

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

December 16, 2021 from 6:30-8:00 pm
Meeting Conducted Virtually

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

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

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal and Max Hoover, Assistant Principal. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting took place via video conference. The meeting is being recorded and will be posted, along with a transcription, to the SHLA website.

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

- **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the November 18, 2021 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**

- Mr. Dalal reminded board members to continue to identify potential board candidates to replace Sarah Yan.

- **Finance Committee**

- Ms. Persenaire provided an update on the 2020-21 surplus and current cash on hand. We ended the 2020-21 fiscal year with a \$900,000 surplus with \$2.47M cash on hand at the end of December, 2021. The school typically averages approximately \$3.1M cash on hand at the end of the calendar year, with the current deficit being largely due to ARP funds not yet being released. Ms. Persenaire's recommendation, supported by CSBM, is that we wait to move the surplus to the investment account until the ARP funds are released. **The Board unanimously approved a motion to delay the transfer of the surplus to the investment account until we receive our ARP funds.**

- Ms. Persenaire reviewed the November Finance Report, noting that the projected surplus has increased and that the budget is based on an enrollment of 260, with our actual enrollment remaining steady at 265. She noted that we are still anticipating a cut to our Title funding based on enrollment and reviewed that we have cancelled all field trips for both budget and health/safety reasons and cancelled all hot spots. Ms. Persenaire noted that she is open to activating them again if we are forced to learn remotely for an extended period of time. The Board asked if there were sufficient hot spots for students in need, and Ms. Persenaire responded affirmatively. In addition, the Board suggested that we consider testing 100% of our students and staff. Ms. Persenaire offered to research the cost of doing that with our current vendor. Ms. Persenaire noted the school is overspending on student recruitment and enrollment to plan for the future, with plans to utilize Vanguard and continue utilizing Schola and North Star Marketing. She also noted that the school recently purchased a new server.
- Ms. Persenaire directed the Board to the school's new website.
- **Accountability Committee**
 - Ms. Persenaire, along with members of the Accountability Committee, provided a summary of the recent "Deep Dive" conducted by the Accountability Committee. In summary, students with IEPs and ELLs continue to be on track, as the school is observing comparable and positive trends as in years past. Overall growth has declined, but the school is encouraged that their goals are within reach. The Accountability Committee requested the following next steps: review a cohort's progression and set benchmarks; review NYS assessments to compare our performance to the City and State; and provide a summary of how students experience our school if they have both an IEP and are an English Language Learner.
 - Ms. Persenaire presented a summary of the 2020-21 NYC School Survey. The Board discussed results, noting that when asked if we have conversations about race and racism, our students responded positively (93%) to that question. Ms. Persenaire noted a lower response rate around the difficulty of questions being asked by teachers. With the survey being administered virtually to the majority of respondents, response rates were down from past years but still exceeded City averages.
 - Ms. Persenaire presented the dashboard. Attendance increased to 95% in November. Enrollment remained steady, and the CCR growth is steady but slower than we would like. There was one suspension in November.
- **Assistant Principal Update**
 - Mr. Hoover provided an overview of our school's implementation of restorative practices.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 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 December 16, 2021 at which quorum was present throughout. (December 16, 2021).