

Board of Trustees

Gabrielle Apollon (Vice President)

Ankur Dalal (President)

Katie Embree

Maureen Higgins (Treasurer)

Kristopher John

Salone Kapur

Lindsey Moschet

Jennifer Ng

Elizabeth Pernick (Secretary)



St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees Board Meeting

MINUTES

February 16, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Meeting Conducted Virtually

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon	Present (In Person)
Ankur Dalal	Present (In Person)
Katie Embree	Present (In Person)
Maureen Higgins	Absent (Excused)
Kristopher John	Absent (Excused)
Salone Kapur	Absent (Excused)
Lindsey Moschet	Present (Virtually)
Jennifer Ng	Present (Virtually)
Elizabeth Pernick	Absent (Excused)

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal; and Yamel Gonzalez, Director of Operations. The meeting took place in person and via teleconference. The meeting was recorded.

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

- **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the January 19, 2023 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**

- Ms. Apollon shared that she engaged in discussions with a potential Board member who is an immigration attorney, lives in the school's neighborhood, and is interested. The next step is to share her resume with the Board and schedule a tour of the school.

- **Finance Committee**

- *Scholarship Dates:* The dates for the scholarship interviews have been adjusted. The Journey Scholarship Finalist interviews, fully virtual, will be on March 4th from 11 to 12. There were 3 applicants. Jennifer Ng will attend. The HARLEM Scholarship Finalist interviews (in person) will be on March 11th from 10 to 2. There were 10 applicants. Katie Embree will attend. On February 27th, the applications review committee will meet and select 6 finalists. As a reminder, SHLA's graduation ceremony will be held on June 23, 2023 at 4 p.m.
- *HARLEM Scholarship GPA Requirement:* There is currently a minimum GPA requirement of 2.5 to be eligible for the HARLEM Scholarship. Students were fully or partially remote because of COVID and there may be extenuating circumstances that led to lower than expected GPA's. For this year, there is 1 applicant who does not meet the GPA requirement. The Board discussed the possibility, for the next 2 years, of requiring

1) a minimum GPA of 2.0 and 2) 1 additional academic reference for applicants with GPA's between 2.0 and 2.5. Data shows that there is no correlation between GPA and recipients of the program pausing or opting out of college. There was discussion concerning whether or not decreasing the GPA requirement, even just for 2 years, would dampen motivation to qualify. At a future Board meeting, we will review the pre-COVID data and make a decision.

- *January Finance Report:* There is a projected surplus of \$309,000. This number has hovered closer to \$225,000 in prior years. The report will be shared again with actuals based on current enrollment. The education community talking citywide about enrollment and sharing information. There is a working group launched to discuss enrollment and finances and their recommendations are, hearteningly, some of the initiatives we have already taken through our work with North Star. September of next year we will know what all of our efforts yielded and, with actual data, can determine what the school's enrollment projections should be. The State goal is to meet 85% of projected enrollment and this is the first time the school has been under that amount. The data shown for the grants will be "green" after funds are allocated to actual expense lines and some surpluses that exist because of lack of need will be redistributed to other areas. There are savings from staffing because the school hasn't replaced approximately 10 positions since the summer due to lower than projected enrollment. That number is higher than normal but in part is due to the national crisis in teaching due in large part to COVID. Being in school post-COVID is not the same as pre-COVID.
- *Recruitment and Enrollment:* There are 12 Catholic schools closing, which may lead to more applicants. As of February 1st, the school has received over 40 new applications likely due to the Vanguard mailing. Phone calls are also continually coming in, mostly from parents in the Bronx. There are currently 110 applications which is significantly ahead of the number at this point in time last year. Work was done to correct addresses so very few mailers were returned and adding a phone number and not only a QR code has proved helpful.

- **Accountability Committee**

- Ms. Persenaire presented the January Dashboard. She noted that the interim results need to be reviewed within the context of MAP since some of the results may not be indicative of the final pass results. This is true in either direction – inflated or deflated. It is more prudent to look at the interims in the context of the midline results which will come later. Ms. Persenaire shared that the A3K results were puzzling and that she will be in touch with them to determine why. Attendance is moving in the right direction and it is assumed that this is due in part to kids being sick less often. It is also assumed that the suspension numbers will likely look like 2016-2017 due to restorative practices implemented with kids and families. Balancing the call of some families for more punitive measures with a strong belief in restorative justice can sometimes pose a challenge which will, it is believed, diminish as we come together more in our communities. Enhancement of orientation to develop a good working relationship will continue.

- **Principal Update**

- Ms. Persenaire asked Gabrielle and Katie to share their experience attending the Honor Roll Dinner. Both agreed that it was a wonderful, emotional experience to watch the students and their families celebrating together with administrators and teachers.
- Mr. Dalal suggested that the 401K plan be reviewed on an annual basis.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

I, Katie Embree, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting interim 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 February 16, 2023 at which quorum was present throughout. (February 16, 2023)