

# 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:** December 8, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 a.m.

**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, Michelle Eddie, and Dr. Nygil Likely.*
- 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 Siderman, FSU Field Representative; and Laurie Strach, Recording Secretary; Ray Marshall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher (departed the meeting at 7:25 a.m.)*

### II. Public Comment\* (limited to agenda items only). *None.*

### III. Approval of Agenda. *A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely and was supported by Michelle Eddie to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.*

### IV. Consent Calendar

- A. **Approval of the October 27, 2025 Proposed Regular Meeting Minutes.** *A motion was made by Michelle Eddie to approve the proposed October 27, 2025 Regular meeting minutes as presented and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*
- B. **DAN Update.** *Handout provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*
- C. **School Monthly Summary.** *Handout provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*
- D. **Parent/Community Partners' Update.** *Handout provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*
- E. **New Stakeholder Surveys (parent/community partner, student, teacher, support staff).** *Dr. Heidi Cate briefly discussed the new surveys.*

### V. Old Business. *None.*

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### VI. New Business

- A. **Student Achievement.** *Josh Barnhart highlighted the data for school discipline, behavioral interventions and target interventions. Ray Marshall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, discussed programs he is leading with the students and their positive impact including the Billiards Club and the No Surrender Running Club. He also shared a tool used in his classroom: HD Words Kit for reading.*
- B. **Mission Minute (Barth Roberts).** *Barth Roberts read the Hope Mission Statement and indicated that a further discussion of the mission would be deferred until the Hope Strategic Planning meeting.*
- C. **AMP Plan Progress Report.** *Dr. Heidi Cate discussed the AMP plan. She stated that student testing will occur after the Winter break. The PSAT results will be ready for review at the next Board meeting.*
- D. **FSU-CSO Updates.** *Dr. Michele Siderman referred the Board to the December 2025 FSU Monthly Board Communication handout. She stated that the school remains at a Tier III level for support from the authorizer. She also pointed to the receipt of the \$19,750 competitive grant received from FSU.*
- E. **Hope CPR Review.** *This will be reviewed next month.*

### F. Integrity Educational Services Reports

- 1. Finance reports
  - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the October 2025 financial statements. Michelle Eddie made a motion to approve the October 2025 check register and the motion was supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously. Leslie also shared with Board the cost (approximately \$27,000) to replace the two older copier/printers at the school.*
  - b. GSRP Program. *Concern was raised that the program may not be sustainable for next year due to declining PK enrollment.*
  - c. Lunch Program Update. *Leslie reviewed the monthly food program income statement and highlighted that MDE had changed the reimbursement rates to a severe needs school and allowed the new provider to utilize food commodities. Student surveys on the new food program were favorable overall.*
- 2. Human Resources: *Leslie Cummings shared that the school had received a Level 1 rating during the October QPR audit with no issues identified.*

G. **Board Development Credits/Reports.** *Dr. Bernard Ayoola provided a brief overview of a course on Board oversight that he had attended.*

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VII. **Correspondence.** Dr. Heidi Cate shared that the school had earned a gold level MTSS Implementation and Impact award for the 2024-25 school year.

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

### VIII. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Board Meeting Date

January 26, 2026 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 Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 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)*

*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: 1/26/26

Approved by:



Dr. Bernard Ayoola  
Board Secretary

Date: 01/26/26

