

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas

School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 15th, 2024

Time: 4:38 pm

Location: Zoom

Meeting Type: Regular

Board Members Present: Will Hanna- Board President, Countess Hodges- Board Member, Maribel Childress, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Dr. Kathy Morledge- Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Rebekah Mitchelle- NWACS Executive Director, Katie Drake- Principal, Jeff Smith- Finance Director, Doug Hes- Superintendent

Called to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 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
 - Introduction of Program Development Manager, Alisha Samarin
 - Update on Calendar
 - Inclement Weather Calendar Waiver discussion
 - Taking two PD days from the spring semester and adding to the end of the calendar to make up for snow days.
 - Plan to
 - McKinney-Vento Update
 - Written update included in board packet
 - No questions from the board
 - FY23 Audit Update
 - Currently providing all of the necessary information to the auditor onsite
 - Will provide update when available

Principal, Katie Drake

- Student Achievement Update
 - MAP testing Cohort comparison from Fall 2022 to Winter 2024
 - Positive growth across cohorts
- Operations update: Staffing and Enrollment
 - No critical staffing needs, steady staffing rates
 - Voting on one new paraprofessional tonight
 - 31 students currently enrolled
 - New students starting; enrollment continuing to increase
 - Update on transition practices
 - One week transition turn around, working closely with families and the

previous school to ensure best outcomes for student

Finance Director, Jeff Smith

- Presented the January budget
 - Budget on track
 - Contracts projection short due to Title Funding
 - salary allocation reimbursement not completed
 - Misallocation of Esser funding
 - Payroll numbers under due to decrease in staff vs. projected
 - Will adjust budget for the future

Superintendent, Doug Hes; Program Development Manager, Alisha Samarin; Principal, Katie Drake

- Hope Future Planning Presentation
 - Hope up for charter renewal next year
 - Historical review of Hope funding
 - RFP Process Overview
 - Future Options Overview
 - Maintain current program model (no change)
 - Hope Training Model
 - Co-Op/Consortium Model
 - Next Steps
 - RFP White Paper
 - Bowman Consulting
 - Call for future planning ideas from the board
 - Questions from the board
 - Countess Hodges asked about other schools doing similar work
 - ALE, Therapeutic Programs, no Charter or Traditional Public Schools

Action Items

- **Calendar Waiver Request**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the calendar waiver request as presented in the board packet

Motion: Maribel Childress

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 3-0

Motion Passes

- **January Financials**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the December financials as presented.

Motion: Countess Hodges

Second: Maribel Childress

Vote: 3-0

Motion Passes

- **January Board Meeting Minutes**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the November board meeting minutes as Presented

Motion: Countess Hodges

Second: Maribel Childress

Vote: 3-0

Motion Passes

- **New Hire Approval: Kennedy Williams as Paraprofessional**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the New hire.

Motion: Countess Hodges

Second: Maribel Childress

Vote: 3-0

Motion Passes

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 5:27pm.