

Hope Academy of West Michigan Board of Directors

Approved Meeting Minutes

Mission: *Hope Academy of West Michigan is a safe environment for students and families, where students can reach their full potential academically and as individuals.*

Date: October 27, 2025

Time: 7:00 AM

Place: Hope Academy of West Michigan
240 Brown St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call.** *Barth Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.*
 - A. Board Members Present:** *Barth Roberts, Dr. Bernard Ayoola, Mark Brouwer, and Dr. Nygil Likely, and Michelle Eddie (joined at 7:05 a.m.).*
 - B. Board Members Absent (with prior notice):** *None.*
 - C. Others Present:** *Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent; Leslie Cummings, Executive Director of Business Office; Dr. Arthur Garner, School Principal; Joshua Barnhart, Assistant Principal, Dr. Michele Sideman, FSU Field Representative; Laurie Strach, IES Accountant and Michael Manett, IES Human Resources Generalist.*
- II. Public Comment* (limited to agenda items only).** *None.*
- III. Approval of Agenda.** *A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola and was supported by Michelle Eddie to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.*
- IV. Consent Calendar**

Approval of the September 22, 2025 Proposed Regular Meeting Minutes. *A motion was made by Michelle Eddie to approve the September 22, 2025 Regular meeting minutes as presented and was supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.*
- V. Old Business.**
 - A. Oath of Office.** *Dr. Nygil Likely completed the Oath of Office prior to the call to order. Dr. Likely replaced Todd Medendorp who resigned in October 2025.*
- VI. New Business**
 - A. Resolution for Recording Secretary.** *A motion was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Dr. Nygil Likely to approve the resolution naming Laurie Strach as the Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously.*

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- B. Thrun Law Powerschool Litigation Resolution. *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the potential class action lawsuit against Powerschool for the data breach. The Board decided not to pursue action. Dr. Cate also reviewed the Section 31aa information sent from Thrun. The Board decided not to pursue this funding source given the legislative waivers currently required.*
- C. Student Achievement. *Josh Barnhart reviewed the NWEA MAP Fall 2025 test scores with the Board along with other key data including discipline rates and behavioral interventions as well as national NWEA trends.*
- D. AMP Plan Progress Report. *Dr. Heidi Cate presented the AMP plan and discussed the goals set for the current school year. A motion was made by Michelle Eddie to approve the AMP Plan as presented and the motion was seconded by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*
- E. FSU-CSO Updates. *Dr. Michele Siderman referred the Board to the November 2025 FSU Monthly Board Communication handout. She also provided an update on her safety walk through noting that issues with locating EpiPens; unlocked doors and the small gym doors.*
- F. Count Day and Cleared Enrollment. *The Board reviewed the report showing student FTE of approximately 286 for the October 2025 count day.*
- G. Reports Handouts provided prior to the meeting. *There were no questions from the Board.*
 - 1. School Monthly Summary
 - 2. Parent/community partners' update
 - 3. DAN updates
- H. Board development credits/reports (as applicable) – *Barth Roberts informed the Board that he attended the Leading with Purpose training in October. He suggested that the Board add a Minute for Mission agenda item to future meetings along with an origin story in the December meeting agenda.*
- I. Integrity Educational Services Reports
 - 1. Finance reports
 - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the September 2025 financial statements, including the Food Service fund. Dr. Bernard Ayoola made a motion to approve the September 2025 check register and the motion was supported by Michelle Eddie.*
 - b. Lunch Program Updates. *Leslie Cummings provided updates including the first Menu Advisory/Wellness Committee meeting was held on October 14th.*
 - c. GZA Asbestos Inspection. *Leslie Cummings shared with the Board that a change order had been approved to allow GZA to perform a complete inspection of the school.*
 - d. Proposal for deliverables and costs for January-June 2026 from Galapagos. *Dr. Heidi Cate shared the proposal from Galapagos. A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the proposed Acquisition and Retention work for a total of \$20,000 plus out of pocket costs. The motion was seconded by Barth Roberts and passed unanimously.*

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- e. FSU-CSO Competitive Grant. *Leslie Cummings proposed applying for funds to assist with marketing efforts and to replace the small gym doors. A motion was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Dr. Nygil Likely to approve the proposed application. The motion passed unanimously.*

- 2. Human Resources: *Leslie Cummings shared that all positions are filled. She also provided the Board with the dates of the holiday staff events and invited them to attend.*

VII. Correspondence. *None other than the Thrun notices previously discussed.*

VIII. Extended Public Comment* (limited to non-agenda items only). *None.*

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Board Meeting Date

December 8, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.
Hope Academy of West Michigan
240 Brown Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

X. Adjournment. *A motion was made by Michelle Eddie to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned by 8:36 a.m.*

Individuals wishing to address the Board of Directors under Items II and IX above are requested to sign in with the Board Secretary prior to the start of the meeting. Individual comments are limited to no more than three (3) minutes each and a total time allowance not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, unless extended by a vote of the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner.

Complaints or concerns regarding Board members or school employees associated with the Academy shall first be addressed in writing and delivered to the Board President at least five (5) days prior to the Board meeting or such complaints or concerns shall not be heard by the Board. The Board will not verbally respond to public comments but may follow up in the most appropriate and time-effective manner. (Source: Board Policy 0167.3)

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Proposed minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection at the Hope Academy of West Michigan/Integrity Educational Services Central office at 3300 36th Street, SE Grand Rapids, MI 49512, eight (8) business days after the meeting. Approved minutes are available within five (5) business days after the meeting at which they are approved (in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267.)

Submitted by:

Laurie Strach
Recording Secretary

Date: : Laurie Strach
12/8/25

Approved by:



Dr. Bernard Ayoola
Board Secretary

Date: 12-08-25