



Promise Academy Charter School

A partner of



**Harlem Children's
ZONE**

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Upper Elementary School

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Shakira Petit

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Marquitta T. Speller

High School

Principal

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AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, May 21st, 2014

at

The Harlem Children's Zone

245 West 129th Street

New York, NY 10027

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. Overall Updates
 - i. Promise Academy Lottery (*Marilyn Joseph*)
 - ii. Early Childhood Transition (*Tonya White/Sheryl Ragland*)
- III. Resolution: Anne Williams-Isom, Board Trustee (*Geoff Canada*)
- IV. Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*Tonya White*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Achil Petit*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Shakira Petit*)
 - iv. High School (*Marquitta Speller*)
- V. Financial Report (*Alpha Conteh*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 29th, 2014

245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Stan Druckenmiller, Ken Langone, Willie Mae Lewis, Alfonso Wyatt (via phone), Candice Ashby, Shana Brodnax, Alpha Conteh, Tracey Costello, Kevin Dougherty, Kathleen Fernald, Tiffany Fountain, Marlene Fox, Michelle Germaine, Betina Jean-Louis, Marilyn Joseph, George Khaldun, Mindy Miller, Sharleen Morris, Steve Nisbett, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Asif Padela, Achil Petit, Shakira Petit, Conrad Pinnock, Sheryl Ragland, Susan Rydz, Lauren Scopaz, Kate Shoemaker, Marquitta Speller, Tonya White, Bessie Wilkerson, Anne Williams-Isom, and Adam Zalisk

Acceptance of Minutes (Stan Druckenmiller)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am and a motion was called to approve the meeting minutes from March 19, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

Pre-Kindergarten (Kate Shoemaker/Geoffrey Canada)

When the NY State Legislature and Governor Cuomo completed the budget in late March, they enacted a number of policy changes that affect charter schools.

Charter schools cannot be charged rent for co-locating in public school buildings as was proposed. Charter schools that have a co-location in place cannot have it revoked. And charter schools that are expanding or new are allowed to apply for space from the city.

Charter schools can now also offer pre-kindergarten. Promise Academy is currently considering whether or not to incorporate pre-kindergarten.

There is also an increase in charter school per-pupil funding, which had been frozen for three years. Increases will begin for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The NYC Comptroller is authorized to conduct fiscal audits of NYC charter schools, and the New York State Comptroller is authorized to conduct fiscal audits of charter schools located in the rest of the state. Charter schools are now deemed to be political subdivisions.

Board Resolution Safety Plan (Sharleen Morris)

A motion was called to approve, by written consent, a resolution for Safety Plans for the 35 East 125th Street and 245 West 129th Street locations. The motion was approved.

Charter Renewal Visit (Sharleen Morris)

Promise Academy has completed the internal process with the final board interview between the Charter School Office, Geoffrey Canada and Mitchell Kurz. After the three-day visit, the DOE highlighted some areas, including the success of the high school as shown by its graduation rates and progress reports. They also noticed significant alignment with all four schools in one building, and an increased consistency around school culture and school instruction. Promise Academy is confident that the DOE is going to make a full renewal recommendation on May 19th to the Board of Regents.

HCZ Promise Academy I Lower Elementary PAILE (Tonya White)

Attendance for the month of March was at 96%, an increase from the winter months.

Out of 30 struggling readers, 24 students have moved up in reading levels.

The students enjoyed trips in March to the NY Historical Society, the American Museum of Natural History and the Harlem Armory, where students engaged in soccer, basketball and rock climbing.

For the charter renewal visit, the DOE visited eight of the lower elementary classrooms, asking Principals to think about three questions: What's the evidence of learning? What feedback would you give to the teacher? What do you see as an alignment to our academic mission here at Promise Academy? Principals found the exercise helpful in their larger conversations with DOE staff.

