

Board of Trustees

Gabrielle Apollon (Vice President)
Ankur Dalal (President)
Maureen Higgins (Treasurer)
Kristopher John
Salone Kapur
Jennifer Ng
Bianca Peart
Elizabeth Phillips (Secretary)
Caitlin Robisch
Sarah Yan



**St. HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees
Board Meeting**

MINUTES

August 26, 2021 from 6:30-8:00 pm
222 W. 134th Street

• **Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon	Present
Ankur Dalal	Absent (Excused)
Maureen Higgins	Present (Attended Remotely)
Kristopher John	Absent (Excused)
Salone Kapur	Present (Attended Remotely)
Jennifer Ng	Present (Attended Remotely)
Bianca Peart	Present
Elizabeth Phillips	Present (Attended Remotely)
Caitlin Robisch	Absent (Excused)
Sarah Yan	Absent (Excused)

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal; and Max Hoover, Assistant Principal.

• **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

• **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the July 22, 2021 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

• **Nominating Committee**

- Ms. Apollon noted that Ms. Yan intends to exit the board and asked the board for any recommendations regarding potential new board members.

• **Finance Committee**

- Ms. Persenaire presented the June Finance Report. The report shows a greater-than-expected increase in revenue, as well as expenses (including computers and classroom furniture) which were covered by various grants.
- Ms. Persenaire provided an update on enrollment. SHLA is currently about 30 scholars under where it expected to be at this time. The primary reason for under enrollment in sixth graders is related to transportation, including with respect to concerns about subway violence and COVID safety for families. Current enrollment is 67 for sixth grade, 108 for seventh grade, and 95 for eighth grade. If SHLA does not enroll additional students, there will be about a \$400,000 gap relative to expected revenue. The board

asked questions and discussed potential options, including to offer a bus service for families in the Bronx. The Board also discussed the potential of enrolling scholars with a remote option.

- **Accountability Committee**

- Ms. Persenaire presented the reopening plan. Masks will be required, and scholars will remain in cohorts. Lunch will continue to be in classrooms, with the exception of eighth grade. Testing will occur for 20 percent of the student population. The CDC no longer recommends temperature and health screenings. Ms. Persenaire discussed additional changes to guidance, including that teachers must be vaccinated by September 27. It is expected that charter schools—particularly those in collocated spaces such as SHLA. The Board asked questions, including whether the vaccination guidance would be in the reopening plan. The Board unanimously approved the reopening plan, subject to changes discussed by the Board including to add the vaccine requirement for teachers and the addition of language to the proactive testing section.
- Ms. Persenaire presented the 2021-22 District Safety Plan. She directed the board to the addition of a “Pandemic Continuity of Operations Plan,” which schools are now required to include in the district safety plan. Following discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2021-22 District Safety Plan.
- Ms. Persenaire presented on the 2021-22 Professional Development plan. The Board unanimously approved the plan.
- Ms. Persenaire discussed the proposed 2021-22 Board dashboard for presenting information at monthly meetings. She described changes to the template to move A3K data to the top panel in order to view month-to-month progression. Following the Board’s suggestion at the July 2021 meeting that SHLA may want to consider a data consultant. SHLA is currently advertising the role as a consulting role. The Board unanimously approved the 2021-22 Board dashboard template.

- **Assistant Principal Update**

- Mr. Hoover reported on SHLA’s new teacher orientation. Prior feedback suggested that orientation was focused primarily on day-to-day rather than on SHLA’s values and culture. This year, orientation is focused more heavily on relationship building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

I, Elizabeth Phillips, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Secretary of St. HOPE Leadership Academy, a New York education corporation and that the above is a true and complete copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the said corporation held on August 26, 2021 at which quorum was present throughout. (August 26, 2021)