

# 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:** April 28, 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 Michelle Eddie (*departed at 8:19 AM*)
- B. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice):** Todd Medendorp
- 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 Representative; Tracy Clawson, Recording Secretary

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

**III. Approval of Agenda.** *Motion to approve was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. Consent Calendar**

**Approval of the March 24, 2025 Proposed Regular Meeting Minutes:** *A motion was made Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the proposed March 24, 2025 meeting minutes as presented and was supported by Michelle Eddie. The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. Old Business:** *Barth Roberts and Dr. Heidi Cate met with a potential Board candidate, however, the candidate did not express further interest. A Facebook advertisement will be placed for potential new Board members.*

**VI. New Business**

- A. **Student Achievement.** *Josh Barnhart presented the material that was supplied to the Board in the handouts. Comparisons of annual student data and the areas of improvement were discussed.*
- B. **AMP plan progress update.** *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the 2024-25 AMP Plan and provided the Board with updates regarding future professional development opportunities for teachers.*
- C. **FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report.** *Dr. Michele Siderman reviewed the results of the Board self-evaluation. She also informed the Board of upcoming opportunities for students to visit and tour FSU.*

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- D. 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
- E. Galapagos marketing proposal and quote: *The Board reviewed and discussed the marketing campaign concepts that were provided by Galapagos. The first presented concept was chosen for use in developing the marketing strategy for HAWM.*
- F. Strategic planning meeting agenda items:
1. Review FSU mid-contract feedback – *The comparison of the crosswalk between FSU and Cognia review feedback was reviewed.*
  2. Set annual targets – *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the multi-year school index cards. This data will assist in setting targets for next school year.*
  3. Decide on formats of data reports to board – *Barth Roberts met with Josh Barnhart and Dr. Arthur Gardner and reviewed the NWEA report formats. Barth Roberts selected the quadrant of the MAP results to be utilized when presenting these reports to the Board in the future.*
- I. Kent County school millage: *Dr. Heidi Cate informed the Board of the potential upcoming Kent ISD school millage campaign.*
- J. Board development credits/reports (as applicable). *None*
- K. 2025-2026 Annual board meeting calendar: *A motion was made by Michelle Eddie to approve the meeting dates for the 2025-2026 HAWM school board meetings as presented in the calendar. The motion was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*
- L. Integrity Educational Services Reports
1. Finance reports
    - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the monthly financial report and discussed the March financial activity. A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the monthly check register and the motion was supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.*
    - b. Review draft 2025-26 budget. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the budget assumptions for the draft 2025-26 budget with the Board. The Board agreed to adding a salary increase of 3-4% to the draft budget.*

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c. Review ESP Agreement 2025-26 for submission to FSU CSO. *Leslie Cummings discussed the 2025-26 ESP agreement, which had been reviewed by Thrun Law firm and was non-disapproved by FSU. A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the agreement and the motion was supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.*

d. Food Program Update. *Leslie Cummings updated the Board on the status of the RFP process and timeline for posting a bid for a new food service provider.*

2. Human Resources. *Leslie Cummings informed the Board of the upcoming Educator Appreciation breakfast in May. She also noted that IES is currently recruiting for the upcoming school year.*

**VII. Correspondence** – *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the correspondence that was received from Thrun Law regarding the current status of Title VI Certification.*

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

**IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Board Meeting Date and Annual Budget Hearing**  
May 19, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.  
Hope Academy of West Michigan  
240 Brown Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**VII. Adjournment:** *Motion made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 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)*

## Hope Academy of West Michigan Board of Directors Approved Meeting Minutes

*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:



Tracy Clawson  
Recording Secretary

Date: 4/28/2025

Approved by:



Bernard Ayoola  
Board Secretary

Date: 5/19/25