

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

August 27, 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
Maureen Higgins	Present
Mirlande Joachim	Absent (Excused)
Kristopher John	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Lindsey Moschet	Present
Jennifer Ng	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Elizabeth Pernick	Absent (Excused)

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal, and Constance Bond, Senior Director, Finance and Compliance

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

- **Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the July 30th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Nominating Committee**

- *Community Partnership Subcommittee* – Dr. Bond updated the Board on progress made through the EdSolutions partnership. She presented the Community Asset Map that EdSolutions developed which details all of the local schools, places of worship, non-profit organizations that work with K-12-age children, community-based organizations that work with different sectors of the Harlem community, local library branches and local businesses that might assist with student recruitment. Dr. Bond discussed the organizations she has already contacted, including those that agreed to post and distribute flyers. She asked members to look through the list and determine if they had direct or indirect contacts at any of the churches/organizations, including family/friends/neighbors. Ms. Persenaire added that she would share access to the Google doc with members so they could directly add information, ensuring that the document remains iterative. Board members discussed potential connections and Dr. Bond and Ms. Persenaire added that the school could offer to present workshops if organizations were interested, with possible topics including navigating the NYC high school process, help ensuring your child receives the IEP and/or

ENL services they are entitled to, etc. Board members would continue to examine the spreadsheet and would input any pertinent information.

- **Finance Committee**

- *Updated June Finance Report* – Dr. Bond reviewed the updated June Finance Report, noting that very few changes occurred as the fiscal year 25-26 wrapped up. The deficit continued to shrink but not substantially.
- *Audit* – Dr. Bond reported that all seems to be on track with the audit with the final presentation to the Board at the September or October meeting.
- *Vanguard Account Next Steps*– Ms. Persenaire updated the Board on the ongoing issues with access to the Vanguard account. She reported that she re-submitted all the paperwork they requested to re-establish her account access but did not hear from them. She called and they said that it is up to the customer to reach out to check if the paperwork was received and all was in order. They then told her that she needed to provide her complete personal social security number, which was contradictory to the information provided by a previous Vanguard agent. She was in the process of completing the paperwork again and would resubmit. As the Board had previously expressed interest in moving the investment account to a different financial institution, Dr. Bond presented current money market rates at Schwab and Fidelity. The Board reiterated that, given the issues with Vanguard, it would be preferable to partner with an institution that had brick and mortar local branches, so either Schwab or Fidelity made sense. The Board discussed and determined that the Finance Committee should take it from here and come back to the Board at the September meeting with their recommendation.
- *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that, as of the date of the August meeting, 153 students were on the class roster, significantly more than this time last year. She noted that 18 of these students still had pending documentation and she did not plan to pull them on ATS until at least one document was received. She added that the goal remained 165 so recruitment would be very active through September, including digital and canvassing, with the push to receive at least 20 more applications over this time period.

- **Accountability Committee**

- *2026-27 Proposed District-Wide Safety Plan* – Ms. Higgins presented the 2026-27 draft of the District-Wide Safety Plan for Board approval, with Dr. Bond noting that it had been posted on the website for 30 days without any comments. **The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026-27 District-Wide Safety Plan, as presented.**
- *2026-27 Professional Development Plan* – Dr. Bond presented the draft of the 2026-27 Professional Development Plan, noting that the biggest change was the addition of the Science of Reading as a PD priority. Adopting Science of Reading strategies across departments is a goal this year, particularly around improving writing and vocabulary, although the work will be primarily focused in the ELA department. The Board asked questions around teacher buy-in and Dr. Bond detailed that teachers from other departments also attended outside PD on the Science of Reading. **The Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026-27 Professional Development Plan, as presented.**
- *Proposed 2026-27 Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the proposed 2026-27 dashboard, detailing that this reflected the Board's ongoing discussion last year that A3K no longer seemed to be the best predictor of state test scores. Ms. Persenaire stated that A3K is not adapting to AI as quickly as the students, which is allowing students to work around the system. Given this, she is proposing that iReady data replace A3K data, with baseline, midline and endline data reported to the Board, similar to NWEA MAP. The Board discussed and agreed with this change.
- *Embargoed ELA and Math State Exam Results* – Ms. Persenaire presented the school's results on the 2026 ELA and Math state exams. As these results are still embargoed as they undergo final data cleaning, these results were projected on the screen only. Results will be discussed in greater detail, including performance of sub-groups and comparison to the district, when the data becomes available.

- *2025-26 NYC Survey Results* – Dr. Bond presented the results from the 2025-26 NYC Survey, noting that the student results, in particular, demonstrated that St HOPE scholars feel safe, feel like they belong, and feel they are academically challenged, in many cases rating the school 30-40 percentage points higher than district and charter peers. The parent results were similarly impressive, with the vast majority being in the high 90s. Of particular note, 100% of parents of children with an IEP agreed that their child received the services their plan called for. The Board congratulated Ms. Persenaire on these impressive results and Ms. Persenaire detailed how these results were being used to help recruit new students.
- *Principal Update* – Ms. Persenaire reported that the 2026-27 school year is ready to launch with teachers returning next week and students on Tuesday, September 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 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 August 27, 2026 at which quorum was present throughout. (August 28, 2026).