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A-1: HOPE ACADEMY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

EXHIBIT ONE (1)



Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas Supplemental Materials

Sponsoring entity:



Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas Staff Credentials

Maury Peterson

Superintendent of Hope Academy, Executive Director of Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter

Master of Social Work

25 years of experience in human services and support for children and families

Jake Gibbs

Principal of Hope Academy

Master of Education Administration

15 years of experience in alternative education, special education and behavior programs

Sam Bryant

Teacher at Hope Academy

Bachelor of Arts in Education with K-6 certification

K-12 English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certification

K-12 Reading endorsement

Master of Curriculum and Instruction to be awarded December 2020

Rick Brazile

Director of Finance and Administration, Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting

25 years of experience in corporate accounting and finance

Brenda Richard

Youth Services Director, Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter

Master of Social Work

More than 20 years of experience in mental health, human services and support for children and families

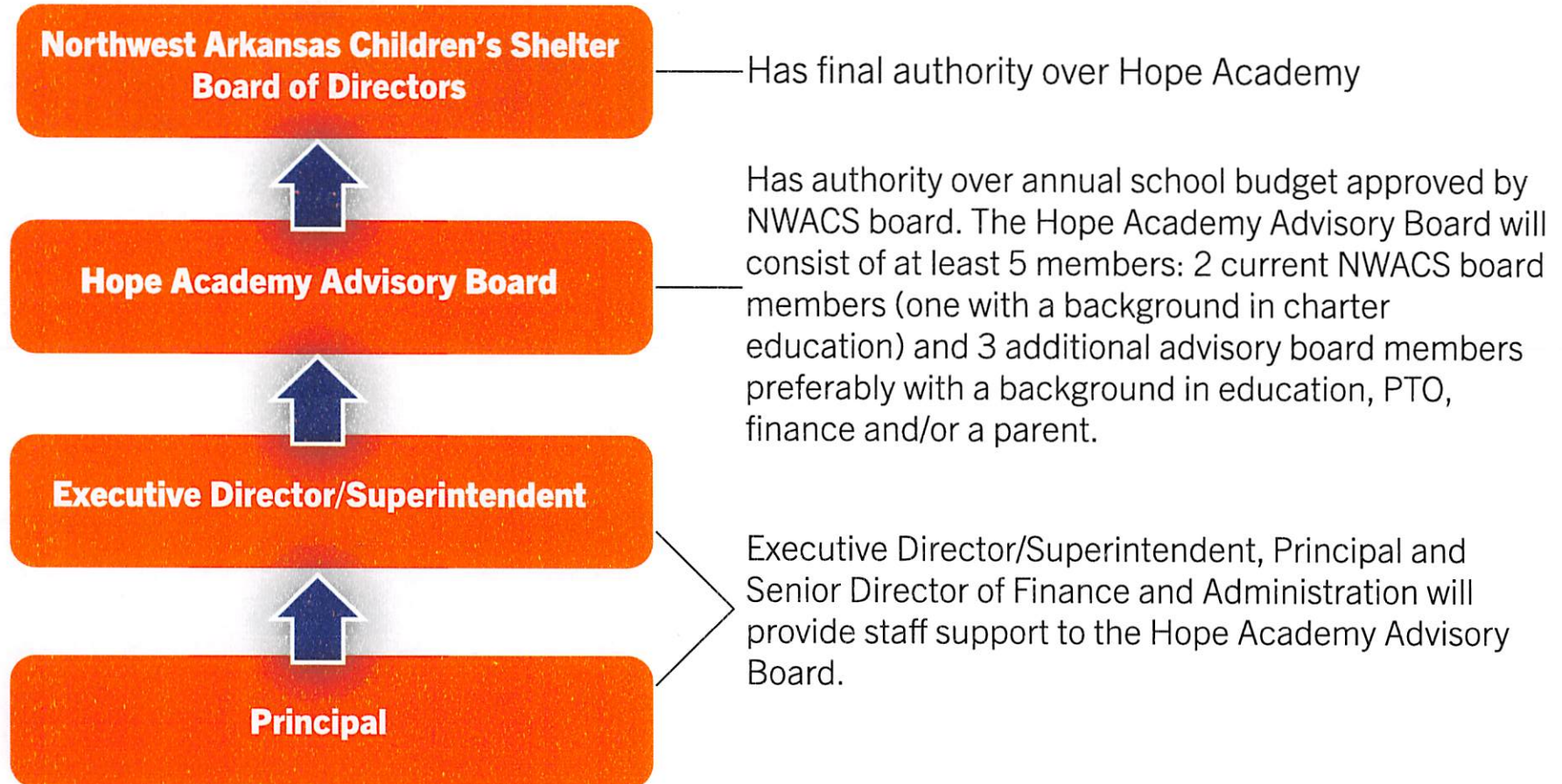
Kelsie Richards

Case Manager, Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter

Master of Social Work and Child Welfare

4 years of experience in case management

Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas Governance



Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas Wraparound Services





Austin's Story

by Paulette Nesbitt, Title I Aide, Bentonville Public Schools

The effects of childhood trauma are vast and unique to each child. In the case of Austin*, an 11-year-old attending the on-site school at the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter, the physical, emotional, and social effects of trauma exposure impacted every aspect of his academic day. Initial reading and math assessments placed him two years below

