

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: May 19, 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 7:02 a.m.*

- A. **Board Members Present:** Barth Roberts, Dr. Bernard Ayoola and Mark Brouwer
- B. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice):** Michelle Eddie and 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; Chris Loiselle, FSU Director of Charter Schools Office; Nicole McLaughlin, Behavioral Interventionist (departed the meeting at 7:19 AM); Tracy Clawson, Recording Secretary

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

III. Approval of Agenda. *Motion to approve was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola 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 by Mark Brouwer to approve the proposed April 28, 2025 meeting minutes as presented and was supported by Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously.*

V. Old Business *Dr. Heidi Cate and Barth Roberts will be meeting with a potential new Board candidate who has shown interest in serving on the Board for HAWM.*

VI. New Business

A. **Student Achievement.** *Josh Barnhart and Nicole McLaughlin presented the material that was supplied to the Board in the handouts. Josh discussed current enrollment and shared the projected enrollment numbers for the upcoming school year. Nicole presented on the many ways that student attendance has improved by use of the attendance intervention programs, such as the HAWKS 100 Positive Attendance program.*

B. **AMP plan progress update.** *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the 2024-25 AMP Plan and provided the Board with updates related to the focus for academic growth while working toward mastery.*

C. **FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report.** *Chris Loiselle reviewed the FSU Board Update document and highlighted any key points within it.*

Hope Academy of West Michigan Board of Directors

Approved Meeting Minutes

D. Annual Crime Statistics report: *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the annual crime statistics report with the Board and discussed the meaning of the data within it as it relates to state reporting guidelines.*

E. 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

F. Approve 2025-2026 Parent/Student Handbooks: *Any updates to the handbook were shared with the Board. A couple of minor corrections were identified. A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the handbooks with the noted corrections and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*

G. Approve 2025-2026 Important Dates Calendars: *A motion was made by Mark Brouwer to approve the 2025-2026 Important Dates Calendars as presented and was supported by Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously.*

H. Board development credits/reports (as applicable). *None*

I. Hope High School Graduation: *Information was provided regarding the date, time and location of the Hope Academy of West Michigan's upcoming high school graduation. There are 23 students who will be graduating this year.*

L. Integrity Educational Services Reports

1. Finance reports

a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the monthly financial report and discussed the April 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. Approval of 2025-2026 Tech Support Contract with Kent ISD: *Leslie Cummings reviewed the tech support contract agreement for the upcoming year between Hope Academy and Kent ISD. Mark Brouwer made a motion to approve the contract as written and was supported by Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously.*

c. 2025-2026 School Year Proposed Budget:

- 1) *A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to suspend the rules for Public Hearing, and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*
- 2) *Leslie Cummings shared the highlights and key assumptions in the proposed 2025-26 budget as well as the budget for the school services budget for the food program.*
- 3) *There was no public comment.*

Hope Academy of West Michigan Board of Directors

Approved Meeting Minutes

4) *A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola for resumption of rules for Public Hearing, and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*

d. *Approval of the 2025-2026 Operating and School Service Funds Budgets: A motion was made by Mark Brouwer to approve the 2025-2026 HAWM school year operating budget as presented, and was supported by Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously.*

A motion was made by Mark Brouwer to approve the 2025-2026 school year school service fund budget as presented, and was supported by Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously.

e. *Food Program Update: Leslie Cummings provided the Board with an update regarding the status of finding a new food service provider for the upcoming school year. Leslie discussed the remaining steps of the process, and shared the projected timeline for selection with the Board. A special Board meeting will be scheduled in June to approve the selected vendor.*

2. *Human Resources: Leslie Cummings provided an update on recruiting efforts.*

VII. Correspondence: *None*

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

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Board Meeting Date

June 23, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.

Hope Academy of West Michigan

240 Brown Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

VII. Adjournment: *Motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 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:



Tracy Clawson
Recording Secretary

Date:

Approved by:



Bernard Ayoola
Board Secretary

Date: 