These minutes were approved by the board of directors on June 25, 2026

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

George Washington Academy
Thursday May 14th, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting Agenda

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

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

Board Welcome: Casey Unrein
Roll Call: Casey Unrein
Prayer: Sharna Rowe
Pledge of Allegiance: Rachel Richins

Board Members Present: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Laura Snelson, Blake Clark, Sadie Carter and Shelbi Kelly. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

Board Members not Present: Shannon Greer

Others Present: Steve Erickson, Debbie Kauvaka, Lisa Riel, Emily Winona, Jenna Ayers, Spencer Adams, Ericka Ivie, Nathan Ivie, and Jaycee Rogers.

GWA Year Goals:

- Academics- By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, 85% of students will show growth in math fluency from beginning of year to end of year.
- 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.

Approval of Minutes: Laura Pressley made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 23rd, 2026 Board Meeting as outlined in the Board Packet. Laura Snelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce via zoom. Kevin Peterson was not present for the vote.

Public Opportunity to Address the Board:
None

Teacher Reports: Emily Winona and Lisa Riel reported on the end of year events starting with Kindergarten Ball Friday, May 15th. 7th grade graduation will be held Monday, May 18th, the program will be completely student led. Monday, May 18th is also the ELL end of year celebration. Student conferences will be restructured to "Student Led Celebrations". These will now take place on one day and will be completely student driven. If parents have concerns they can schedule a time to meet with the teachers. There will now only be 3 half days. This change was created to help elevate the student voice. Casey asked if this will impact the overall academic calendar, Mr. Clark confirmed that it would not.

Administration Report: Blake Clark, Executive Director gave the report.
Mr. Clark reported that Monday the 18th at 2:00pm will be the 1st ever GWA Senior walkthrough. The Department of Education visit went great, they were thoroughly impressed with everything they experienced. Franklin Covey professionals came to film for the Leader in Me program today. A 5-7 minute impact story will be created.
Board Update: Current enrollment- 1,023. 26/27 Enrollment projections- 1,068 (1,059 confirmed) 255 on waitlist.
Acadience reading: Kindergarten 6% increase. 1st grade down 2%. 2nd grade 4% increase. 3rd grade plateaued at 79%. 4th grade 2% increase. 5th grade 5% increase. 6th grade at 90%.
238 students have attended the Reading Center, 111 have graduated, ending on grade level.
Acadience math: Kindergarten 3% increase. 1st grade 12% increase. 2nd grade 18% increase. 3rd grade 8% increase.
Rise update: We meet or exceed in every area. ELA has seen a lot of growth or stabilization. Math has seen growth in most of the grades. 6th grade last year was at 51% this year we are at 60%.
The Honors Program is different this year than in years past. In the past, the student would automatically be enrolled the next year. This year they are doing consolidated math, two math years in one. 21 students that have completed this and they are at 100% proficiency. The 7th graders will now enroll in 9th grade honors next year. In all areas we are well above standards. Admin will meet over the summer to set the academic goals for 26/27. All reports will be done as soon as the Health Curriculum is voted on. Mr. Clark will get the proficiency numbers from December for 7th grade to get more accurate numbers for 7th grade achievements, this was suggested by Casey.

Financial Report: Spencer Adams gave the report. Spencer reported that we are 83% through the fiscal year. Most adjustments have been made to get us through the end of the year. Overall we are looking great. Increased 2 revenue line items, PTI account (interest on investments) and Title 1 federal funds. Grants have been submitted to the grants team for reimbursement, some

have started to be approved. We should see it in the June allotment. The construction line increased to $28,000 from last month. Ratios looking solid. No concerns. Additional savings will be found as we reach the end of the year. Title 1 large increase due to families receiving free and reduced lunch, that increase will benefit every student.

Committee Reports (3 min each):

- Jaycee Rogers was welcomed back to George Washington Academy
- **Policies Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Finance Committee –** Nothing to report.
- **Audit Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **Benefits Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Outreach Committee** –Great coverage for the Department of Education visit. St. George news did a story. We received national recognition from the post on the Department of Educations instagram page that has 87,000 followers. This summer the focus will be on the Strategic Plan for next year.
- **Technology Committee** - Nothing to report.
- **LAND Trust Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **PTO Committee** – Casey and Rachel are assessing how to proceed forward with the PTO and creating a more clear framework for the organization. Gathering feedback from members to help make the best decisions moving forward. A policy is being built currently and the bylaws are being updated. Will evaluate all changes and information before making any decisions. Leadership transition for PTO is July 1st.
- **Board Development Committee** – Nothing to report.
- **Campus Management Committee** – Nothing to report.

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Sharna Rowe made a motion to approve Staff Computer Replacement in the amount of $27,885.00. Laura Pressley seconded the motion. There was discussion on whether there would be enough gigs of ram for the 5 year term and whether the systems would be bogged down. It was confirmed by Steve that the 24 gigs would be sufficient. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

- Sharna Rowe made a motion to renew the PowerSchool Hosting Licence in the amount of $13,212.02 and PowerSchool Enrollment with a fee of $12,517.92. Miguel Munoz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

- Laura Pressley made a motion to renew the Mango Voice Phone Contract in the amount of $9,749.90. Rachel Richins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

- Miguel Munoz made a motion to approve the Parking Lot Repair in the amount of $34,508.73. Sharna Rowe seconded the motion. The service is for scraping the current surface to remove contaminants, crack sealing and repainting. Holbrook will be performing the repairs. It was discussed on whether the timing will interfere with the construction, it was confirmed that the repairs need to happen now so they don't become worse and more expensive. There is a chance at wear and tear with future construction, but this will save money in the long run. Casey asked if it will include the roadway that goes along the field, Steve said it will not be included. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

