

Board of Trustees

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St. HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees

Board meeting

MINUTES

January 29th, 2015 from 6:30 – 8:00pm
222 W. 134th Street

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

Steve Colon	Present
Ankur Dalal	Present
Christopher Greeley	Present
Dean Guzman	Present
Maureen Higgins	Present
Jonathan Howard	Present
Takako Kono	Present
Lauren Mirsky	Present
Rebecca Ostrov	Absent (Excused)
Bryan Winther	Present
Arun Yang	Present

Also present at the meeting: Constance Bond, Executive Director; Laurel Schwartz, Assistant Principal; Elizabeth Lacy, Literacy Coach; Dan Mejias, Math Coach; Vivian Lee, Business and Human Resources Manager; and Gary Mitchell, 5th Grade ELA Teacher

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received

- **Consent Agenda**

The minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2014 were unanimously approved.

- **Presentation by National Junior Honor Society**

- Mr. Mitchell, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) advisor, and NJHS student representatives presented information to the Board requesting funding to bring 22-25 scholars to Chicago in June for the NJHS Annual Trip. Students presented the rationale, itinerary, fundraising goals and budget and responded to questions by the Board members.
- The Board unanimously approved the \$20,000 requested by National Junior Honor Society for their annual trip. The funds will be pulled from surplus funds. The Board requested that NJHS adjust the family contribution from \$150 to \$100.

- **Accountability Committee**

- Dr. Bond, Ms. Lacy and Mr. Mejias presented the Interim II results in ELA and math.

- Results on the Achievement Network math exams demonstrated an average score of 40%, surpassing the Network by one percentage point, with the school beating the Network in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Dr. Bond again cautioned that the average does not provide very useful information, reminding the Board that we beat the Network averages on the interims last year and did not outperform these schools on the actual state tests. Mr. Mejias discussed how the math team uses the data to inform instruction, including small groups, and next steps in preparation for the third interim and the State tests.
- For the ELA interims this year, the school transitioned from Achievement Network to the NY Ready assessments. Ms. Lacy presented the data, explaining that the three interims follow the same configuration as the State tests, with Interim II being a combination of multiple choice, short response and essay. Gains were seen in 5th and 8th grade, with considerable growth on multiple choice percent correct across all grades. Ms. Lacy explained the teacher scoring of the written responses and how data was collected and used. She also presented data from the Achieve3000 program and explained how teachers use the program and the data to inform instruction and prepare scholars for the state exams.

- **Finance Committee**

- Dr. Bond and Ms. Lee presented information on the school's current 401k plan and the limitations of the plan. Ms. Lee recommended that the school switch to using Rochelle Forster, AXA Advisor, with a plan through the Principal Financial Group. The Board reviewed the information and requested that Ms. Forster attend the February Board meeting. They also requested that Ms. Lee explore other possible brokers in preparation for the February meeting.

- **Principal Update**

- Dr. Bond reviewed the dashboard data including current student enrollment.
- Dr. Bond provided an update on the proposed changes to the grade configuration, reporting that all required documents were submitted to NYS Board of Regents, but the agenda item was deferred to the February meeting. The school will continue moving forward with recruiting and enrolling for 6th grade.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

I, Maureen Higgins, 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 *January 29, 2015* at which a quorum was present throughout.

Dated (*January 30, 2015*)