

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas

School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 18th, 2024

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 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
 - Update on Request for Proposal for Independent Consultant
 - Postponed due to lack of response
 - Have firm we plan to work
 - Plan to present waiver overview at future meeting

Principal, Katie Drake

- Student Achievement Update
 - MAP testing comparison from Winter 2023 to Winter 2024
 - Increase in students at or above grade level
 - Discussed year over year differences due to student turnover as a result of program design
- Operations update: Staffing and Enrollment
 - Currently hiring for one paraprofessional
 - No critical staffing needs, steady staffing rates
 - Four students down from semester break
 - New students starting; enrollment continuing to increase
- Calendar update
 - New last day of school due to snow days; will update board next month with final proposed calendar

Finance Director, Jeff Smith

- Presented the December budget
 - Budget on track for December

- Revenue down due to Walton Family Foundation decrease in grant
- Direct giving was up in December
- Professional Development up due to McKinney Vento Conference attendance
- Adjusting yearly budget for the organization
 - Not planning to fill some previously planned staffing
- Prior year funding
 - Anticipating a decrease due to decreased enrollment

Action Items

- **December Financials**

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

Motion: Countess Hodges

Second: Kathy Morledge

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

- **December Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Motion: Countess Hodges

Second: Kathy Morledge

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 February 2nd, 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 5:02pm.