- Laura Pressley made a motion to approve the updated Emergency Operations Plan as summarized in the packet, sent previously to the board in a separate email. Rachel Richens seconded the motion. It was confirmed that the Emergency Operations Plan includes The Emergency Response Plan and Emergency Recovery Plan. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

- Rachel Richins made a motion to approve the Health Curriculum for 26-27 and 27-28 SY as outlined in the packet. Laura Pressley seconded the motion. Kevin asked if we anticipate a significant number of students opting out of this curriculum, Mr. Clark confirmed he does not believe we will. Very great communication in place with Mrs. Crawford to handle any questions from parents with the curriculum. Systems and training in place to confirm all standards are being followed and appropriate language is being used. State law states the Health Curriculum Committee must meet every 2 years, which includes a parent majority, to determine approval of the program before the curriculum is approved. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

- Miguel Munoz made a motion to approve Summer PD for 5 Teachers in the amount of $5,375. Sharna Rowe seconded the motion. Registration cost is the only thing being voted on today because it goes above the $5,000 threshold. It was discussed that the total event cost is $10, 737.12 or $11,697.12. The different price quotes reflect the cost of flights out of either St. George or a flight out of Las Vegas. It was discussed that this is a program that has been used by schools for several years with success. It is utilized to create a more student based culture. It gives more unity to the school and grade levels. The program will only be rolled out for 6th grade for 26/27. Feedback from students and

parents will be utilized at the end of the year to determine the success and future of the House Program. It is currently being piloted by the 5th graders, the students and teachers are on board with continuation. The goal is to see attendance increase, inclusivity, and an improvement in school culture. Rachel asked what the summer development budget was, it was confirmed that it is $60,000. Currently $10,000 is budgeted for the 2 days of House Mania. The teachers will be paid their hourly rate while there, based on state law. Rachel also asked if there would be any further training for the teachers outside of House Mania. May 27th and 28th there is an in house training for all of the teaching staff, which will also include a Leader in Me training. There is budget remaining for additional summer training. A decision has not been fully made on the House Program, a decision will be made after more information has been received at the training. The motion passed. Those voting in favor: Laura Snelson, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, Rachel Richins and Miguel Munoz. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom. Those not in favor: Casey Unrein.

- Rachel Richins made a motion to address the PTO Finance Accountability and Reporting Framework as submitted in the board packet. Miguel Munoz seconded the motion. The board discussed PTO turnover and the need for continuity in financial procedures and sponsorship coordination. It was noted that these duties will be incorporated into the Board Clerk role to support consistency and training. It was decided that all parties (finance, admin, PTO President and liaison) need to come together to make a decision on the framework and accountability for this role. This meeting and restructure cannot happen until the new PTO leadership turns over July 1st and the new PTO Policy is approved, which should be in June. In the meantime, the Board Clerk duties will remain the same until these decisions can be made, because the finance portion of the job description has yet to be defined. This change is to help with consistency and structure in PTO finances which is crucial for our 5013C status. The goal is to have a modified job description by July, following the turnover of the PTO Committee and PTO Policy approval in June. Rachel Richins amended the motion to table the proposal for PTO Finance Accountability and Reporting Framework. Miguel Munoz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Those who voted in favor: Casey Unrein, Miguel Munoz, Rachel Richins, Sharna Rowe, Laura Pressley, and Laura Snelson. Brady Pearce and Kevin Peterson via zoom.

- Updated Wheeled Policy & Map was presented with the updates and recommendations that were requested during the April board meeting. The changes have been made and updated in the policy.

- Legislative Update- Board Members in attendance: Shannon Greer, Blake Clark, Kevin Peterson, Casey Unrein, Miquel Munoz, Laura Pressley
  Board Members not in attendance: Brady Pearce, Laura Snelson, Sharna Rowe, Rachel Richins

Oath of Office: Ericka Ivie was sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors. Her term will begin in July. David Stillman was not in attendance.

Hughes Construction Update: Kevin Peterson gave the update. Hughes will begin construction once school is out. The next bond meeting will be Monday the 18th. Bonds should be issued following the meeting. Mr. Clark mentioned that someone will be doing a walk through of the site Wednesday the 20th and establish a plan of demolition.

Closed Meeting – None

Strategic Planning: Laura Snelson updated that there has been progress made on the Strategic Plan narrative. She noted that changes will need to be made if the House Program is implemented as it will affect the Strategic Planning. Mr. Clark confirmed that it will be multiple years before a final decision is made on the implementation of the program. She prepared a presentation as an example of what the Strategic Plan will look like moving forward. She explained that the Strategic Plan has been put into 3 core elements. Each core element will have pillars of support. She mentioned that as a committee, they decided the only strategic priorities they would be working on are those that are specifically funded by the state. Sharna asked for simplification in the pillars because she feels overwhelmed by the information. Laura mentioned she is open to getting together to simplify the information. She also stated that the Strategic Plan can be changeable over time to meet needs. It was discussed that the Strategic Plan has been developed, but what is next? She would like a discussion on what the next steps would be to implement and measure it? Laura made a proposal that she step down from role as Board Member so she can focus more on Strategic Planning and put more time into it. She would invite the board to consider this proposal, she doesn't need an answer now. Casey asked for her to provide a quote for her to make this change. Mr. Clark wants to utilize Jaycee Rogers strengths to help support this as well.

Next Meeting: The next regular Board Meeting will be held on June 25th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Sharna made a motion to adjourn at 9:18pm.

Written by: Sadie Carter