**ACADEMY OF HOPE BOARD MEETING**

**September 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Board Members**

Dr. Patrina Clark, Eric Jones, Larry Condelli, Luann Sinclair, Nora Abramson, Deborah Ringel, Brett Allen, Susan Leigh, Katisha Webb

**Staff**

Lecester Johnson, Michael Durant, Tiffany Godbout, Joy Bentley Phillips, Brianna Cobbins and Lisa Leach

*The meeting called to order at 4:04 pm*

***May 14, 2024, minutes voted and approved***

**REPORTS/UPDATES**

**Opening remarks: Dr. Patrina Clark, Board Chair**

**CEO Report: Presented by Lecester Johnson, CEO**

* Academy of Hope completed its 10-year review on September 16, with the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) voting unanimously to continue the charter without conditions. The school surpassed the required PMF score in SY 18/19 and outperformed the sector in all four areas measured
* Fall classes began on Monday, September 9. Projected enrollment for this year is 1,100, which exceeds our enrollment ceiling of 1,000 and is 11.1% higher than our mid-level projected enrollment of 900 learners.
* The school ended the year with a net operating income margin of 14% and 148 days of cash on hand. The projected FAR score for FY24 is 99.
* AoH continues to work with its attorney to resolve multiple facilities issues related to the Ward 8 Campus.
* The instructional team will continue its focus on improving teaching practices. The school is implementing virtual teacher evaluations and adding additional training and support

around CASAS skill development. Working to fill the Principal vacancy at the Ward 5We proudly supported 55 SY23/24 graduates (33 GED, 22 NEDP). We anticipate our first SY24/25 graduates this month.

* This year’s fundraising goal is $1.5 million, with $670K already committed. Over the summer, the Academy of Hope received a $505,130 SOAR Facilities grant and a $750K health equity

grant from the Community Foundation, spread over three years.

**Finance Committee – LuAnn Sinclair/Tiffany Godbout**

**Facilities:** The committee was tasked with analyzing data from various facilities studies, educational specifications, and market research to provide recommendations on how best to accommodate our growing learner population. After thorough review, the committee has provided the following key recommendations:

* + Mid Term Lease for a Third Site
  + Landlord Turnkey Setup
  + Site Location and Accessibility
  + Lease negotiations and RFP Process
  + Ongoing Engagement and Financial Planning

Facilities work will now be incorporated into the Finance Committees responsibilities

**Ward 6 Update:** We have located a site that is near Union Station and are currently in LOI (Letter of Intent with the Landlord. Goal is to finalize terms with the landlord by October 2024.

**Enrollment:** We will approach DCPSSB regarding the enrollment ceiling increase after the count on October 5, 2024

**Finance:** The school will end the year (unaudited) with ~$5.3m in cash (which equates to ~148 days), and ~$2.3m net income (14% margin). Net income is higher than budget due to lower expenses (salaries & benefits, student expenses). We are currently undergoing our annual audit with SB & Co. Field work is expected to begin on October 7.

**Contracts:** Low and High value of contracts reviewed; these contracts require Board notification per our policy.

* + LXL Learning
  + Spark Point Fundraising, LLC
  + ED Ops
  + TLS Security Management
  + Active Hands Interpreting
  + SYL Salesforce Solutions
  + PerCon Consulting
  + Saleforce
  + Crezendo Inc.
  + Verizon T-Mobile

**Motion to approve the Investment and Reserve Policy**

1st Deborah Ringel

2nd Nora Abramson

Adopted and accepted: approved unanimously

**Development –Joy Bentley Phillips/Eric Jones**

* Academy of Hope (AoH) is celebrating its 10-year continuation and would like to re-engage its community with a fresh approach to outreach and engagement events. AoH is exploring innovative ways to bring more people into its mission, either through in-person events or by integrating AoH into external networking opportunities. Board members are encouraged to promote the school’s mission by inviting guests and discussing AoH at their events. A special “10 for 10” challenge asks each board member to introduce AoH to ten new people. Upcoming efforts include outreach to DC Councilmembers for site visits, individualized meetings to arrange salon events, and more details on events and year-end giving at the November meeting.
* Please update your social and professional media, stating that you are a AoH board member of AoH, someone might click on AoH and that could lead to something.
* For new board members a salon event basically lays out a template of an activity, event that you can do.

**Board Business:** Extension of the Foundation board MOU to January 30, 2025. Currently expires on October 30, 2024, and the Foundation boards needs a little more time something together that is representative of the level of engagement and resource requirement going forward.

**Motion to approve the extension of the Foundation board MOU**

1st Brett Allen

2nd Susan Leigh

Adopted and accepted: approved unanimously

* The relationship with the Foundation board calls for a school board member to sit on their board. In the past the Chair has sat on the foundation board. Want to provide an opportunity to any board member to sit on the Foundation board to see if there are any volunteers.
* Discussion to change March meeting to in-person meeting
* Discussion on potential board members, we are open to receiving recommendations for individuals to serve on the board.

***Action Items:***

* Joy will share the salon event template
* Development will resend the LinkedIn template
* Joy will share the Councilmember site visit dates with the board
* Patrina will send out a formal call to see if there is any interest in sitting on the Foundation board.
* Will work with Lisa to send out a survey to see what dates work best for an in-person meeting in March

*The meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.*