

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas

School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 16th, 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: Jared Faciszewski - Board Member

Staff in Attendance: Rebekah Michelle- NWACS Executive Director, Katie Drake- Interim Principal, Sarah Fletcher- Human Resources Director, Jeff Smith- Finance Director, Doug Hes- Education Director, Horizon Academy

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:

NWACS Executive Director, Rebekah Mitchell

- Superintendent Update
 - Job descriptions for Superintendent and Principal provided in meeting packet to clarify division of previously combined roles
 - Recommended Doug Hes be appointed Superintendent of Hope Academy of NWA
 - Katie Drake will remain in the role of Principal for Hope Academy of NWA

Interim Principal, Katie Drake

- Operations update: Staffing and Enrollment
 - Considering to be fully staffed based on needs related to enrollment size
 - Will consider adding additional support staff based on needs as enrollment increases
 - Enrollment rapidly increasing due to outreach/marketing and renewed partnerships with surrounding districts
 - Maribel Childress asked about contract for Superintendent that includes performance targets as required by LEARNS for contracts issued after July 1, 2023
 - Rebekah Mitchell stated that the charters Superintendent waiver is believed to negate that requirement, but will look into it further.

Finance Director, Jeff Smith

- Presented the October budget; not included in meeting packet
- More timely processing of reimbursements improving monthly revenue
- Payroll and nutrition increases as we increase staffing and enrollment
- Reminder that this years declining enrollment will reflect on next year's budget
- CSP Purchase updates; addressed CSP reimbursement

Action Items

● **New Hire**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to accept new hire contract for Keion McVay, Adam Pharr, Magdalena Cervantes

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

● **New Superintendent and Principal**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of new Superintendent, Doug Hes and Principal, Katie Drake

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

● **October Board Meeting Minutes and Financial report**

- Board President Will Hanna asked for a motion to approve the October board meeting minutes and financial report

Motion: Kathy Morledge

Second: Countess Hodges

Vote: 4-0

Motion Passes

● **Statement of Assurances**

- Board President Will Hanna passes on making a motion to approve the 23/24 statement of assurances due to lack of complete documentation in order to approve. Motion will be moved to next month.

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 5:07pm.