# St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees
Board Meeting

## *MINUTES*
June 18, 2026 from 6:30-8:00 pm
Meeting Conducted In-Person at 222 W. 134th Street

- **Welcome**

Call to Order

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|---|---|
| Gabrielle Apollon | Present |
| Lord Crawford | Present (Virtual – Address Provided) |
| Ankur Dalal | Present (Virtual – Address Provided) |
| Katie Embree | Present |
| Maureen Higgins | Present |
| Mirlande Joachim | Present |
| Kristopher John | Present (Virtual – Address Provided) |
| 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 May 28th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**
  - *Community Partnership Subcommittee* – Ms. Persenaire discussed her recent conversation with Street Corner Resources about a possible recruitment partnership. She also detailed her conversation with the Principal of Harbor Arts about their upcoming closure and recommending St HOPE to their families. Additionally, she was recently connected with the Principal of Harriet Tubman which is also closing this summer.
  - *Election of Slate of Officers* – **The Board voted unanimously to elect the 2026-27 Slate of Officers, as presented.** Ms. Higgins, President; Ms. Apollon, Vice President; Mr. John, Treasurer; Ms. Moschet, Secretary; and Dr. Embree, Member at Large.
  - *Member Re-Election* – **The Board voted unanimously to renew the Board membership of Ms. Joachim for an additional 3-year term**.
  - *Board Committee Membership* – **The Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Crawford Chair of the Nominating Committee, add Mr. Crawford as a member of the Finance Committee, and remove Dr. Embree from the Nominating Committee**.

- *2026-27 Board Calendar* – **The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026-27 Board Meeting Calendar, as presented**.

- **Finance Committee**
  - *May Finance Report* – Ms. Persenaire reviewed the May Finance Report, noting that the projected deficit remains below $100,000 after depreciation.
  - *2026-27 Budget* – Ms. Persenaire presented the 2026-27 budget for Board approval, noting that the Board reviewed the budget in detail during the May meeting. She added that the new leadership position would be at the Senior Director level and would report to her, with oversight of finances and compliance to provide Ms. Persenaire with more bandwidth for student recruitment/enrollment. The Board discussed contingencies if enrollment did not reach the projected 165. **The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026-27 Budget, as presented.**
  - *Vanguard Account Notification* – Ms. Persenaire informed the Board that Vanguard sent a notification via mail that they were eliminating their legacy investment platform for institutional direct investors and were transitioning the St HOPE account to the Vanguard Brokerage Account platform. She contacted Vanguard via phone to discuss how this impacted our account and, after more than 5 hours on the phone, was unable to get anyone at Vanguard to respond to her questions. She commented that a few of the associates she was transferred to could not even confirm that the school had an account. She expressed concern that Vanguard was not adequately serving the school's needs and wondered if it was time to move the funds to a different company, acknowledging that Vanguard was originally chosen because of their low fees. The Board asked her to keep trying to speak with Vanguard and agreed to discuss moving the funds at an upcoming meeting.
  - *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that, as of the date of the June meeting, 58 students had accepted their seat for the 2026-27 academic year, with approximately 20 applicants submitting their required documents for enrollment, approximately 30 applicants with partial required documents submitted but in regular communication with the school, and less than 10 applicants with minimal communication with the school since the lottery.

- **Accountability Committee**
  - *May Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the May dashboard for discussion, focusing on the results of the MAP Endline exams. Every grade and subject exceeded NWEA's expected RIT growth from Fall to Spring, with several cohorts more than doubling national growth expectations. Expected growth from Fall to Spring in 6th Grade Reading is 3 RIT points. SHLA's mean growth was 8 RIT points, more than doubling the target. Expected growth from Fall to Spring in 7th Grade Reading is 3 points. SHLA's mean growth was 10 RIT points, more than tripling the target (and exceeding the national grade level norm of 215 by one RIT point). Expected growth from Fall to Spring in 8th Grade Reading is 2 RIT points. SHLA's mean growth was 9 RIT points, far exceeding the target and putting our 8$^{th}$ graders above their national peers by 3 RIT points. Expected growth from Fall to Spring in 6th Grade Math is 10 RIT points. SHLA's mean growth was 21 RIT points, more than doubling the target. Expected growth from Fall to Spring in 7th Grade Math is 7 RIT points. SHLA's mean growth was 14 RIT points, doubling the target. Expected growth, from Fall to Spring, in 8th Grade Math is 7 RIT points. SHLA's mean growth was 19 points, nearly tripling the target. All grades and subjects also increased their percent at grade level. In ELA, 6$^{th}$ grade increased from 31% to 34%; 7$^{th}$ grade nearly doubled, from 27% to 51%; and 8$^{th}$ grade nearly doubled, from 34% to 65%. In Math, 6$^{th}$ grade increased more than fivefold, from 9% to 45%; 7$^{th}$ grade from 33% to 56%; and 8$^{th}$ grade nearly doubled, from 34% to 65%.
  - *Principal Evaluation* – Ms. Persenaire presented her reflection on her 2025-26 goals, noting that the Accountability Committee met earlier in the week to review her reflection in depth. Board members did not have any additional questions.
  - *Executive Session* – The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:31 and voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 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 June 18, 2026 at which quorum was present throughout. (June 19, 2026).