his fifth grade level. As our Education staff worked with Austin, evidence of an undiagnosed learning disability began to reveal itself. He shared with staff that he hated to read and that it triggered his fears. A great deal of his written work was illegible, with misspelled words that were constructed by a mixture of upper and lower case letters of various sizes floating across the page. Writing struggles flowed into math accuracy. Reading struggles flowed across the academic curriculum. As our staff uncovered his academic struggles, the polite, quiet and friendly Austin began to retreat under his ever-present red hoodie and sit with his head on his desk. He would fly into angry outbursts and refused to complete his school work.

Our amazing Education team was not deterred. They recognized Austin's unlimited potential and let him know with each word and action that he was safe and cared for here at the Shelter. Through the tenets of trauma-informed education, Austin began to believe in himself make progress. When working with a child who has experienced trauma, all the lesson plans, diagnostics, intervention tools and targeted materials of the world are useless if the teacher cannot reach the student. Through the collaborative efforts of our education team, working together with our Youth Care Specialists, Austin has emerged from the hoodie and is actively participating in school activities.

- We recognize his small and big successes.
- We help him recognize the traumas of his childhood may have placed him where he is today but we hold a caring expectation that giving up, quitting, or hiding is not an option.
- We listen to his conversations and discover his interests.
- We design and construct targeted learning materials pertaining to his interests.
- We helped him overcome his reading fears by providing time for him to listen to teachers read stories of interest. Then we gave him space to independently listen to audio books. He now readily comes to the resource room for reading and writing interventions.

These are just a few of the numerous trauma-informed techniques that have placed Austin on a learning path of success. He has improved his reading assessment to an average fourth grader at the beginning of the year and his math assessment to an average mid-year fourth grade student. More important than test scores, however, he ditched the hoodie, participates in classroom coursework and his handwriting is legible with the accommodation of Redi-Space transitional notebook paper. He is improving his decoding, fluency and comprehension skills as he reads aloud daily. Currently, he is reading and learning elements of real friendship through the book *Bridge to Terabithia*. Now, if he comes across a word he doesn't know, his hand automatically reaches for the dictionary. He recognizes his own improvement in his written work as he confidently pointed out, "See how all my letters are on the line and all the letters are the same size?" We are so proud of Austin and his achievements. His next book of choice is *Moby Dick*!

*name and image changed to protect privacy



Dr. Marlin Berry
Superintendent
Dr. Virginia Abernathy
Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Roger Hill
Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Charles Lee
Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Sharla Osbourn
Assistant Superintendent

Kelly McLaughlin
Program Advisor
Arkansas Department of Education
Office of Charter Schools

Dear Kelly,

Our district strongly believes it takes many partnerships to educate the students in our communities. We are very supportive of the launch of Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas run by the Children's Shelter of NWA. Their vision and support for children who need an alternative setting is commendable. We will work with them in any manner we can to help them be successful. We appreciate your consideration of their proposal and look forward to its approval.

Thank you,

Dr. Marlin Berry, Superintendent
Rogers Public Schools



STACEY A. ZIMMERMAN
CIRCUIT JUDGE

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CIRCUIT COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JUVENILE DIVISION
WASHINGTON & MADISON COUNTIES
885 CLYDESDALE DR.
FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72701
Tel.(479) 444-1739
FAX (479)444-1749

DELIA FOSTER
Trial Court Assistant
RICHARD FOURT
Official Court Reporter

August 8, 2019

Commissioner Johnny Key
Arkansas Department of Education
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR

Dear Commissioner Key,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic endorsement for Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas, the open-enrollment public charter school application submitted by the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter.

