**Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**March 18, 2025**

**4:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Board Report: Academy of Hope Board of Directors Meeting**
**March 18, 2025**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm by Board Chair Dr. Patrina Clark.

**Roll Call and Quorum Confirmation**
The meeting was called to order by Dr. Patrina M. Clark. A roll call confirmed a quorum with the following board members present:

**Present**

\*\*Board Members:\*\*

Dr. Patrina Clark (Chair), Eric Jones, LuAnn Sinclair, Deborah Ringel, Jason Ufland, Brett Allen, Susan Leigh

**\*\*Staff:\*\***

Lecester Johnson (CEO), Michael Durant, Joy Bentley Phillips, Tiffany Godbout, Brianna Cobbins, HollyAnn Fresco-Moore, Lisa Leach

**Approval of Board Minutes**
The board reviewed the minutes from the January 30, 2025, meeting. With no corrections noted, the minutes were approved as submitted.

* **Motion:** Eric J. Jones
* **Seconded:** Luanne Sinclair
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval

**CEO Report – Financial and Operational Overview**
Lecester Johnson provided an update on the financial status of Academy of Hope (AoH), noting the potential impact of the DC budget shortfall, which could result in a 17% reduction in revenue ($2.9M). The finance team has modeled various scenarios, ensuring financial stability despite this challenge. Current projections indicate a 4% margin even with the potential budget cut.

Key financial updates:

* **Projected net income (pre-cut):** $3.81M
* **Projected cash balance:** $8.3M
* **Potential impact of funding loss:** Reduction of cash reserves by 70 days but maintaining a financially stable position.
* **Operational adjustments:** Delayed non-essential expenditures, held off on staff growth, and paused capital investments related to the third site expansion.

**School Performance and Accreditation Updates**
HollyAnn Freso-Moore provided insights on performance validation and clarified data discrepancies in the mid-year report. Notable achievements include:

* **Exceeded sector averages in 4 out of 5 performance categories.**
* **100% achievement in high-level certifications.**
* **GED subject test pass rates on par with the sector.**
* **Persistence rate at 73.3%, slightly below the sector's 73.6%.**

AoH continues expanding its impact, with increased student engagement and enhanced programming to support academic achievement.

**Workforce Development and Strategic Initiatives**

* **Accenture Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Program:** 28 applications submitted, with a goal of securing 25–30 placements at a $60,000 salary per apprentice.
* **Expansion of workforce partnerships:** New leasing and property management training programs are being developed.
* **Maryland High School Initiative:** Application submitted for program expansion into Baltimore.
* **Third-Site Expansion:** Currently on hold pending more budget clarity; negotiations continue cautiously.

**Development and Fundraising Efforts**
Joy Bentley Phillips provided updates on donor engagement, including:

* **March 26th Community Check-in** with donors and prospects.
* **Planning for a 5K Fundraiser** in Fall 2025.
* **40th Anniversary Celebration** and additional engagement events.

**Finance and Facilities Committee Updates**
Tiffany Godbout and Luanne Sinclair presented the finance and facilities report, reaffirming AoH’s strong financial position despite funding uncertainties. Key discussions included:

* Continued due diligence on third-site expansion but pausing new capital expenses.
* Managing security contractor transition due to abrupt termination by previous provider.
* Approval of several operational contracts.

**Board Approvals**
The board reviewed and approved four key contracts:

* **LeadWell Group:** Strategic planning services.
* **R&R Nonprofit Consulting:** Grant writing support.
* **Java Bean Consulting:** IT workforce training services.
* **All American Intelligence Solutions:** Flex office space installation.
* **Motion:** Eric J. Jones
* **Seconded:** Luanne Sinclair
* **Vote:** Unanimous approval

**Board Business and Recruitment**

* The board assessment survey remains open for responses.
* The next Board Retreat is confirmed for **July 21, 2025**.
* Active recruitment is underway to fill open board positions.
* Executive Committee meetings will resume in April to align governance priorities.

**Next Board Meeting**
The next scheduled meeting is on **May 20, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**, primary focused on the FY26 budget and Board Officer Election

**Adjournment 5:11 PM**
Dr. Patrina M. Clark adjourned the meeting, thanking all members for their engagement and contributions.