**Academy of Hope Board Report**

May 20, 2025
Virtual Meeting
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

The May 20, 2025, Board of Directors meeting of the Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School focused on major strategic priorities including approval of the FY26 budget, updates on the application for an enrollment ceiling increase, facilities expansion via a new site LOI, and robust planning for advancement, fundraising, and governance. All action items were approved unanimously. Key events such as the upcoming graduation and the 40th anniversary reception were also highlighted.

**Roll Call – Board Members Present**

* Dr. Patrina M. Clark (Chair)
* Larry Condelli (Secretary)
* LuAnn Sinclair (Treasurer)
* Nora Abramson
* Deborah Ringel (Governance Chair)
* Jason Ufland
* Susan Leigh
* Laura Hendricks
* Eric Jones (Vice Chair)
* Brett Allen

**Quorum Achieved:** Yes

 **Key Approvals, Votes & Motions**

* **Approval of Prior Board Minutes:**
Motion by Deborah Ringel; Second by Laura Hendricks.
*Approved unanimously.*
* **FY26 Budget Approval (Two Scenarios):**
Motion by Eric Jones; Second by Susan Leigh.
*Approved unanimously for both versions of the proposed FY26 budget (with and without a 2.74% per pupil funding increase).*
* **Approval of Contracts Requiring Board Action:**
Motion by Eric Jones; Second by Brett Allen.
*Approved unanimously.*
Contracts included:
	+ Task Human (staff wellness)
	+ United Business Technologies (copier leases)
	+ CCG, WDC; HEP Construction; ATMOS Solutions Inc. (general contractors)
	+ Law Security (security services)
	+ Operation Technology (web and SEO)
	+ Belay Point Solutions (student info systems)
* **Letter of Intent (LOI) for New Facility (Sycamore Site):**
Motion by LuAnn Sinclair; Second by Jason Ufland.
*Approved unanimously to move forward with lease negotiation.*
* **Officer Elections for 2025–2026 Term:**
Motion by Eric Jones; Second by Brett Allen.
*Approved unanimously.*
	+ Vice Chair: Eric Jones
	+ Secretary: Larry Condelli
	+ Treasurer: LuAnn Sinclair

**CEO Report – Lecester Johnson**

* **Enrollment Ceiling Increase:**
Application due June 1, 2025. AoH has exceeded its current cap and seeks to adjust its ceiling in anticipation of continued enrollment growth. Approval would allow funding above the current 1,000 learner limit, although implementation wouldn’t take effect until SY26–27.
* **Performance Management (ASPIRE Framework):**
Two school-specific measures were negotiated and approved:
	1. Recognition of grade-level gains for low-literacy learners.
	2. GED subject test pass rate.
* **Financial Health:**
Despite unresolved DC budget matters, AoH has received final FY25 payments and remains in a strong fiscal position.

 **Finance & Facilities – Tiffany Godbout**

* **FY26 Budget:**
Conservative modeling assumed 925 learners, with flat funding and no new federal income. Despite challenges, the projected margin remains strong (~5%). Additional workforce staff are included.
* **New Site (Sycamore) LOI:**
AoH plans to lease the 6th and 7th floors at Sycamore for 10 years. The site is strategically located in Ward 8 near Whitman-Walker and St. Elizabeths. Projected build-out is supported in part by a $2M OSSE loan and $1.9M in landlord-funded tenant improvements. Lease would align with the end of the existing Ward 8 lease for consolidation in 2035.

**Advancement & Fundraising – Joy Bentley Phillips & Eric Jones**

* **Strategic Planning:**
Strategic priorities are being finalized for presentation at the July Board Retreat.
* **Upcoming Events:**
	+ 40th Anniversary Pre-Kickoff Reception: May 21
	+ Ward 8 Candidate Forum: May 29
	+ Graduation: June 17 (Two ceremonies – morning academic and afternoon healthcare programs)
	+ Partner Breakfast: 9:30 AM before graduation
* **Successful Site Visits:**
40 learners visited Sibley Hospital. Gratitude extended to Dr. Hendricks. Public launch of the ECCENTRIC program is scheduled for May 27.

 **Governance – Deborah Ringel**

* **Committee Reaffirmation:**
Committee memberships reaffirmed. Officers serve on Executive Committee. Encouragement extended for board members to join additional committees.
* **Board Recruitment:**
Recruitment efforts are ongoing. Additional members with facilities and real estate experience are a priority.
* **Board Retreat:**
Scheduled for July 21, 2025 at 1828 L Street NW, Washington, DC.

**Action Items**

* Graduation Ceremony – Ensure calendar reflects both AM and PM ceremonies on June 17.
* Board Retreat – Lisa to send updated invites and calendar information.
* FY26 Budget – Submit final version to PCSB once DC budget is finalized.
* Facility Buildout – Continue pre-lease contractor assessments and funding confirmation.
* Event Follow-ups – Final RSVP reminders for 40th Anniversary reception and Ward 8 forum.
* Board Recruitment – Members to share prospects with Governance Chair.