Potter. Each student would be sorted into a house for the entirety of their education here at GWA. Each house would have students from each grade. Their group would be like a community within that house. They earn points, an award system, where they are recognized for things they contribute to their team. If their house wins at the end of the year they get a huge celebration. Each member of the faculty and staff will also be in a house, they would be like the advisors. They are trying this out in the fifth grade right now.

Administration Report: Blake Clark gave the report. He said that the decision operating system is used for many reasons and that it helps decisions be more transparent. They have used it with the hiring process, Steve used it today with schedules. If there is a decision that affects more than one person or one team this is the lens to look through. It aligns to the strategic priorities and ultimately the mission as well. The report will be much bigger in May as the RISE testing is underway so the data for that will be coming in. There have been 28 new students added to the enrollment projections. There are now 251on the waiting list. Shannon asked what save open spot current year was. Debbie said it's when a spot opens up for the current year, they can still be filling them. Essentially if someone didn't get in with the lottery they can fill that spot by taking it as it becomes open. There are two bills in the legislation update. One of which is limiting technology. A large portion of the parents that are touring the school say they are leaving their current school because its all instructions based on technology. As we look at IXL and Lexia and those tools it will be great to use them differently based on alignment with that law. More instruction will be face to face and less IXL. Blake said that the numbers will never be this high again since it will only be used when students login at home. They will have more face-to-face instruction from teachers. Blake praised the student leaders who participated in the ground breaking ceremony. All reports have been completed.

Financial Report: Spencer Adams gave the report. We are ¾ of the way through the year. The ratios are all looking good. When looking at the ratios for the bond compliance items they are well above the goal and the goals are set well above the requirements. We are not in jeopardy of missing out on those targets. Healthy budget. At the end of the year we will see the numbers go up as we normally do at this time of year. The other hot topic is reimbursements of grants.- final

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numbers have been sent out, but the Utah grants have not been finalized. There is a good chunk of the other restricted funds that have been submitted. We won't see those until the June report. Everything is looking great. Well into the process of putting next year's budget together. Rachel asked where changes are made when committees make changes. They are made in real time and the best place to seem them reflected is in the changes column. Next year's budget is on this report. Reports are done. The fraud risk assessment was in the packet. This is something that is done every year, it's a self assessment. Looking great as you can see. Since the first year of doing this they have received full marks.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee –** Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** - Casey Unrein said there was a brief meeting on site with staff and the minutes will be sent later.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Outreach Committee** – 20th birthday party is tomorrow. The day will be really special tomorrow. Blake went over the calendar for upcoming events.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **PTO Committee** – PTO has planned a lot. The current PTO is working hard to finish the year smoothly. The next year's PTO team has all been assigned. They will be reviewing the bylaws for the new position of the Board Clerk who will be in charge of PTO finances.
- **Board Development Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Radio testing was done today. It all came out really well. The facility manager they hired didn't work out but they have hired someone new already.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Laura Pressley made a motion to adopt the Revision to Policy 365 Wheeled Device Transportation as redlined in the packet. Rachel seconded the motion. Kevin wants to make sure everyone has the boundary map. He suggested getting it through Hughes or Method Studio. Shannon suggested putting it on the website and bringing it up on the back to school night. Miguel would like to see the defined terms used more consistently throughout the policy. Laura amended her motion to move forward to adopt 365 Wheeled Device Transportation Policy as redlined with the amendment of including the devices as a defined term and making sure they are consistent in using the defined terms throughout the policy. Rachel seconded the motion. Shannon asked that Miguel get with Laura who is on the policy committee to ensure that the changes are made. She then asked that it be brought back next month just for everyone to review. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

