## ACADEMY OF HOPE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

**September 19, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE**:

**Board Members**

Barbara Jumper, LuAnn Sinclair, Nora Abramson, Rosalyn Brown, Patrina Clark, Larry Condelli, Eric Jones, Mark Lewis, and Deborah Ringel

## Staff

Lecester Johnson, Joy Bentley Phillips, Michael Durant, Tiffany Godbout, Ruweda Hussein and Lisa Leach

*Meeting called to order at 4:05pm*

*Minutes for May 16, 2023, and August 16, 2023 were voted on and approved:*

*LuAnn Sinclair and Deborah Ringel did not vote on the minutes for May 16, 2023 Patrina Clark did not vote on the minutes for August 16, 2023*

## REPORTS/UPDATES

**Opening remarks by Barbara Jumper, Board Chair**

* School year started off to an incredibly strong start with record enrollment of over 700 adult learners
* School will undergo our 10-year review, early indications that we are in a very strong position
* There is an open board seat vacated by Drew Hubbard, he will be the Executive Director of WIC
* It is crucial that our Student Board members feel connected, empowered, and engaged.
* Chair urged all committees to start planning their work for the year and schedule all their meeting in advance.
* Program Committee is off to a robust start, the Hope forward initiative and our programs for learners with beginning literacy and SPED services are under way and supporting learners and graduates
* The Development and Governance committees have not been able to meet but I hope you are able to find time in the coming months
* The Finance Committee is in need of a treasurer, LuAnn Sinclair has agreed to take on the role
* It is vital that we find time for social gatherings and connecting on a more personal level to deepen our collective commitment to the school’s mission

## Committee Report:

**CEO Report: Presented by Lecester Johnson, CEO, Tiffany Godbout, Chief Operating Officer & Joy Bentley Phillipsm Chief Strategy and Growth Officer, Michael Durant, Chief Academic Officer**

* Presented new structure for board report, board liked the shorted report. Staff will continue with format
* Update on uniform per pupil funding, Lecester is part the adequacy study, professional judgement panel. there has been a lot of advocy for adult schools to receive 100% of the funding that K-12 schools receive. We are currently 91% and do not receive any of the additional funding, for special education, ELL or any add ons
* Public School Charter Board is redoing is performance management framework, that is the performance outcomes that charters have to meet. They have made some adjustments to the adult framework; we did not get the request for an inclusion for learners who are coming in at the beginner literacy level.
* Ward 8 site visit today with Dr Walker-Davis from of the Public Charter School Board. The visit was positive.
* Hope Forward graduate program is up and running well. Thanks to Joy and her team for securing 250K over the summer to get the program started.
* Hired a AoH graduate Angel Harris as a Peer Navigator, to help students navigate next steps
* DOES wants to start another cohort, not sure if AoH will participate.
* Joy and her team are working with the Hearst Foundation and some others who are interested Hope Forward
* Issues continue with Ward 8 facility renovations. AoH is working with legal counsel. Stoiber (architect) is unresponsive. Some items missed in drawings including water proofing elevator shaft and grider pump issues.
* Have hired a new Advancement Coordinator, who is re-imagining the volunteer program, seeing a ton of energy around corporations being more involved, doing more corporate and community events. Build out corporate sponsorship for AoH now that Workforce is five (5) years old, and we have had so much success with the programs. Acenture reached out to AoH for their community giving day and we partnered with the Hope Forward team, putting a customized program together to do a group volunteer activity.
* AoH has been approached by a number of people to provide community service. DC Supreme Court, looking at engaging offenders to get the community service hours.
* Learners are coming in at different levels then we had anticipated 80% are at levels 4 and 5. Need for evening Adjuncts for ELA (Tuesday and Thursday) Math (Monday and Wednesday), evening 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

Staff presented two renewal contracts for a board vote. Per PCSB and school policy, any contract over $25,000 requires a board vote.

### *The chair called for the motion to approve contracts for:*

*TLS Security Company ($150K) PMM cleaning Company ($175) Contracts approve unanimously.*

Discussion of Foundation MOU, tracking Lecester’s time (15%) for the Foundation Board. The updated MOU is to ensure that the language in the MOU reflects an intentional separation of the School from the Foundation.

### *Chair asked for a Motion to approve the updated MOU between the school and the Foundation.*

*1st Patrina Clark 2nd LuAnn Sinclair*

*MOU approve unanimously*

**Presentation by Stephen Marcus** Draft of revised Conflict of Interest New Code of Ethics

## Brand Presentation by Do Big Things: Janani Screenivasan

New direction for Brand and Messaging. Board will

## Committee Reports:

**Finance –**

No Report

## Development –Madi Ford, Chair

No report

**Governance – Tamara Wilds Lawson, Chair**

# No report

*Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.*