

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

August 28, 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	Absent (Excused)
Katie Embree	Present
Maureen Higgins	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Mirlande Joachim	Absent (Excused)
Kristopher John	Absent (Excused)
Salone Kapur	Absent (Excused)
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 July 24th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

• Finance Committee

- *June Finance Report* - Ms. Persenaire presented the updated June Finance Report for discussion, noting that the surplus accurately represents updated reconciled revenue and expenses for the fiscal year, with the cash surplus coming in at around \$96,000. As additional expenses could still come in for a few weeks, the final surplus number will be available next month.
- *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that projected enrollment as of today is 161 scholars with Underdog and school personnel continuing to recruit daily. Ms. Persenaire noted that in her recent meeting with Underdog, she questioned them on why our enrollment was about 20 scholars lower than this time last year. Underdog detailed a number of factors, including the closure of the migrant hotel, the saturation of the Bronx with new charter schools (to the point where there are currently no new students taking the St HOPE bus), and gentrification in Harlem. Canvassing continues at full speed and St HOPE is also giving away free Nike backpacks as an incentive. The Board asked if Underdog had shared any numbers for other schools they are working with and if they are they seeing similar challenges. Ms. Persenaire responded that they had expressed that the entire sector is struggling, but Harlem is currently the toughest

neighborhood to recruit in. The Board commented that we need to determine if part of the problem is that we are so small that we don't have the same marketing power as the large networks. Ms. Persenaire noted that she is looking into a different marketing firm that uses AI and other avenues for recruiting new students.

- **Accountability Committee**

- *2025-26 District-Wide Safety Plan* – Ms. Persenaire presented the 2025-26 District-Wide Safety Plan for Board approval, stating that, in accordance with state guidelines, the draft the Board reviewed last month has been on the school's website for 30 days for public comment – no comments were received. She reminded the Board that little has changed from last year. NYSED required that language around the types of drills must be consistent with state guidelines and that teacher training must align with this language, with St HOPE's updated plan reflecting these required adjustments. The Board asked if new employees receive the required training. Ms. Persenaire responded that, every two years, she receives certification to lead the training and ensures that the training occurs during New Staff Orientation each year. **The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2025-26 District-Wide Safety Plan, as presented.**
- *2025-26 Professional Development Plan* – Ms. Persenaire presented the 2025-26 Professional Development Plan for Board review and approval, stating that it is very similar to prior years. Teacher evaluation continues to be based on the Danielson Rubric and professional development is being led by the new Assistant Principal. **The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2025-26 Professional Development Plan, as presented.**
- *2025-26 Board Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the format for the 2025-26 Board Dashboard, stating that a few changes will be made, including that the blue shading will be changed to grey so the data is easier to see and that comparisons to prior-year data will be clearer. Board members confirmed that format works for them.
- *2024-25 State Test Results* – Ms. Persenaire presented the 2024-25 state ELA and math test results. As a school, 41% passed the ELA exam and 54% passed the math exam, with the math results far exceeding CSD5 results and any prior year of St HOPE's results. SHLA 8th graders also beat the City and the state in math for the first time with 62% passing the exam. While the ELA results did not exceed CSD5, they did increase 2% over last year and do beat the CSD quite significantly if Columbia Secondary is removed from the data (Columbia Secondary is a selective school that accepts students from numerous CSDs). The Board asked why the ELA results seemed to lag behind the math results. Ms. Persenaire reminded the Board that the ELA data was likely impacted by the 45-minute system shutdown the second day of ELA testing which caused a great deal of student distress. When looking at the results, eight 8th graders who were on track to pass according to every indicator missed passing by one point, likely because of the computer glitch. The two days that CSD5 schools completed the exam did not experience any computer issues.
- *Student Growth* – Ms. Persenaire presented the matched cohort analysis for the 8th graders who graduated this past spring, demonstrating the tremendous academic growth they experienced in their three years at St HOPE. This cohort of students entered with significant academic deficits; only 15% and 11% of them were proficient on their Grade 5 ELA and math exams, respectively. Further, 70% of them scored a Level 1 on the Grade 5 math exam and 48% at Level 1 on the Grade 5 ELA exam. Three years later, 66% of these same students were proficient on the Grade 8 math exam and 56% on the ELA exam and the percentage of students scoring at the lowest Level 1 on the Grade 8 ELA and math exam plummeted to 18% and 12%, respectively. The Board commented on the significance of this data, particularly for charter renewal.
- *Charter Renewal* – Ms. Persenaire discussed that preparing all of the required charter renewal documents had been quite challenging given the delayed release of the requirements, including the data collection spreadsheet and the updating of the submission portal. Despite this, she stated that the school is on track to meet the fast-approaching deadline. The Board asked if there was a way for them to share this feedback with the authorizer. The Board discussed the Executive Summary which had been shared with members prior to the meeting, wondering if it adequately captured the successes the school experienced over the last

five years and recommending a number of changes. Ms. Persenaire thanked the Board for their thoughtful feedback and stated that she would connect with the renewal consultant to make the edits.

- **Principal Update**

- Ms. Persenaire reported that the Family Fair was held earlier in the evening with 80 or so families in attendance. They held the Fair in the new playground to showcase the new facility and families had the opportunity to meet their scholar's teachers, purchase uniforms and eat dinner/socialize. Ms. Persenaire reported that it was a big success.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49p.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 August 28, 2025 at which quorum was present throughout. (August 29, 2025).