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- Laura made a motion to adopt the Revisions to Policy 415 Drug free Workplace and Reasonable Suspicion. Kevin seconded the motion. Sharna asked how the reasonable suspicion and checklist form would work. It will be used as a tool, it will be filled out and signed by two people. Shannon asked where the training will come from. Blake said that the school resource officer may provide training. Shannon asked that once the training is complete that they report back. Casey noted that the header needed to be changed to procedure instead of policy. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Casey made a motion to approve the Storage Containers from Custom Container in the amount of $10,990. Rachel seconded the motion. Sharna asked where they are going to put them. Steve said the back parking lot, in the corner, at an angle. The reason we need it is because there are things that need to be stored during the expansion and because when the fire marshal walked through there is some stuff they are storing in little nooks that shouldn't be stored, like next to water heaters which makes it a fire hazard. Miguel asked if there is any way to make it not an eyesore. Suggestions were made to have students paint them. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Casey made a motion to approve Core Knowledge Language Arts Materials and Resources in the amount of $33,083.43. Sharna seconded the motion. Sharna asked why there are different numbers being asked for. Blake said it was because they do an inventory and figure out how many they need vs how many they can reuse. Casey asked about the originating committee for the selection. Shannon said that it comes from the curriculum committee which could have been lost with the turnover. Kevin asked Spencer to look up how much was spent, it was $29,249. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Sharna made a motion to approve the Into Math Curriculum for the 2026-2027 School Year in the amount of $40,240.29. Seconded by Rachel. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Sharna made a motion to approve the Leader in Me Subscription and Coaching Day in the amount of $9,450. Miguel seconded the motion. Rachel asked who was being coached. Blake said they have a Leader in Me coach from Franklin Covey that comes and will either speak with the whole staff, or the action team within Leader in Me or even the student action team. They usually break it down to two half days but they can do one full day as well. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

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- Kevin made a proposal to approve the GMP contract with Hughes construction in the amount of $17,228,062. Brady seconded the motion. There was some discussion which included Shannon bringing up that the first page of the document has listed all the contingencies. Kevin pointed out that there are $2.1 million of total cost is contingency funds to ensure the project gets completed. Rachel wanted to make sure there was enough transparency that everyone knows how much money is being spent on the construction for expansion and asked can we really do this. Shannon said yes, that because of the previous board members and all the work that has gone on in past years they are in a good position and the school can in fact responsibly move forward with the expansion. Casey wanted to make sure what the bond money was being used for. David said that they should make sure to use the bond money first, then the schools money.David said that the school is in the top 10% of financially-operated schools in the country. He said financially and management wise the school is in a great position to this. There will be regular reporting to ensure transparency. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Kevin made a motion to approve the Proposed Salary Schedules 26/27 as outlined in the board packet. Laura Snelson seconded the motion. Sharna asked if this happens every year, and they confirmed that it does. Kevin said that with wages they try to be 5% better than the district. 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Kevin made a motion to Adoption of a resolution authorizing the expansion of the school's facilities and financing for the project. Brady seconded the motion. David explained that this document gives Shannon or any one authorized to act in her stead the authority to act, to sign all the bond documents. He said that the next major step is the bond. They are releasing an offering document, they'll price the bonds, and then there'll be a bond closing. This document authorized the designated official. This is also updating the schools continuing disclosure undertaking just to make sure that as they're sharing information with investors in the future everything is updated and current. Casey brought up that there is a bond officer which is Spencer. He also asked if there is an added work load with the new bonds in comparison with the old bonds. David said no. Rachel asked who helps keep us compliant. Spencer and 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Kevin made a motion to approve the Touchmath Curriculum in the amount of $25,597.60. Sharna 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 and Miguel Munoz.

- Kevin made the motion to approve the LEA Specific 3 year contract for Tracy Baker as outlined in the board packet. Casey seconded the motion. Shannon let everyone know that this is something that will be posted on the website. The motion passed unanimously.

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All present voted in favor: Laura Snelson, Casey Unrein, Sharna Rowe, Brady Pearce, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins, Kevin Peterson, Shannon Greer and Miguel Munoz.

Hughes Construction Update: David Robertson, the financial advisor joined to give an update on the bond process moving forward with the expansion. He said the first step they have taken is to determine the debt capacity of the school. The school then worked with contractors to develop a budget for school and what the expansion is going to look like. Now they are in the stages of fine-tuning what the bidding is going to be. They have been working through maintaining and getting the schools bond rating. Bond rating is very important. There has been a high level of financial fidelity for the school. This has been great becaSUe the school was able to reaffirm its rating. By doing so, the school was adopted and approved back into the credit enhancement program for the new bond which will save the school 1 to 1.25 percent on the debt. He asked everyone to make sure to familiarize themselves with appendix B. What needs to be approved tonight is an authorizing resolution, because that will enact them to do the final steps of the bond process. They'll release the offering document into the markets. They'll go talk with different investors, and talk about potential interest rates. There will be an actual pricing date that they are working on. They are looking to price the bonds in June or July which is a good timeframe because there is a lot of market activity. He said the two major steps are the resolution and construction contracts.

Closed Meeting – *None*

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Kevin made a motion to adjourn at 8:57.

Written by Shelbi Kelly.

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