

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

January 20, 2022 from 6:30-8:00 pm
Meeting Conducted Virtually

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

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

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal; and Marissa Goulbourne, Alumni Relations Manager. 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 December 16, 2021 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**

- Ms. Apollon discussed efforts to identify potential board candidates to replace Sarah Yan.

- **Finance Committee**

- Ms. Goulbourne provided an update on applications for the HARLEM scholarship. The Board discussed the number of scholarships to award. Mr. Dalal noted that four scholarships (of \$10,000 per scholarship) would be less than 2.5% of the current value of the investment account. The Board voted unanimously to award a total of four HARLEM scholarships.
- Ms. Goulbourne provided an update on applications and interest for the Journey scholarship. There are currently two completed applications with one in progress, and the deadline is February 10. Ms. Goulbourne noted that a HARLEM scholarship recipient inquired as to whether HARLEM recipients are eligible for the Journey scholarship. Following questions from the Board and further discussion, the Board

voted unanimously to award two Journey scholarships. The Board also voted unanimously to permit HARLEM scholarship recipients to apply for the Journey scholarship.

- Ms. Persenaire discussed that, after the 2020-2021 surplus is moved into the scholarship investment account, the account will have close to \$3 million. Ms. Persenaire and Ms. Goulbourne presented on potential opportunities for use of additional funds to support St. HOPE alumni, including a textbook and supplies grant, a study abroad travel grant, an academic excellence award, and a MetroCard assistance grant. The Board discussed the various options, and also asked about other opportunities, such as supporting alumni during high school. Ms. Persenaire suggested a survey of alumni and parents (of both alumni and current students) to understand their needs and provide feedback on scholarship opportunities—for current students, high school alumni, and college alumni. The Board will continue discussing options at the March meeting.
 - Ms. Persenaire provided an update on the investment account, in accordance with the Board's policy to review the account at least once per year. Mr. Dalal will provide a report on the account for discussion at the February 2022 Board meeting.
 - Ms. Persenaire discussed recruitment and enrollment. In the last two weeks, SHLA has enrolled three new students, including two ELL students. Current enrollment is 268 scholars. SHLA is pursuing three main avenues for recruitment: Schola, North Star Marketing, and Vanguard. Beginning next month, Ms. Persenaire will provide updates on applications received.
- **Accountability Committee**
 - Ms. Persenaire provided a COVID update. SHLA had been monitoring positivity rates over the holidays and shifted to full remote learning in early January. This ensured 100% staff attendance and 95% student attendance. SHLA returned to in-person this week, and both staff and student attendance was over 90%.
 - Due to closures for COVID, testing dates have been moved. The Accountability Committee will meet on March 10, following the administration of those tests.
 - Ms. Persenaire presented the December 2021 dashboard.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

I, Elizabeth Phillips, 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 20, 2022 at which quorum was present throughout. (January 20, 2022)