

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

May 28, 2026 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 (Virtual – Address Provided)
Ankur Dalal	Absent (Excused)
Katie Embree	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Maureen Higgins	Present
Mirlande Joachim	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Kristopher John	Present
Salone Kapur	Absent (Excused)
Lindsey Moschet	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Jennifer Ng	Absent (Excused)
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 April 23rd Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

• Nominating Committee

- *Community Partnership Subcommittee* – Ms. Apollon presented the notes from the subcommittee meeting held on May 20th. She reviewed that the main purpose of the subcommittee is to build partnerships in the community to bolster student recruitment efforts, but the Board also wants to prioritize building greater neighborhood awareness about the school and for the school to be viewed as a valued member of the community. Connections with our current parent community are helpful but the school also needs the Board's help to crowdsource potential partnerships. For the purposes of this work, community is defined as CSD 5, at least for now. Ms. Apollon shared the link to a Google doc the subcommittee created for members to begin brainstorming specific organizations the school can partner with and asked members to contribute to the document prior to the June Board meeting.
- *Board Membership* – Ms. Persenaire reminded the Board that the June meeting is the annual meeting where votes are required for the 2026-27 Board Officers and any members up for renewal. The Board will also need to elect a Member at Large to the Executive Committee and a new chair for the Nominating Committee. This year, Ms. Joachim is the only member whose 3-year term expires on June 30, 2026.

- *Draft 2026-27 Board Calendar* – Ms. Persenaire presented the draft 2026-27 Board meeting calendar and asked members to email her with any dates that were potential conflicts.

- **Finance Committee**

- *April Finance Report* – Ms. Persenaire reviewed the April Finance Report, noting that the projected deficit remains below \$100,000 after depreciation. The classroom supplies line is running under budget, contributing to the continued savings. Ms. Persenaire discussed the decision to move some of the field trip dollars to the student events line, noting that student motivation is more closely tied to in-school experiences than field trips, which is a change from past years. The line that fluctuates the most is student recruitment, as the school needs to remain nimble here. The Board commented that they are very satisfied that the approved deficit from the start of the year has been cut in half thanks to effective budget management by leadership.
- *Proposed 2026-27 Budget* – Ms. Persenaire presented the draft 2026-27 budget for Board review. The budget is based on 165 students with the projected percentage of special education students matching this year's. Ms. Persenaire noted that she is more confident in the projected enrollment this year because she is the one leading the recruitment efforts. Health care costs for next year are up more than previous years, partly because staff usage increased. Ms. Persenaire noted that the school's excellent health insurance is one of the reasons for the very low staff turnover, which, in turn, saves money (cutting the staff recruitment line in half). The field trip line was also cut in half as the most popular field trips are the college trips, which are relatively inexpensive. The toughest line to project is student recruitment, with the projection matching this year's expenses.
- *Vanguard Account Notification* – This item was tabled until the June meeting when Ms. Persenaire will have more information.
- *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that, of the 50 applicants who accepted their seat, 38 have submitted their enrollment documents or are in direct communication with her about next steps. At least ten of the 12 that have not submitted any documents have attended a St HOPE event. She added that she regularly communicates with all of the over 100 applicants, crafting specific outreach tailored to where they are in the process.

- **Accountability Committee**

- *Principal Evaluation* – Ms. Persenaire reminded the Board that the Accountability Committee needs to complete her performance evaluation before the June Board meeting, noting that the June meeting is on the 18th.
- *Additional Senior Leadership Position* – Ms. Persenaire presented the rationale for adding an additional position to senior leadership to better manage the responsibilities added to the school leader's plate, particularly student recruitment. The Board discussed the possibilities, including job responsibilities, title, reporting structure and budget implications. As the draft 2026-27 budget includes an additional line, the position has funding if enrollment projections are met.
- *April Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the April dashboard for discussion, noting that suspensions continue to run far below last year's numbers.
- *Charter Renewal* – Ms. Persenaire discussed her takeaways from attending the May Board of Regents meeting in Albany where the authorizer presented the charter renewal recommendations for the seven NYCDOE charters, including St HOPE. St HOPE's renewal was officially approved by the Board of Regents with the fully executed charter scheduled to arrive sometime over the next month.

- **Principal Update**

- Graduation will be held on June 24th at Symphony Space and all Board members are invited.
- The 8th grade trip to Philadelphia was today.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 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 May 28, 2026 at which quorum was present throughout. (May 29, 2026).