

Board of Trustees

Gabrielle Apollon (Vice President)
Lord Crawford
Ankur Dalal
Katie Embree
Maureen Higgins (President)
Mirlande Joachim
Kristopher John (Treasurer)
Lindsey Moschet (Secretary)
Jennifer Ng
Elizabeth Pernick



St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees Board Meeting

MINUTES

July 30, 2026 from 6:30-8:00 pm
Meeting Conducted In-Person at 222 W. 134th Street

• Welcome

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon	Absent (Excused)
Lord Crawford	Absent (Excused)
Ankur Dalal	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Katie Embree	Present
Maureen Higgins	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Mirlande Joachim	Absent (Excused)
Kristopher John	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 June 18th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

• Nominating Committee

- *Community Partnership Subcommittee* – The Board continued the discussion of partnering with EdSolutions to assist with enrollment, particularly community mapping and partnerships with CBOs. After reviewing the proposal, the Board recommended that Ms. Persenaire choose Option 2, with the possibility of adding Option 3 in the future. Ms. Persenaire added that she had been working with Underdog on search engine optimization, as St HOPE was not appearing in Google searches. They recommended Adele from Shakespeare Consulting to assist, who, in just a few weeks, has increased the school's SEO tremendously. Adele conducted a website audit and strongly recommended a website upgrade to better sustain the recruitment work, particularly given that it had been seven years since the last upgrade. **The Board reviewed the proposal from Shakespeare Consulting to redesign the website and voted unanimously to approve the \$36,000 contract.**

• Finance Committee

- *June Finance Report* – Ms. Persenaire reviewed the June Finance Report, noting that this is not the final for the month given that June is the end of the fiscal year and expenses continue to come in through July. The

final student reconciliation also happens in July and it is likely that our projected deficit will continue to shrink given strong student retention, particularly students with IEPs. Ms. Persenaire also responded to a question from the May Board meeting regarding the projected variance between budget and actuals, noting that 12-month staff are paid through July, with these July payments needing to be accrued the prior fiscal year.

- *Audit* – Ms. Persenaire reported that the audit is going well with no reported issues to date.
- *Vanguard Account* – Ms. Persenaire updated the Board on the ongoing issues with access to the Vanguard account. She reported that she again spent hours on the phone with Vanguard to try to re-establish access given they had erroneously removed her. All paperwork was again submitted by mail, which is the only method Vanguard allows, and access has still not been restored. The Board expressed their deep dissatisfaction with Vanguard and agreed that it was likely time to move to a different company. The Board discussed Fidelity and Schwab as options, noting that Fidelity also has brick and mortar branches which could be helpful. Discussion will continue at the August Board meeting.
- *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that, as of the date of the July meeting, 139 applications had been received with 64 accepting their seat for the 2026-27 academic year. Of that 64, 5 are already attending, 26 have submitted all of their enrollment documentation, 23 were in process and 10 have not been in contact since the lottery. Underdog canvassing resumed after a short break and the digital campaign is producing solid leads. The school purchased sandwich boards with QR codes to help increase visibility in the neighborhood. Ms. Persenaire reported that we are currently ahead of our numbers from last year, particularly the number who have fully completed enrollment.

- **Accountability Committee**

- *2026-27 Proposed District-Wide Safety Plan* – Ms. Persenaire presented the 2026-27 draft of the District-Wide Safety Plan for discussion. She reminded the Board that this was a NYSED requirement that started during COVID with updates needing to be incorporated each year. She noted that all changes to the document are in red with the most significant update being the addition of Desha's Law. This requires that schools have a plan for sudden cardiac arrest, including sufficient number of trained staff in CPR and clear information posted about the location of AED machines. The draft will now be posted on the school's website for 30 days for public comment and the Board will vote to approve at the August Board meeting.
- *June Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the June dashboard for discussion, highlighting that the school ended the year with only 11 suspensions, down from 39 last year. She noted that she will present the proposed dashboard format for the 26/27 year at the August meeting, recommending that iReady replace A3K. She noted that iReady has helped the math program better meet student learning needs and she is ready to replace A3K with iReady in ELA. In addition, A3K is not adapting to AI as quickly as the students, which is allowing students to work around the system.
- *Principal Update* – Ms. Persenaire reported that Summer Boost summer school program is in full swing with next week being the last week. It is a wonderful way to help our students who struggle the most to continue to build skills and confidence.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 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 July 30, 2026 at which quorum was present throughout. (July 31, 2026).