

**St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees**

Board Meeting

***MINUTES***

March 28, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Meeting Conducted In-Person at 222 W. 134th Street

**Board of Trustees**

Gabrielle Apollon (Vice President)

Ankur Dalal (President)

Katie Embree

Maureen Higgins (Treasurer)

Mirlande Joachim

Kristopher John

Salone Kapur

Lindsey Moschet (Acting Secretary)

Jennifer Ng

Elizabeth Pernick

* **Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon Present

Ankur Dalal Absent (Excused)

Katie Embree Present

Maureen Higgins Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Mirlande Joachim Present

Kristopher John Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Salone Kapur Absent (Excused)

Lindsey Moschet Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Jennifer Ng Absent (Excused)

Elizabeth Pernick Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal and Marissa Goulbourne, Alumni Relations Manager

* Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

* **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the February 28th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

* **HARLEM and Journey Scholarships**
  + Ms. Goulbourne reported that scholarship interviews were held via Zoom for the 2024 HARLEM and Journey scholarships. For the HARLEM scholarships, there were seven finalists with an average GPA of 3.4. Six of the finalists were especially strong with the interview committee recommending that four $10,000 scholarships, one $5,000 scholarship and one $500 book award be awarded. There was one Journey Scholarship finalist who was also very strong with the committee recommending receipt of the award. **The Board unanimously approved these seven scholarships at a total cost of $50,000.**
* **Trustee Committee**
  + The Board continued the discussion of having an alumni representative on the Board. Ms. Apollon stated that it would be important to have an additional voice that can represent the community, particularly the student perspective. The Board discussed possibilities, including whether a recent alum or an alum who is more established would be a better fit. The Board determined that the best next step would be to have a Board member conduct exploratory conversations with alumni and report back to the Board.
* **Finance Committee**
  + *February Finance Report* - Ms. Persenaire presented the February Finance Report for discussion, stating that the school would not fill the 3 vacant staff positions and, at this point in the year, it does not make much sense to do so. Ms. Persenaire also noted that there were additional ARP funds totaling $26,000 that were identified by CSBM as not spent last fiscal year that are available now. As these funds were tagged to Chromebooks, the school will go ahead with this much-needed purchase. Ms. Persenaire also noted the additional charge to the recruitment line for the mailer that went out a few weeks ago.
  + *Enrollment Committee –* Ms. Moschet reported that she reached out to her contact at Success and is waiting to hear back. Ms. Joachim presented the committee idea of having flyers or small cards to hand out to families at playgrounds or afterschool activities and perhaps have interns do the social media posts since we are not happy with our current provider.
  + *Recruitment and Enrollment –* Ms. Persenaire reported that the lottery will be held on April 5th and that there are currently 70 6th grade applications. An Open House was held where 8 families attended and were impressed with the school community. School representatives attended a Charter School Fair on Saturday but only four families attended. Two staff members have been consistently canvassing the neighborhood, handing out flyers and talking to families.
* **Accountability Committee** 
  + *State Test Projections –* Ms. Persenaire reported her projections for the upcoming state exams - 6th grade ELA 25% pass rate, 7th grade ELA 40%, 8th grade ELA 45%. For math, 6th grade 20%, 7th grade 35% and 8th grade 45%. With 6th grade, there are not many who are on the cusp, so numbers not likely to increase. This is the first year of computer-based testing so it is harder to predict. Like paper based exams, test is not adaptive so it does not adjust depending on how students respond. Students are allowed to use scratch paper for both ELA and math. School has had only one day this year with no internet in the building so hoping ELA exams April 16 and 17 go well.
  + *February Dashboard –*Ms. Persenaire presented the February dashboard data. Attendance improved to 90% last month and suspensions decreased significantly from this time last year. Percentages of students considered College and Career Ready according to A3K increased in all grades, which is good news as scholars prepare for the upcoming state exams.
* **Principal Update**
  + Two visits from alumni provided important reminders to the staff of why we do this work.One alumni is currently a Kindergarten teacher at another charter school in the City. Her grandfather recently passed and told her to visit St. HOPE because the school had such a big impact on her. The second alumnishared he would be attending graduate school at Harvard next year. He wanted to visit St. HOPE because of the tremendous influence the school had on him, planting the seed that he would attend an Ivy League school someday**.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

I, Lindsay Moschet, do hereby certify that I am duly qualified and interim 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 28, 2024 at which quorum was present throughout. (March 29, 2024).