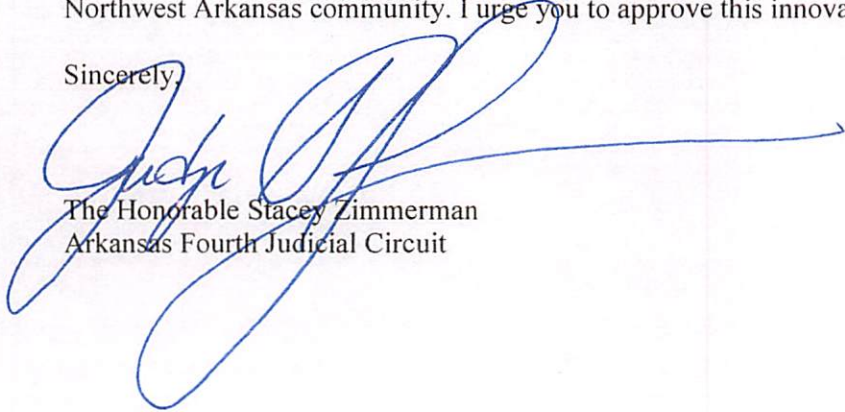
Over many years through my work as the Fourth Judicial Circuit Judge, I have partnered closely with the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter and seen their great work first-hand. The Children's Shelter plays a vital role in our community. Through their mission to provide a safe haven, high-quality care and hope for the future for children who have been abused, abandoned and neglected, the Shelter has provided comprehensive services to more than 11,000 children from across the state.

The Children's Shelter has successfully run a school on their campus since 1998. The education team is well-versed in all of the trauma-informed best practices. It seems like a natural progression to expand their education services to include an open-enrollment public charter school to serve even more vulnerable children in our community. As our Northwest Arkansas community continues to grow, Hope Academy will be able to assist more children who have experienced traumatic situations, and who would benefit from a small, nurturing environment within a proven organization that specializes in support systems which address these challenges.

The Shelter has a variety of assets that will help their proposed open-enrollment public charter school succeed: an engaged board of directors, excellent leaders within the Shelter, strong philanthropic support from the community, a wonderful facility, and an innovative model to provide small classroom ratios for the children. I am especially excited about the proposed wraparound services for families.

Thank you for considering the positive impact Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas can have on the Northwest Arkansas community. I urge you to approve this innovative model.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Stacey Zimmerman
Arkansas Fourth Judicial Circuit



THOMAS E. SMITH

CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION III
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT WEST

Benton County Juvenile Justice Center
Chambers: 479-271-1020
FAX: 479-271-5752
Email:
Thomas.Smith@bentoncountyar.gov
1301 Melissa Drive, Suite 5
Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

Jan McLeod
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Eric Christensen
Trial Court Administrator
E-mail: Eric.Christensen@bentoncountyar.gov

August 9, 2019

Commissioner Johnny Key
Arkansas Department of Education
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR

Dear Commissioner Key,


This letter is submitted in support of the application proposal to establish an open-enrollment public charter school on the campus of the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter in Bentonville, Arkansas. Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas, the proposed open-enrollment charter school, will focus on serving children who have experienced trauma, making it the first such school of its kind in the state.

The Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter has been a vital community resource for more than a quarter of a century. They have led the charge to serve our community's most vulnerable, traumatized children. Through their mission to provide a safe haven, high-quality care and hope for the future for children who have been abused, abandoned and neglected, the organization has successfully served more than 11,000 children in crisis. I have worked closely with the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter over the years and they have proven to be a trusted partner and a place that will provide the highest level of care for children in crisis.

In 1998, the shelter established a school on campus to address the education needs of the children residing there. The school actively partners with the Bentonville Public Schools to serve all of the education needs of the children. To date, the existing school has successfully served thousands of children using a trauma-informed approach. The addition of Hope Academy on the campus would allow the shelter to expand their education services to serve even more vulnerable children in our community.

I greatly value the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter mission and believe that the addition of this trauma-informed school will be an asset to Northwest Arkansas community. Most of all, I believe it will make a tremendous difference in the lives of countless children in need and their families.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Thomas Smith
Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit

August 12, 2019

Commissioner Johnny Key
Arkansas Department of Education
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR

Dear Commissioner Key,

I understand that the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter has submitted a proposal to the Arkansas Charter Authorizing Panel to establish an open-enrollment public charter school. The new K-6 charter school, to be named Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas, would specifically serve the needs of children who have experienced trauma. I am writing to extend my support for this important initiative.

Since 1993, the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter has partnered with the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services to care from children from across the state who have experienced abuse, abandonment and neglect. The shelter's comprehensive services includes an onsite school that was established in 1998.

The addition of a new charter school focusing on the needs of children who have experienced trauma will allow the Children's Shelter to expand their services to reach more children in the Northwest Arkansas community. We see the new school as a wonderful resource for many of our foster and adoptive parents we work with in the area.

The Shelter has a variety of assets that will help their proposed open-enrollment public charter school succeed: an engaged board of directors, excellent leaders within the shelter, strong philanthropic support from the community, a terrific facility, and an innovative model to provide small classroom ratios for the children and wraparound services to the families.

Thank you for considering the positive impact Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas can have on the Northwest Arkansas community and for allowing me to share my support.

Sincerely,



Mischa Martin
Director, Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Human Services

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF SALINE)

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Charter Authorizing Panel, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on August 13, 2019, that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: August 16, 2019.



Sharon K. Hill

SHARON K. HILL, CCR
 Certified Court Reporter
 Certificate No. 670

