

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

December 18, 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
Maureen Higgins	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Mirlande Joachim	Present
Kristopher John	Present
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 and Constance Bond, Leadership and Board Consultant.

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

- **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the November 20th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Finance Committee**

- *November Finance Report* - Ms. Persenaire presented the November Finance Report for discussion, noting that there were no major changes since the October report. The Board noted a small increase in the deficit based on a severance payment.
- *HARLEM Scholarship* – Ms. Persenaire reported that the 2025/26 HARLEM scholarship application was launched earlier in the month with information on how to apply posted on all of the school's social media platforms and on the website. No applications have been received to date.
- *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that 2026 recruitment was progressing with 28 applications received to date, five coming from digital leads and nine coming from rising 6th graders from PS92 and PS175. This is slightly ahead of last year. Ms. Persenaire also reported on enrollment drops during the 2023-24 academic year for a few other CSD5 middle schools, a year when St HOPE enrollment stayed steady. Democracy Prep Charter School enrollment dropped from 206 to 154 with Harlem Village Academy dropping from 166 to 127. Official 2024-25 enrollment numbers are not yet public.

- **Accountability Committee**

- *Board Retreat* – Ms. Persenare reminded the Board that there will be a retreat held on Saturday, January 24th from 9 am to 2 pm. The Board discussed topics that will be covered at the retreat, which will focus mostly on addressing the school's enrollment challenges.
- *November Dashboard* – Ms. Persenare presented the November dashboard for discussion, noting that there has been just one suspension to date this school year, putting the school well on track to meet the goal of reducing suspensions. Ms. Persenare also noted that attendance is higher than last year, averaging closer to 90% in October and November. She added that December attendance will likely fall due to a particularly difficult early flu season. The Board asked what the school was doing to improve attendance. Ms. Persenare reported that staff are conducting daily attendance calls to families as well as follow up text messages. And at Q1 parent-teacher conferences, any student that had below 90% attendance had a meeting with a member of leadership team. The school is also attaching field trip rewards to attendance.
- *Site Visit Feedback* – Ms. Persenare reported that the authorizer site visit for charter renewal occurred on December 9th with a team of six visitors spending the day at St HOPE. Components included a leadership team interview, classroom visits, student interviews, parent interviews, teacher/staff interviews, shadowing of special education students, and a concluding discussion. Ms. Persenare reviewed the feedback shared by the team which focused mostly on how to continue to improve instruction and academic outcomes. Ms. Persenare also reviewed the data charts compiled by the authorizer as part of the visit.
- *Charter Renewal* – Ms. Persenare confirmed that the authorizer would meet with the Board as part of the renewal process and Ms. Higgins reported that she had already received an email from the team lead setting up a virtual meeting for Monday, December 22nd. Members asked questions about what types of questions they might be asked and Dr. Bond shared pertinent information. Members discussed possible responses to interview questions. Dr. Bond discussed the possibility of partnering with a government relations expert to help connect with the Manhattan Regent to schedule a site visit. **The Board voted unanimously to engage with Vince Marrone for one to two months to advocate for the school's charter renewal in Albany.**

- **Principal Update**

- Given that time was running short, Ms. Persenare noted that the Engagement Committee discussion and the Summer Boost results would be moved to the January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

I, Lindsey Moschet, do hereby certify that I am duly qualified 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 December 18, 2025 at which quorum was present throughout. (December 19, 2025).