

**St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees**

Board Meeting

***MINUTES***

August 29, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Meeting Conducted In-Person at 222 W. 134th Street

**Board of Trustees**

Gabrielle Apollon (Vice President)

Ankur Dalal

Katie Embree

Maureen Higgins (President)

Mirlande Joachim

Kristopher John (Treasurer)

Salone Kapur

Lindsey Moschet (Secretary)

Jennifer Ng

Elizabeth Pernick

* **Welcome**

Call to Order

Gabrielle Apollon Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Ankur Dalal Absent (Excused)

Katie Embree Absent (Excused)

Maureen Higgins Present (Virtual – Address Provided)

Mirlande Joachim Absent (Excused)

Kristopher John Present

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 July 27th Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

* **Nominating Committee**
  + Ms. Apollon reported that she has reached out to the potential alumni representative and will provide further information at the September meeting.

* **Finance Committee**
  + *July Finance Report* - Ms. Persenaire presented the July Finance Report for discussion, stating that, as the fiscal year has just begun, there is little to report. Ms. Persenaire noted that there had been some savings on staffing due to turnover. The Board commented that the investment account is healthy.
  + *Recruitment and Enrollment –* Ms. Persenaire reported that current enrollment is 192 as of the date of the meeting, which is higher than this time last year. Through canvassing, Underdog has secured a significant number of ELLs, with eight new scholars enrolling the previous week. Ms. Persenaire noted that Leadership Team and the ELL coordinator have really stepped up to ensure the school is serving our ELL population, including providing instructional materials in both Spanish and Arabic.
* **Accountability Committee** 
  + *District Safety Plan–* Ms. Persenaire presented the 2024-25 District Safety Plan, which had been reviewed at the July Board meeting and been shared with the community for 30 days. As there were no public comments during the community review period, the **Board unanimously approved the District Safety Plan as presented**.
  + *Professional Development Calendar –* Ms. Persenaire presented the 2024-25 Professional Development Calendar, noting that, in addition to the regular extended grade team meetings and department meetings, teachers would focus on improving the classroom environment, maximizing co-teaching and using data to improve student outcomes this academic year. **The Board unanimously approved the 2024-25 Professional Development Calendar as presented.**
  + *2024-25 Dashboard –*Ms. Persenaire presented the draft of the 2024-25 Dashboard that reflected the changes discussed at the July Board meeting, including removing interims. The Board discussed that 2024-25 will also serve as a pilot year for using math iReady data as a possible indicator of math growth and achievement. **The Board unanimously approved the draft of the 2024-25 Dashboard as presented**.
  + *NWEA MAP Special Populations –*Ms. Persenaire presented the 2023-24 NWEA MAP results for SwIEPS and ELLs. For the Class of 2026 (6th graders), the class as a whole exceeded the growth targets in ELA and Math by three points. ELLs exceeded the growth targets by one point and SwIEPS missed the target by one point. For the Class of 2025 (7th graders), the class as a whole exceeded the ELA and Math growth targets by four points. ELLs exceeded the growth targets by six points and SwIEPs missed the target by one point. For the Class of 2024 (8th graders), the class as a whole exceeded the ELA and Math growth targets by two points. ELLs exceeded the growth targets by three points and SwIEPs met the growth target. The Board discussed that ELLs are thriving but that SwIEPs were not performing as strongly, particularly in math. Ms. Persenaire stated that Leadership Team and Coaches have already been discussing this trend and working on possible solutions.
  + *Charter Authorizer –*Ms. Persenaire reported that Dr. Bond reached out to the Charter Center to explore options around possibly changing the charter authorizer, per the Board’s July request. She was informed that there was a one-year window a few years ago but that the option is no longer available.
* **Principal Update**
  + Ms. Persenaire reported that she had just wrapped up the Family Fair before the Board meeting and that it was a tremendous success with most new families attending. She also noted that New Student Orientation was also well-attended, setting up the year for success. She added that 20 of 26 staff members were returning this year, contributing further to the positive environment as the year gets underway.
* **Executive Session**
  + The Board voted at 7:10 to enter Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

I, Salone Kapur, 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 29, 2024 at which quorum was present throughout. (August 30, 2024).