Our March Madness Parent Workshop featured a combination of fitness and nutrition activities. Physical education teacher Matthew Pink gave a presentation on what parents could do to help their children engage in physical fitness at home. Chef Andrew Benson and his team spoke about nutrition, and Healthy Harlem staff spoke on what services they provide at the schools and how parents could help their children.

Parent-teacher conferences were last week, with 208 parents attending.

The school's version of "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" was performed by students at school and at the Schomberg Library.

HCZ Promise Academy I Upper Elementary PAIUE (Achil Petit)

Attendance was at 96% for the month of March due to student incentives.

The book of the month was "Amazing Grace," which helped students focus on the character traits "perseverance" and "determination." Students discussed the different ways to push through difficult times.

Miss Teen USA Cassidy Wolf spoke to the girls group in upper elementary about being stalked on the Internet and discussed how students should be mindful of what they post online.

Out of 100 parents, 85 attended the school's Top Performers breakfast.

The school has partnered with the Morgan Library and Museum, where students learned how to create their own books. Out of 37 students who participated with the museum, one of the upper

elementary students, Jaden Gomez, was chosen for his book "Crab Shack," which was displayed at the Morgan Library for two weeks.

The charter renewal visit went well and discussions with the DOE were positive and informative.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School PAIMS (Shakira Petit)

Attendance in March was at 96% due to incentives to get students back on track after the difficult winter weather.

During the charter renewal process, the DOE remarked that they were excited about the interconnectedness of the content area such as alignments between science and ELA, and ELA with history. The DOE was also very pleased that ELA strategies were being taught in science, history and other classes. It was suggested by DOE staff that the school could use second staff members in the classrooms a bit more strategically. The school has since reassigned their teacher's assistants accordingly.

To give the students a break after the rigor of testing, staff took students to a comedy show downtown, which taught them improv skills and communication skills. Middle school students are now teaching younger Promise students how to be humorous without being offensive.

Staff members took thirty of the top honor roll students who have a GPA of 90 or above to see the movie "Divergent". The students have committed to reading the book series together.

The school celebrated spirit week with lower elementary. Students took photographs and PAILE students were happy to see their older brothers and sisters come down to support them just before the State exams.

Upper elementary students have partnered with the middle school to do a reading group once a week.

The school hosted a dinner for the parents of the 80 honor roll students who have a GPA of 80% or above.

Harvard poetry professor Elisa New and Emmy-winning documentarian David Grubin recently visited to film Promise Middle School students, along with the Upper Elementary and High School students, reading and discussing Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem." New is working with Grubin on a PBS pilot for a potential new program about American poetry. The first half-hour episode will focus on the poem "Harlem," interspersing Promise students' reading of the poem and reflection on its meaning with similar interpretations from President Clinton and poet Sonia Sanchez, both of whom were also interviewed for the program.

The middle school hosted a parent special education workshop with Susan Rydz and Sharleen Morris to get parents more comfortable with talking about special education.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School PAIHS (Marquitta Speller)

Attendance was at 94% for the month of March.

Staff member and Harvard alum Adam Zalisk connected the high school with Harvard University. The students who participated are in the Bard Early College program and worked with Harvard students in a poetry reading and literary discussion.

Students went on a college tour in Pennsylvania during the State exams for grades three to eight. They visited the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel, Temple University and also attended a few cultural events.

High school students are preparing to take the old Regents exam in geometry (2005 Learning Standards) in addition to the new Common Core Regents exam in geometry of which the higher score will be used for their transcripts.

Ninth graders are taking the US history & government, living environment and integrated algebra Regents exams. Tenth graders are taking global history, geometry and earth science. The school is confident that students will do well on all exams.

The school is preparing for its next cohort of Bard Early College students, and working with the middle school to schedule a parent night.

Student Presentation (Tonya White)

PAILE students performed a segment from their recent "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" performance.

Financial Report (Alpha Conteh)

A draft of the PAI 990 Form, which is used by non-profits to provide mandatory information to the Internal Revenue Service, was presented to the Board. The form is due for final submission by May 15th.

