

Board of Trustees

Gabrielle Apollon
Steve Colón (Secretary)
Ankur Dalal (Treasurer)
Christopher Greeley
Maureen Higgins
Megan Jordan
Takako Kono (Vice President)
Lauren Mirsky (President)
Rebecca Ostrov
Bryan Winthur
Arun Yang



St. HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees

Board meeting

MINUTES

April 21, 2016 from 6:30-8:00 pm
222 W. 134th Street

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon	Present
Steve Colón	Absent (Excused)
Ankur Dalal	Present
Christopher Greeley	Absent (Excused)
Maureen Higgins	Absent (Excused)
Megan Jordan	Present
Takako Kono	Present
Lauren Mirsky	Present
Rebecca Ostrov	Present
Bryan Winther	Absent (Excused)
Arun Yang	Absent (Excused)

Also present at the meeting: Constance Bond, Executive Director.

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received

- **Consent Agenda**

The minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2016 were unanimously approved.

- **Accountability Committee**

- Dr. Bond reviewed the implementation of the state ELA and math exams. Fourteen scholars opted out, an increase of 10 scholars over last year. The untimed tests seemed to ease some of the scholar stress levels at the start of the testing day but led to very long testing sessions, particularly in ELA. Some scholars took five hours to complete one day of exams. There were also increased numbers of scholars who expressed stress and frustration during the exams (including tears and stomach aches), particularly among scholars designated as ELL or special needs, and among those who took more than three hours to complete a single exam.

- **Finance Committee**

- The Board discussed the 2014 990 tax return. The Board unanimously approved the return as presented.
- The Board ad hoc committee on program structure presented their discussion document on creating a possible scholarship fund using surplus funds. The Board discussed the proposals, focusing on the key

questions presented in the document. The Board determined that the next step should be the creation of a draft investment policy.

- **Principal Update**

- The Board reviewed the Dashboard data focusing on March enrollment numbers, withdrawals, attendance, and suspensions. Particular attention was paid to the decline in student suspensions from March, 2015 to March, 2016.
- Dr. Bond updated the Board on 2016-17 student recruitment and the lottery held on April 5th. According to Democracy Builders, the total number of applications received by the deadline was 724, 606 of which were for 6th grade. The first family enrollment event was held on April 21st with an additional 3 events scheduled through May.
- Dr. Bond discussed the ongoing partnership with Carroll University in Waukesha, WI. The university will again pay all expenses for seven St HOPE eighth graders to participate in their week-long pre-college program on the Carroll campus in July. In May, St HOPE will welcome ten of Carroll's undergraduate pre-service teachers for a two week Harlem internship where they will gain direct experience in an urban school. This is the fourth year of the partnership.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm

I, Steve Colón, 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 April 21, 2016 at which quorum was present throughout Dated (April 26, 2016)