

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas

School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 20th , 2023

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Type: Regular

Board Members Present: Will Hanna- Board President, Dr. Kathy Morledge- Board Member, Countess Hodges- Board Member, Jared Faciszewski - Board Member

Board Members Absent: Bill Lesley- Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Rebekah Mitchell- NWACS Director, Katie Drake- Special Education Director, Jessica Florer- Hope Behavior Team Lead

Called to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Board President Will Hanna. The meeting was a regular school board meeting for Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas via Zoom.

Discussion

Interim Superintendent/Principal Katie Drake and NWACS Executive Director Reekah Mitchell discussed:

- Operation update
 - Discussion of Charter Amendment request to become a K-4 school beginning in the 23/24 school Year
 - LEARNS Act Update
 - Increasing minimum teacher pay to \$50,000 with \$2000 increase for teachers already making the minimum
 - Salary requirement timeline: August 2023
 - Salary statement to replace stepped salary schedule
 - Charter amendment request to forgo minimum salary waiver in order to qualify for LEARNS funding
 - Staff restructuring
 - Reduction in management positions
 - Increase in support staff
 - Distribution of direct reports
 - Supports LEARNS pay increase to be net neutral
 - School Calendar change from days to minutes
 - Weekly early out day as protected data and planning time
 - Summer Flex days
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NWACS Executive Director Rebekah Mitchell discussed:

- transition from required annual audit from an outside finance firm to

state-funded school auditor

- Financial
 - February budget
 - Private donation earmarked for Hope Academy
 - Budget in the black for month of February
 - State reimbursement delay

Open Discussion

- Community Engagement
 - Community Sectors template use
 - Appeal to board to intro one community member to Hope within the month
 - Invite to board to visit Hope Academy independently

Action Items

- **Interim Principal/Superintendent**
 - Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to accept the transition of new superintendent/Principal Katie Drake

Motion: Kathy Morledge
Second: Countess Hodges
Vote: 4-0
Motion Passes
- **Salary Schedule Approval**
 - Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the New salary schedule for staff

Motion: Kathy Morledge
Second: Countess Hodges
Vote: 4-0
Motion Passes
- **Charter Amendment to become a K-4 school**
 - Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the Charter amendment request to become a K-4 school

Motion: Kathy Morledge
Second: Countess Hodges
Vote: 4-0
Motion Passes
- **23/24 School Calendar Approval**
 - Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the 23/24 school calendar

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

- **Transition from private to state-funded auditor**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to accept the use of a state-funded auditor

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

- **March Board Meeting Minutes**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the March board meeting minutes

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

Adjournment

There being no further business, Board President Will Hanna adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm.