

**Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon Absent (Excused)

Ankur Dalal Present (Virtual - Address Provided)

Katie Embree Present

Maureen Higgins Absent (Excused)

Mirlande Joachim Present

Kristopher John Absent (Excused)

 Salone Kapur Present (Virtual - Address Provided)

Lindsey Moschet Absent (Excused)

Jennifer Ng Present (Virtual - Address Provided)

Elizabeth Pernick Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Also present at the meeting: Meghann Persenaire, Principal

**Public Comment**

No requests for public comment were received.

**Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the March 28th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

**Nominating Committee**

Discussion tabled until May when committee chair is able to attend.

**Finance Committee**

* *Draft of 24-25 Budget:* Ms. Persenaire presented the draft of the 2024-25 budget which included two side-by-side budgets differentiated by enrollment, one for the stretch goal of 230 students and the other for the more realistic 200 students. In June the Board will approve one of these budgets based on the number of students anticipated. Both adjust expenses accordingly, mostly related to staffing, with some expenses being fixed. Ms. Persenaire then discussed the proposal to move $80,000 in unspent ARP funds to next year’s budget which will ensure that the budget based on an enrollment of 200 has a surplus. These funds will need to be spent in the first quarter of fiscal year, which can be assured. The Board then discussed that the anticipated 23-24 surplus will be reduced accordingly but will not result in a deficit for the year. **The Board unanimously approved moving $80,000 in ARP funds from the 23-24 budget to the 24-25 budget.**
* *March Finance Report* – Ms. Persenaire presented the March Finance Report for discussion, highlighting three areas where spending is unlikely to reach budgeted amounts – classroom supplies, student software, and staff food and events. This will likely help cushion the surplus with the transfer of the ARP funds. Every purchase will continue to be scrutinized during May and June as the school year comes to an end.
* *Enrollment Committee* – The Board continued the discussion of student enrollment, highlighting recommendations of the Enrollment Committee such as building a relationship with Success and perhaps having interns do the social media posts. Ms. Persenaire reported that she and Ms. Gonzalez are in discussions with a different marketing company and will quickly move to changing providers if they prove to be a better fit and effective at student recruitment. The Committee will be looking at what competitors are doing and learning what else we can do to be competitive.
* *Recruitment and Enrollment –* Ms. Persenaire reported that 117 applications were received by the lottery deadline and all applicants were offered seats. These numbers are very similar to last year, although most of the applications this year are for 6th grade. Conversion rates are higher than last year with 25 accepting the seat compared to 13 last year. To ensure that the school is focusing on enrollment, all 12-month employees will have a group of 15-20 applicants over the summer with whom they will build a relationship in hopes that they will enroll and attend. .

**Accountability Committee**

* *ELA State Exam Recap –* Ms. Persenaire reported that on Tuesday and Wednesday students completed the ELA state exams with make-ups on Thursday and Friday. The transition to computer-based testing was very smooth with no technology issues and a positive vibe in the building. There is no definitive date for when the results will be received.
* *March Dashboard –*Ms. Persenaire presented the March dashboard data. Attendance remained at 90% in March and there were four suspensions, three less than this time last year. A3K data continued to show increases in students considered College and Career Ready in 7th and 8th grade leading up to the state exams, with 8th grade reaching 47%.

**Principal Update**

Ms. Persenaire shared that St HOPE and PS92 came together to write a grant for $2.1 million to renovate the playground that was recently approved. It will be eco-friendly with students having a say on the planning and design. It should be completed by August, 2025. The Board congratulated Ms. Persenaire on this wonderful news.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

I, Katie Embree, do hereby certify that I am duly qualified and interim 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 April 25, 2024 at which quorum was present throughout. (April 26, 2024).