

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: March 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 6:59 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, Kelly Buckmaster, Associate Director Ferris Charter School Office; Laurie Strach, Recording Secretary; Joel Holzhausen, Social Studies Teacher (departed at 7:18 a.m.)*

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

III. Approval of Agenda. *A motion was made by Michelle Eddie to approve the agenda. It was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*

IV. Consent Calendar

A. **Approval of Proposed February 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.** *A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely to approve the proposed February 23, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as presented and was supported by Michelle Eddie. 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. *Joshua Barnhart information on the scheduled Spring testing dates and shared academic intervention data as of March 16, 2026. Joel Holzhausen, Social Studies Teacher, shared a presentation on his teaching strategy for improved writing skills. He also shared a rubric for assessment and student progress tracking.*
- B. Mission Minute (Barth Roberts). *Barth Roberts read the Hope Mission Statement. Joshua Barnhart shared that the Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for this week, which supports student literacy.*
- C. AMP Plan Progress Report. *Dr. Heidi Cate discussed the AMP plan indicating that there was no new data but the target of growth for grades 2-8 in ELA and math and 10th grade reading should be achieved.*
- D. FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report. *Kelly Buckmaster, Associate Director Ferris Charter School Office referred the Board to the April 2026 FSU Monthly Board Communication handout. The communication included information regarding the new Student Smartphone Policy law for the 26-27 school year. Dr. Cate stated that the new policy will be presented at the next meeting.*

Kelly Buckmaster also shared the School Support document handed out to the Board, which highlighted the results of the classroom visits made by FSU CSO. This visit was to gain an understanding of the elementary intervention time. She reported that the structure was well established but there are growth opportunities.

- E. Confirm date/time strategic planning meeting in August 2026. *The Board decided to hold the strategic planning meeting immediately after the August 24, 2026 Board meeting.*
- F. Integrity Educational Services Reports
 - 1. Finance Reports
 - a. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the February 2026 financial statements. Mark Brouwer made a motion to approve the February 2026 check register and the motion was supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. FY27 Draft Budget. *The Board was provided a draft of the FY27 budget. Highlighted discussions included proposed funding and staffing. The Board will review the draft and bring any questions to the April meeting.*
 - c. Lunch Program Update. *Leslie Cummings discussed the food service operations and that contract renewal for 2026-27 is in process with the MDE.*

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- d. Approve ESP agreement. *A final 2026-27 ESP Agreement was provided to the Board along with the FSU CSO review letter. The annual ESP Checklist document stating stakeholders, service providers and other information pertinent to the ESP was provided. A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely and supported by Barth Roberts to approve the 2026-27 ESP Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.*
- e. Update on banking RFP. *Leslie Cummings gave the Board an update on the responses for the banking RFP. Results of the RFP will be shared in the April Board meeting.*

2. Human Resources. *No update.*

G. Board Development Credits/Reports. *Mark Brouwer attended a training on contracts held on March 10, 2026. He shared the importance of reading the fine print and understanding how escalation clauses could significantly increase long term costs.*

H. Closed Session. *Barth Roberts made a motion at 8:14 a.m. to go into a Closed Session to discuss communication from the Board's attorney. The motion was seconded by Mark Brouwer and the motion passed unanimously. Michelle Eddie made a motion at 8:34 a.m. to return to an Open Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bernard Ayoola and the motion passed unanimously.*

VII. Correspondence. *ESP Agreement Review letter from FSU CSO.*

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

IX. Reconfirmation of Next Regular Board Meeting Date

April 27, 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 Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 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.

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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.)

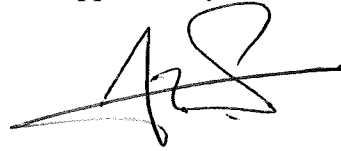
Submitted by:



Laurie Strach
Recording Secretary

Date: 4/27/20

Approved by:



Dr. Bernard Ayoola
Board Secretary

Date: 4/27/20