

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

September 23, 2021 from 6:30-8:00 pm
Meeting Conducted Virtually

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

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

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 August 26, 2021 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**

- Ms. Apollon noted that the nominating committee is still accepting referrals. Ms. Yan noted she is vetting some potential replacements but will continue to attend meetings until a replacement is secured.

- **Finance Committee**

- Ms. Persenaire opened the conversation with an update of where recruitment and enrollment stands with BEDS day less than a week away. The current enrollment is 267 total students (94 8th Graders; 105 7th Graders; 68 6th Graders). SWIEP and ELL enrollment is still solid.
- Ms. Persenaire discusses some of the ways to make-up for the budget shortfall. St HOPE had a Math teacher leave, and there are no plans to refill that position. ESSER and ARP funds give the school a bit of flexibility. The Math Specialist and extra A3K teacher are covered under those umbrellas. A portion of the Principal, Director of Operations, Director of Student Support, and Director of Student Affairs salaries are being moved to ESSER and ARP as well.

- **Accountability Committee**

- Ms. Persenaire presented the ARP Grant Proposal for approval by the Board. This is the same budget proposal the Board has been discussing during previous meetings with the Data and Learning Loss Consultant removed as a result of potential budget deficit due to low enrollment. Motion to approve the budget passed unanimously.
- The Board reviewed several student academic data accountability proposals. The trimester plan was approved as it is most aligned to SHLA's academic assessment calendar.
- Ms. Persenaire moved up a discussion of her goals as Principal because the school audit will take place at the October Board Meeting. One new goal for the year is to do more in-depth analysis of student data with the Accountability Committee. In regard to the ABARP work, Ms. Persenaire is pushing to request feedback from a more diverse group of stakeholders including parents and students. The recruitment process was the same plan that led to over-enrollment last year, but it was not successful this year and needs to be reconsidered. The goal around handling financial uncertainty will be trickier this year than in past years when it has been a point of success. Ms. Persenaire is going to push herself to attach a number there as well.
- Ms. Persenaire updated the re-opening plan. SHLA opened on September 1st for new students and September 7th for returning students. Ms. Persenaire is still committed to testing 20% of the school community regardless of vaccination status despite the DOE only testing 10% of unvaccinated community members. SHLA had five total positive cases within the school in the first week. All five cases were connected to one cohort in the school and that cohort was transitioned to remote learning. It's important that families hear from SHLA first rather than the Department of Health. The school is leaning in the direction of still quarantining unvaccinated close contacts, even though the DOE will not be.

- **Assistant Principal Update**

- Mr. Hoover reported on SHLA's Family Fair, which was titled "Taste of Harlem." The fair had a more communal feeling this year than in previous years. The fair moved from the gym to under tents on the yard. Instead of there being one table of crudité, SHLA invited vendors from Harlem to share samples with students and families. Families stayed much longer than normal.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

I, Max Hoover, do hereby certify 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 September 23, 2021 at which quorum was present throughout. (September 23, 2021).