

## 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

March 26, 2026 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)
Lord Crawford	Absent (Excused)
Ankur Dalal	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Elizabeth Pernick	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

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 February 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**

- *Community Partnership Subcommittee* – Dr. Embree presented the mission and purpose document for the formation of the subcommittee and invited members to contribute to the document. Members agreed that initiating this subcommittee focused on Board initiatives to increase enrollment was vital. **The Board voted unanimously to create a Board Community Partnership Subcommittee.** Dr. Embree, Ms. Apollon and Ms. Joachim were nominated as founding members of the committee, with Dr. Embree nominated as Chair. **The Board voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Embree Chair of the Community Partnership Subcommittee with Ms. Apollon and Ms. Joachim as members.**

- **Finance Committee**

- *Scholarship Committee* – Ms. Joachim reported that the HARLEM scholarship selection committee met to interview the three finalists, but only one candidate appeared for the interview. She added that this applicant was very impressive and clearly represents the type of student the scholarship was created to serve. Ms. Joachim reported that it was the recommendation of the committee to award the scholarship to this candidate. **The Board voted unanimously to award one 2026 HARLEM scholarship in the amount of \$10,000.**

- *February Finance Report* – Ms. Persenaire reviewed the February Finance Report, noting that the deficit had decreased by \$50,000 since January, due mostly to savings of \$20,000 in coverages, additional scholarship savings of \$15,000 and money saved on the staff recruitment line due to high staff retention.
  - *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that, as of today, we have 72 applications - 2 in person, 24 from the common application, 22 from the website, and 24 through Underdog. She has been in communication with all applicants and feels more confident about the applications from Underdog than we did last year. Ms. Persenaire conducted an analysis of last year’s applicants and noted that the best conversions were from those who applied in person and from the website, mostly because these were students from PS92 and PS175. Zero common application applicants actually attended. She noted that she has been in touch with PS92 to make sure we have the same volume of applicants this year, offering to partner with them for Teacher Appreciation Week as they have limited funds. Given current numbers, she is confident that 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be full next year. Current enrollment is 34 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 60 in 7<sup>th</sup> and 54 in 8<sup>th</sup> with approximately 90 expected to return next year. The lottery will be held on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> with all winners receiving a personalized phone call and text.
- **Accountability Committee**
    - *February Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the February dashboard for discussion, noting that at this point last year we had 16 withdrawals, this year we have had only 5 to date. Attendance was a bit down last month because of two weather events – extreme cold and the blizzard. A3K data continues to be encouraging as it demonstrates steady growth. Ms. Persenaire also presented the leadership team predictions for the upcoming state exams with pass rates for ELA at 32% for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 40% for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 50% for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For math, 50% for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 40% for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 60% for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The ELA state exams will be the third week of April with math in May.
    - *Charter Renewal* – The Board discussed the meeting the prior day with the authorizer where they shared their renewal recommendation. The Board discussed possible next steps, including drafting a letter in response.
  - **Principal Update**
    - Ms. Persenaire presented the high school placement results, noting that 94% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders received their top choice with 100% receiving an offer from a high school in their top three. Two were admitted to specialized high schools with an additional two admitted to High School of Fashion Industries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 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 March 26, 2026 at which quorum was present throughout. (March 27, 2026).