

Board of Trustees

Gabrielle Apollon
Michael Chan
Steve Colón (Secretary)
Ankur Dalal (Treasurer)
Maureen Higgins
Megan Jordan
Takako Kono (Vice President)
Rebecca Ostrov
Lauren Tannenbaum (President)
Arun Yang
Girmay Zahilay



St. HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees Board meeting

MINUTES

March 23, 2017 from 6:30-8:00 pm
222 W. 134th Street

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon	Absent (Excused)
Steve Colón	Absent (Excused)
Ankur Dalal	Present
Maureen Higgins	Present
Megan Jordan	Present
Takako Kono	Absent (Excused)
Lauren Tannenbaum	Present
Rebecca Ostrov	Present
Arun Yang	Present
Girmay Zahilay	Present

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 February 16, 2017 were unanimously approved.

- **Presentation by National Junior Honor Society**

- NJHS scholars presented information to the Board, seeking funds for their proposed trip to Atlanta in June. **The Board unanimously voted to provide \$27,000 of surplus funds to support the trip.**

- **Accountability Committee**

- Dr. Bond reviewed the results of the Interim II exams administered in February. Exams closely resembled Day 2 of the state exams. Scholars continued to demonstrate steady growth, particularly in writing.
- Dr. Bond reviewed projections for all grades/subjects on percent pass rates for the upcoming ELA and math exams, describing the multiple data points included in making these projections. Scholars are poised to increase schoolwide pass rates in ELA by six points and math by five points. The Board discussed test implementation, including increased stress levels of scholars and staff and projected opt-out rates.

- **Finance Committee**

- Dr. Bond updated the Board on the Vanguard investment account.

- The Board reviewed the 2015 990 tax return and found no issues as presented.
- Ms. Tannenbaum continued the discussion on the next steps to frame a possible alumni scholarship program using proceeds from the investment account. Mr. Dalal suggested and the Board discussed that a review of the Vanguard investment portfolio should occur twice per annum at the September and March meetings. Dr. Bond added that the portfolio value will also appear as a line in the monthly finance reports. Ms. Higgins presented her research on typical college scholarship application/award timelines, noting that there is a great deal of variance. The Board discussed the application timeline and determined that a January 15th application deadline with decisions by April 2nd seemed ideal. This could be altered in the first year depending on when a full-time staff member is hired to administer the program. The Board also discussed minimum application requirements, noting that they wanted it to be open to as many college-going alumni as possible. The discussion centered on a minimum 2.5 GPA (with an official transcript) and one letter of recommendation from a current high school teacher or a member of the community. In terms of the application itself, the Board discussed the topic of the essay question, suggesting that it would have applicants choose one of the HARLEM values, describe what it means to the applicant, how the applicant has lived this value as a middle and high school scholar, and how it will continue to guide them in college. Discussions will be ongoing, with Dr. Bond continuing to investigate what is required for tax reporting for both the school and the scholarship recipients.

- **Principal Update**

- The Board reviewed the Dashboard data focusing on February enrollment numbers, withdrawals, attendance, and suspensions. Suspension rates continue to decline.
- Dr. Bond updated the Board on 2017-2018 student recruitment. SHLA is on-track to receive over 700 applications for 120 slots, with the lottery scheduled for April 3rd.
- The Board was updated on high school placements; 40% of 8th graders were accepted to their first choice institution, 68% were accepted to one of their top three choices, and 36% were accepted to US News and World Report Nationally-Ranked Gold, Silver or Bronze rated NYC high school. One scholar was accepted to a specialized high school and four scholars were accepted to an audition or performing arts high school. Ms. Higgins asked if this included charter schools with Dr. Bond responding that it does not. Scholars typically apply to charter high schools in March.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

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 March 23, 2017 at which quorum was present throughout Dated (March 24, 2017)