As of March 2014, PAI enrollment numbers are down by five students compared to the previous month. We are still above the budgeted enrollment by three students. Total revenue is over budget by \$200,000, and expenses are under budget by \$300,000, which results in a \$500,000 bottom line improvement.

In projecting the activities for the remaining three months, revenues variance increases by \$100,000 to \$300,000. Expenses are projected to be under budget by \$100,000, which is eliminating some of the positive variances due to the effect of the OTPS expenses. The bottom line is that PAI will still have a good position of \$400,000 below budget at the end of the year.

**HCZ PROMISE ACADEMY I
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 21, 2014**

Trustee for Election

Anne Williams-Isom, *Trustee*

HCZ Promise Academy I

April 2014 Attendance Report

HCZ PAI Lower Elementary School				HCZ PAI Upper Elementary School			
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	
4/1	7	292	98%	2	282	99%	
4/2	14	292	95%	2	282	99%	
4/3	11	292	96%	4	282	99%	
4/4	30	292	90%	28	282	90%	
4/7	23	292	92%	18	282	94%	
4/8	16	292	95%	15	282	95%	
4/9	11	291	96%	10	282	96%	
4/10	14	291	95%	9	282	97%	
4/11	18	291	94%	10	282	96%	
4/14	41	291	86%	40	282	86%	
4/15	31	291	89%	24	282	91%	
4/16	29	291	90%	21	282	93%	
4/17	32	291	89%	29	282	90%	
4/22	31	291	89%	22	282	92%	
4/23	24	291	92%	18	282	94%	
4/24	11	291	96%	4	282	99%	
4/25	33	291	89%	11	282	96%	
4/28	5	291	98%	11	282	96%	
4/29	6	291	98%	11	282	96%	
4/30	13	291	96%	3	282	99%	
Average	20	291	93%	15	282	95%	

HCZ Promise Academy I April 2014 Attendance Report

HCZ PAI Middle School				HCZ PAI High School			
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	
4/1	4	242	98%	7	118	94%	
4/2	3	242	99%	7	118	94%	
4/3	5	242	98%	6	118	95%	
4/4	29	242	88%	66	118	44%	
4/7	13	242	95%	13	118	89%	
4/8	17	242	93%	8	118	93%	
4/9	7	242	97%	4	118	97%	
4/10	17	242	93%	3	118	97%	
4/11	9	242	96%	4	118	97%	
4/14	28	242	88%	17	118	86%	
4/15	22	242	91%	13	118	89%	
4/16	16	242	93%	6	118	95%	
4/17	28	242	88%	13	118	89%	
4/22	23	242	90%	16	118	86%	
4/23	14	242	94%	7	118	94%	
4/24	14	242	94%	7	118	94%	
4/25	16	242	93%	6	118	95%	
4/28	12	242	95%	6	118	95%	
4/29	8	242	97%	5	118	96%	
4/30	3	242	99%	12	118	90%	
Average	14	242	94%	11	118	90%	



Promise Academy I

FY14 April YTD Budget Report

\$ millions

	Actual	Budget	Inc/(Dec)	Full Year Budget	Full Year Projection	Inc/(Dec)
Enrollment	933	931	2	933	933	2
Grades	K - 10	K - 10		K - 10	K - 10	
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 12.0	\$ 11.8	0.2	\$ 14.1	\$ 14.4	0.3
Expenditures:						
Salaries	8.3	8.4	(0.1)	10.3	10.2	(0.1)
Benefits	2.4	2.4	-	3.0	3.0	0.0
OTPS	2.2	2.6	(0.4)	3.1	3.0	(0.1)
Total Expenditure	12.9	13.4	(0.5)	16.4	16.2	(0.2)
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.9	\$ 1.6	\$ (0.7)	\$ 2.3	\$ 1.8	\$ (0.5)
<i>per student (whole \$)</i>	\$ 965	\$ 1,719		\$ 2,469	\$ 1,938	