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

St HOPE Leadership Academy Board of Trustees

Board Meeting

MINUTES

November 20, 2025 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	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Ankur Dalal	Absent (Excused)
Katie Embree	Present
Maureen Higgins	Present
Mirlande Joachim	Present
Kristopher John	Absent (Excused)
Salone Kapur	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Lindsey Moschet	Present (Virtual – Address Provided)
Jennifer Ng	Absent (Excused)
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 October 23rd Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

- **Finance Committee**
  - *October Finance Report* - Ms. Persenaire presented the October Finance Report for discussion, noting that there were no major changes since the September report.
  - *HARLEM Scholarship* – The Board continued the discussion from the October meeting on whether the college scholarships should be awarded this year given the projected budget deficit. Each year, the Board typically awards four $10,000 HARLEM scholarships and one $5,000 Journey scholarship for a total of $45,000. Ms. Persenaire noted that Dr. Bond would take over the management of the scholarship selection process this year given that there is no longer a staff member to lead the process. She also noted that two alumni have already approached her asking when the application would launch. Board members debated the budget impact while weighing the importance of the scholarship for the school's alumni. Members determined that the scholarship applications should launch as normal with a decision on the number of scholarships to award made at a later date, based on the quality of the applicant pool.
  - *Recruitment and Enrollment* – Ms. Persenaire reported that 2026 recruitment is well underway with digital ads launching this past month. She also noted that she has fully taken over all recruitment efforts with the

staff member who led it last year transitioning to an operations role. Recent efforts actually resulted in the enrollment of a new student who wanted to begin at the school right away.

- **Accountability Committee**
  - *Board Retreat* – Ms. Persenaire reminded the Board that there will be a retreat held on Saturday, January 24th from 9 am to 12 pm.
  - *October Dashboard* – Ms. Persenaire presented the October dashboard for discussion, noting that there have been no suspensions to date this school year, putting the school on track to meet the goal of reducing suspensions. Ms. Persenaire also noted that A3K numbers are encouraging, with 6th graders getting to know the program.
  - *Charter Renewal* – Ms. Persenaire reported that the charter renewal site visit is scheduled for December 9th, but there are no further details yet on when the authorizer will meet with the Board or conduct the public hearing. It is possible that the authorizer no longer meets with the Board as part of the renewal process - Ms. Persenaire is checking with other schools to confirm.
  - *NWEA MAP Baseline* **–** Ms. Persenaire presented the 2025-26 NWEA Baseline results for discussion. 7th and 8th grade ELA and math results show these cohorts appear to be on track to perform well with very little summer slide. 6th grade math shows that our incoming students are performing significantly below grade level norms, which is very typical. 6th grade ELA is interesting because most are performing significantly below grade level but about a third are actually at or above grade level.
  - *2025-26 Principal Goals* – Ms. Persenaire presented her goals for the 2025-26 year, including goals for driving student academic growth, strong fiscal management, and improving recruitment/enrollment. Ms. Persenaire will also focus on reducing the suspension rate by 10% and improving attendance, describing these efforts in detail. Efforts include additional behavior supports and tiered interventions to reduce suspensions, with more individualized student/family plans to reduce chronic absenteeism.

- **Principal Update**
  - Ms. Persenaire reported that Parent-Teacher Conferences went very well with upwards of 75% of parents participating. The school offered both in-person and virtual options to ensure that parents had multiple ways to attend.

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 November 20, 2025 at which quorum was present throughout. (November 21, 2025).