

**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



**St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting**

**MINUTES**

June 27, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm  
Meeting Conducted In-Person at 222 W. 134<sup>th</sup> Street

• **Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon	Absent (Excused)
Ankur Dalal	Present
Katie Embree	Present
Maureen Higgins	Present
Mirlande Joachim	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Kristopher John	Present
Salone Kapur	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Lindsey Moschet	Present
Jennifer Ng	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Elizabeth Pernick	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal.

• **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

• **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the May 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

• **Nominating Committee**

- The Board will continue its discussion of a potential alumni representative at the July Board meeting.
- Ankur Dalal shared that he would be remaining on the Board of Trustees but stepping down as President. Ms. Persenaire and the Board thanked him for his years of service as the President.
- The Board reviewed the proposed 2024-25 Slate of Officers - Maureen Higgins, President; Gabrielle Apollon, Vice President; Kristopher John, Treasurer; and Lindsey Moschet, Secretary. **The 2024-25 Slate of Officers was unanimously approved by the Board.**
- The Board reviewed the 3-year Board member renewals of Ankur Dalal, Elizabeth Pernick, and Jennifer Reynoso Ng. **The renewals were unanimously approved by the Board.**
- The Board reviewed the proposed 2024-25 Board Calendar. **The 2024-25 Board Calendar was unanimously approved by the Board.**
- Ms. Persenaire reminded members of the Board to complete their Annual Report Financial Disclosures.

• **Finance Committee**

- *May Finance Report* - Ms. Persenaire presented the May Finance Report for discussion, stating that there were no significant changes since the April Finance Report. Ms. Persenaire noted that the audit costs were above budget mostly due to unexpected out of pocket expenses that were not billed by the auditor in previous years and had not been accounted for when the budget was originally created and approved. She then presented data on the dramatic increase in audit costs over the last four years, with the total cost nearly doubling in that time. CSBM is currently compiling a list of auditors whose costs are more reasonable which will be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Persenaire also noted that CSBM had billed over \$22,000 in excess ESSER support expenses for which they had not been transparent. She shared that she will be in conversations with CSBM to provide more transparency when billed hours are significantly over budget and outside the umbrella of the yearly contract. The Board offered to review CSBM's contract.
  - *2024-25 Budget Approval* – Ms. Persenaire reviewed the proposed 2024-25 Budget with the Board, noting a projected surplus of \$63,000. The Board asked for confirmation that the school had already budgeted for discretionary items like field trips, additional scholarships, etc. Ms. Persenaire confirmed and shared that she believed \$40,000 was a fair amount for field trips based on lower enrollment. ***The 2024-25 Budget was unanimously approved, as presented, with continued review of monthly Finance Reports.***
  - *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire shared that she continues to believe an enrollment of 200 is achievable, especially with the addition of Underdog Marketing. She shared that the school will continue to provide transportation, as every seat will be used in the 2024-25 academic year and transportation being a consistent request of families in the Bronx. Ms. Persenaire also shared that, since transitioning to Underdog Marketing, 44 new students have applied. The previous marketing firm only generated a few leads every 1-2 weeks.
- **Accountability Committee**
    - *Accountability of Principal* – Ms. Persenaire shared a reflection on her 2023-24 goals, noting the tremendous academic gains of students, keeping the budget balanced amid enrollment challenges, and implementing new recruitment strategies. The Board asked questions around teacher recruitment and retention and changes to administrator job responsibilities that have them spending more time in classrooms.
    - *May Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the dashboard data, noting that May saw attendance increase to 89%, 8 suspensions, and continued A3K growth. MAP data will be reviewed at the July meeting.
  - **Principal Update**
    - Ms. Persenaire thanked the members of the Board who attended the first-ever Alumni and Longevity Dinner, and she hopes it is the beginning of a yearly transition.
  - **Executive Session**
    - The Board voted at 7:35 to enter Executive Session to discuss Ms. Persenaire's formal performance evaluation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

I, Lindsey Moschet, do hereby certify that I am duly qualified 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 June 27, 2024 at which quorum was present throughout. (June 27, 2024).