

Board of Trustees

Gabrielle Apollon (Vice President)
Lord Crawford
Ankur Dalal
Katie Embree
Maureen Higgins (President)
Mirlande Joachim
Kristopher John (Treasurer)
Salone Kapur
Lindsey Moschet (Secretary)
Jennifer Ng
Elizabeth Pernick



St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees Board Meeting

MINUTES

June 26, 2025 from 6:30-8:00 pm
Meeting Conducted In-Person at 222 W. 134th Street

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

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

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal.

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

- **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the May 29th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**

- The Board reviewed the proposed 2025-26 Slate of Officers - Maureen Higgins, President; Gabrielle Apollon, Vice President; Kristopher John, Treasurer; and Lindsey Moschet, Secretary. **The 2025-26 slate of officers was unanimously approved by the Board.**
- Ms. Apollon presented the Board members whose three-year tenure is up in July or at any time during the 2025-26 fiscal year. **The 3-year terms of Ms. Apollon, Dr. Embree, Ms. Higgins, Mr. John, Ms. Kapur and Ms. Moschet were unanimously approved by the Board.**
- The Board reviewed current committee memberships.
- **The 2025-26 Board Meeting Calendar was unanimously approved by the Board.**
- Ms. Persenaire reminded the Board that their completed Annual Report of Financial Disclosures are due no later than July 15th. Disclosures can be completed and signed electronically or can be completed by hand, scanned and emailed to Ms. Persenaire. Disclosure forms were emailed to members prior to the meeting.

- **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 also noted that projected cash surplus remains around \$39,000.
- *2025-2026 Budget Approval* – Ms. Persenaire reviewed the proposed 2025-26 Budget with the Board, noting that the version the Board is reviewing for approval is based on a projected enrollment of 200. The version based on 180 will be the one implemented if enrollment only reaches this number. Both versions include funds to pay for the bus and full staff medical benefits based on this year's use. ***The 2025-26 Budget was unanimously approved with continued review of monthly finance reports.***
- *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that June was a slow month at the start but is now picking up with applications up 8 from this time last year. 150 applications have been received to date with 49 applicants accepting their seat, including 32 6th graders. There are also currently 69 7th graders either currently enrolled or have accepted their seat. This summer, the in-house team will be putting up the St HOPE tent in high-traffic areas in Harlem to speak to parents and hand out swag, as well as hosting tours and open houses. The school has also partnered with a local bodega to use coffee cups with St HOPE logo and QR code. Underdog will be out canvassing along the bus route as well as other key locations. Underdog has also created a parent survey to collect data on how St HOPE parents found the school and why they chose it.

- **Accountability Committee**

- *NWEA MAP Endline Results* – Ms. Persenaire presented the MAP endline results which demonstrated tremendous growth across all grades in both subjects. In 6th Grade ELA and math, the percentage on grade level more than doubled, from 18% to 43% in ELA and from 8% to 20% in math. In 7th Grade ELA, the percentage on grade level increased from 33% to 40% and from 20% to 28% in math. In 8th Grade ELA, the percentage on grade level nearly doubled, from 33% to 63%, with math increasing from 28% to 40%. The Board also reviewed the RIT growth of each grade and each subject, noting that RIT growth also far exceeded national norms. Ms. Persenaire believes that schoolwide participation in i-Ready in both subjects contributed to the significant academic growth this year, as did the fact that no teachers left during the school year. A3K CCR growth was not as dramatic, particularly in 6th grade. This year, entering and emerging ELLs who do not participate in A3K were included in the data, which will not occur next year.
- *Accountability of Principal* – Ms. Persenaire shared a reflection of her 2024-25 goals. Enrollment has been the biggest stressor but she feels confident that the school finally has the right approach to these challenging times. The Board asked questions about vendor accountability which Ms. Persenaire believes improved this year with her increased oversight. The Board commended Ms. Persenaire on the tremendous academic growth this year. Ms. Persenaire believes the school is finally “back” to pre-Covid norms, helped by the teacher stability this academic year.
- *Charter Renewal* – Ms. Persenaire reported on the June 11th authorizer pre-renewal site visit, stating that it was great to meet the new head of the NYCDOE charter accountability office and receive feedback in preparation for their more-intensive fall visit. He reported that student year-over-year academic growth and the school's finances were strengths and that they would like to see lower suspension numbers.
- *May Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the May dashboard data. The Board commented that attendance continues to be a challenge and Ms. Persenaire agreed. Fridays are particularly difficult with attendance averaging around 70%. Ms. Persenaire stated that she and the Leadership Team will delve into this deeper and are considering changes to the staff PD schedule. Ms. Persenaire also noted that suspensions are about the same as last year.

- **Principal Update**

- Ms. Persenaire reported that graduation was beautiful with three of the Harlem Scholarship recipients attending in person to receive their “big checks”.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. with the Board voting to move into Executive Session.

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 26, 2025 at which quorum was present throughout. (June 27, 2025).