

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas

School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 21, 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, Maribel Childress, Board Member

Board Members Absent: None

Staff in Attendance: Rebekah Michelle- NWACS Executive Director, Katie Drake- Principal, Sarah Fletcher- Human Resources Director, Jeff Smith- Finance Director, Doug Hes- Superintendent, Ash Eisa- NWACS Board Member

Called to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by Board President Will Hanna. The meeting was a regular school board meeting for Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas via Zoom.

Discussion:

Hope Academy Superintendent, Doug Hes

- Superintendent Update
 - Student file audit to enhance standard operating procedures

Finance Director, Jeff Smith

- Presented the November budget
- Title reimbursements not issued resulted in deficit
- Payroll and nutrition trending well under projections
- Reminder that we are prior year funded

Superintendent, Doug Hes; Principal, Katie Drake

- Operations update: Staffing and Enrollment
 - Student enrollment continues to increase
 - Student/teacher ratios remain low with staffing decreases
 - Maribel Childress recommended using the Teacher Ed candidate list issued by the state to identify possible teaching candidates
 - Will Hanna discussed prior student survey results, with transportation being the number one reason for families to leave Hope Academy
 - Katie Drake shared that staffing is steady for the current need and student enrollment is expected to continue to increase in the second semester
 - Maribel Childress asks about student achievement update; Doug Hes responded that this LEARNS Act requirement will be included at the next meeting

Action Items

- **Statement of Assurances**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to accept the Statement of Assurances

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

- **October and November Financials**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the November financials as presented and to accept the addition of a completed October financial statement as included in the current month board packet.

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

- **November Modified Board Meeting Minutes**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the November board meeting minutes as modified to remove Jared Faciszewski as a board member due to resigning prior to the November meeting

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

Invitation to attend:

As included in the agenda, Doug Hes extended an invitation to board members to attend the meeting of the NWACS Education Committee on January 5th, 2024.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Board President Will Hanna requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm.