

Hope Academy of West Michigan Board of Directors

Approved Regular 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: January 26, 2026

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 6:59 a.m.*
 - A. **Board Members Present.** *Barth Roberts, Dr. Bernard Ayoola, Mark Brouwer, Michelle Eddie (joined at 7:06 a.m.), 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 (departed at 7:40 a.m.); Joshua Barnhart, Assistant Principal, Dr. Michele Siderman, FSU Field Representative; Laurie Strach, Recording Secretary; Mitch Cummings, Director of Alternative Programs LINK Learning (departed the meeting at 7:25 a.m.); and Caroline Wood, Reading Interventionist (departed the meeting at 7:48 a.m.)*
- II. **Public Comment* (limited to agenda items only).** *Under Old Business reappointment of Barth Roberts to the Board and approving a new Vice President were added to the agenda. In New Business, review and approval of the AER report along with the 2025-2026 revised budget were added and Item H.1.d. was moved to Item A of New Business.*
- III. **Approval of Agenda.** *A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola and was supported by Mark Brouwer to approve the agenda as modified. The motion passed unanimously.*
- IV. **Consent Calendar**
 - A. **Approval of Proposed December 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.** *A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the proposed December 8, 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.*
- V. **Old Business.** *A motion to approve the reappointment of Barth Roberts to the Board of Directors for another term was made by Dr. Nygil Likely and supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve Dr. Nygil Likely as Vice-President was made by Barth Roberts and supported by Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously.*

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VI. New Business

- A. Berrien Springs Agreement. *A handout was provided prior to the meeting. Mitch Cumings discussed the LINK Learning (Berrien Springs partner) model and its graduate successes. The cooperative agreement was provided. A motion was made Dr. Nygil Likely and supported by Michelle Eddie to send the agreement to FSU CSO for review. The motion passed unanimously.*
- B. Student Achievement. *Josh Barnhart highlighted the NWEA report for the winter math and reading tests and stated that science had been added. Caroline Wood, Reading Interventionist, described her program methods and shared resources that facilitate reading improvement.*
- C. Mission Minute (Barth Roberts). *Barth Roberts read the Hope Mission Statement and reviewed the list of Community Partners.*
- D. AMP Plan Progress Report. *Dr. Heidi Cate discussed the AMP plan.*
- E. Hope CPR Review and School Index Cards. *Barth Roberts reviewed the 2024-25 Ferris Contract Performance Report that was provided at the prior board meeting. Dr. Michele Siderman explained some of the key points of the report.*
- F. FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report. *Dr. Michele Siderman referred the Board to the January and February 2026 FSU Monthly Board Communication handouts. She recommended a financial webinar on Board oversight.*
- G. Annual Education Report (AER). *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the report. A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely and supported by Michelle Eddie to approve the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.*
- H. Galapagos Marketing -retain and recruit new students. *A handout was provided prior to the meeting. The document showed concepts for an enrollment marketing campaign.*
- I. 2026-27 Student Parent Handbook Revisions. *A handout was provided prior to the meeting showing the planned changes to the 2026-27 Student Parent Handbook. The Board reviewed the changes and a motion to accept the changes was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.*

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J. Integrity Educational Services Reports

1. Finance Reports

- a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the November and December 2025 financial statements. Dr. Bernard Ayoola made a motion to approve the November and December 2025 check registers and the motion was supported by Dr. Nygil Likely. The motion passed unanimously.*

Leslie Cummings reviewed the issues with the current bank and requested that the Board allow management to issue a request for proposal along with Lighthouse Academy and Integrity Educational Services for a potential new banking partner. The Board was supportive.

- b. 2025-26 Revised Budget. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the revised 25-26 budget for the general fund and the school lunch fund. A motion was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Barth Roberts to approve both budgets. The motion passed unanimously.*

- c. Lunch Program Update. *Leslie Cummings discussed the key updates in the food program during the revised budget discussion.*

- d. Asbestos Report Review. *A handout was provided prior to the meeting. Leslie Cummings reviewed the key points of the report and requested the Board support obtaining quotes to address damaged areas of asbestos. The Board supported this request.*

2. Human Resources. *Leslie Cummings shared that there were two open positions that were actively being recruited. She also shared that there was a position on administrative leave. Dr. Heidi Cate stated that there were sufficient supplemental funds to recruit additional intervention supports.*

K. Board Development Credits/Reports. *None.*

VII. Correspondence. *None*

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

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Board Meeting Date

February 23, 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 Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

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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: 2/23/24

Approved by:



Dr. Bernard Ayoola
Board Secretary

Date: 2/23/24