

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: April 27, 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, and Dr. Nygil Likely.*
 - B. **Board Members Absent (with prior notice).** *Michelle Eddie.*
 - 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, Ferris CSO Representative; Laurie Strach, Recording Secretary; Nicole McLaughlin, Behavior Interventionist (departed at 7:15 a.m.); Mark Bergsma, BHS Insurance Representative (arrived 7:21 a.m. and departed 7:50 a.m.)*
- II. **Public Comment* (limited to agenda items only).** *None.*
- III. **Approval of Agenda.** *A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely to approve the agenda after adding Title VI Policy as Item F in New Business. It was supported by Barth Roberts. The motion passed unanimously.*
- IV. **Consent Calendar**
 - A. **Approval of Proposed March 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.** *A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the proposed March 23, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as presented and was supported by Barth Roberts. 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 shared historical academic trend data. Nicole McLaughlin reviewed behavior and truancy data.*
- B. Mission Minute (Barth Roberts). *Barth Roberts read the Hope Mission Statement. He shared a statement on the purpose of a mission statement compared with the vision statement for the school.*
- C. AMP Plan Progress Report. *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the AMP plan.*
- D. FSU-CSO Updates &/or Report. *Dr. Michele Siderman referred the Board to the May 2026 FSU Monthly Board Communication handout. She also shared that the Ferris CSO goals for the secondary grades will be changed and become effective in the 2027-28 school year.*
- E. Cell Phone Policy. *Dr. Heidi Cate reviewed the cell phone policy which complies with the new legislative requirements. A motion was made by Dr. Bernard Ayoola to approve the cell phone policy as presented and was supported by Dr. Nygil Likely. The motion passed unanimously.*
- F. Title VI Policy. *Dr Heidi Cate reviewed the Title VI policy received from Thrun Law which addresses non-discrimination, anti-harassment and non-retaliation. A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely to approve the Title VI policy as presented and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously.*
- G. Integrity Educational Services Reports
 - 1. Finance Reports
 - a. BHS Insurance Proposal. *Mark Bergsma presented a proposal to switch the insurance carrier on the EPL line of coverage and combine it with Lighthouse Academy and Integrity Educational Services (IES). He assured the Board that this would not impact the other lines of coverage provided by Philadelphia. Leslie Cummings stated that any increased costs of the change would be paid by IES. A motion was made by Dr. Nygil Likely to allow the EPL coverage to be combined with Lighthouse and IES. The motion was supported by Barth Roberts and passed unanimously.*
 - b. Monthly Financial Reports. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the March 2026 financial statements. Barth Roberts made a motion to approve the March 2026 check register and the motion was supported by Dr. Nygil Likely. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - c. FY27 Draft Budget. *The Board did not have further comments on the draft 2026-27 budget.*

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- d. Review and Approve Capital Spending Food Program. *Leslie Cummings discussed the funds transferred from the prior food service provider and the MDE requirement to maintain food service fund balances at no more than three months of operating costs. The Board reviewed the equipment bids received in April. Dr. Bernard Ayoola made a motion to spend up to \$75,000 on the new equipment. The motion was supported by Dr. Nygil Likely and passed unanimously.*
 - e. Review Banking RFP Responses. *Leslie Cummings reviewed the banking responses summary provided to the Board in advance of the meeting along with the Choice One proposal. Dr. Nygil Likely made a motion to approve Choice One as the new bank for the school contingent on approval to change the bank from the Lighthouse Academy and Integrity Educational Services Boards. The motion was supported by Mark Brouwer and passed unanimously.*
2. Human Resources. *Leslie Cummings shared that the only open position currently being recruited for the 2026-27 is an elementary teacher.*

H. 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 and Budget Hearing Date

May 18, 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. Bernard Ayoola to adjourn the meeting and was supported by Mark Brouwer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 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: 5/18/26

Approved by:



Dr. Bernard Ayoola
Board Secretary

Date: 5/18/26