

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: February 23, 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 6:58 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 (departed at 7:40 a.m.), Dr. Michele Siderman, FSU Field Representative; Laurie Strach, Recording Secretary; Amy Mroz, General Manager Southwest Foodservice Excellence (departed at 7:25 a.m.)*

II. Public Comment* (limited to agenda items only).

III. Approval of Agenda. *A motion was made to add "Approve Issuing Custodial RFP" to the Integrity Educational Services Reports and approve the agenda. The motion was supported by Mark Brouwer to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.*

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Proposed January 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. *A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the proposed January 25, 2026 Regular meeting minutes as presented and was supported by Dr. Nygil Likely. 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 Partner's Update. *Handout provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions from the Board.*

V. Old Business. *None.*

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VI. New Business

- A. Student Achievement. *Josh Barnhart provided an update on the Winter student test scores. He highlighted the observations and action steps coming from the data review of the test results.*
- Amy Mroz, General Manager, with Southwest Foodservice Excellence, shared a presentation regarding the student school food service program.*
- B. Mission Minute (Barth Roberts). *Barth Roberts read the Hope Mission Statement and pointed to a number of items the Board has invested in over the years to support the Mission.*
- C. AMP Plan Progress Report. *Dr. Heidi Cate discussed the AMP plan along with the LETRS training and the reading curriculum adopted by the school.*
- D. FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report. *Dr. Michele Siderman referred the Board to the March 2026 FSU Monthly Board Communication handout. She highlighted that HAWM has exceeded expectations for document compliance year to date. She mentioned the status of the Board's professional development credits. She also commended the staff on a 100% Safety Report score.*
- E. Integrity Educational Services Reports
1. Finance Reports
 - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the January 2026 financial statements-noting no significant changes. Dr. Bernard Ayoola made a motion to approve the January 2026 check register and the motion was supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. FY27 Budget Dates Calendar. *The Board was provided a document of the timeline for the 2026-27 budget process.*
 - c. Lunch Program Update. *Leslie Cummings discussed the food service contract renewal for 2026-27 and the overall food service program implementation to date.*
 - d. Review ESP agreement. *A draft ESP Agreement was provided to the Board. Leslie highlighted a proposed increase in fees from 5.75% to 6.0% if the student enrollment numbers were below a certain threshold for 2026-27. Dr. Nygil Likely made a motion to send the draft agreement to the Ferris CSO for review and non-disapproval. The motion was supported by Michelle Eddie and passed unanimously.*
 - e. Asbestos Report Review. *Based on discussions with the Facilities Supervisor, the estimated cost of repair will be less than \$5,000.*

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- f. Review and approve Berrien Springs agreement. *A motion was made by Michelle Eddie and supported by Barth Roberts to approve this agreement. The motion passed unanimously.*
- g. Custodial RFP. *Leslie Cummings shared the difficulty in filling the custodial roles at the school and recommended that the school also issue a request for proposal for custodial services. The Board supported this approach.*
- 2. Human Resources. *Leslie Cummings shared that secondary interventionist positions are being recruited. She also invited the Board member to attend the Popcorn Praise event on March 4th.*

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

VII. Correspondence.

A 2026-2027 Regular Board Meeting Calendar was provided to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely to correct the October meeting date and approve the calendar. The motion was supported by Michelle Eddie and the motion passed unanimously.

Memo results were provided of the FSU-CSO QPR January 2026 audit.

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

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Board Meeting Date

March 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 Dr. Nygil Likely to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Dr. Bernard Ayoola. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 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: 3/23/26

Approved by:



Dr. Bernard Ayoola
Board Secretary

Date: 3/23/26