



Promise Academy Charter School

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**Harlem Children's
ZONE**

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Tonya L. White
**Principal
Lower Elementary School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 646.556.6290

Joseph Cordero
**Principal
Upper Elementary School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 646.556.6271

Kashif Hameed
**Principal
Middle School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 646.556.6273

Marquitta T. Speller
**Principal
High School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 646.556.6275

AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, December 17th, 2014

at

The Harlem Children's Zone
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. Superintendent's Updates (*Achil Petit*)
- III. Promise Academy Alumni/College Success Office Presentation
(*Marquitta Speller*)
- IV. Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*Tonya White*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Joseph Cordero*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Kashif Hameed*)
 - iv. High School (*Marquitta Speller*)
- V. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 25th, 2014

245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Stan Druckenmiller, Mitch Kurz, Ken Langone, Aisha Tomlinson, Anne Williams-Isom, Candice Ashby, Alpha Conteh, Joseph Cordero, Kevin Dougherty, Tiffany Fountain, Marlene Fox, Michelle Germaine, Debbie Gonzalez, Kashif Hameed, Jim Hutter, Betina Jean-Louis, Jawana Johnson, Marilyn Joseph, George Khaldun, Debbie Kim, Latasha Morgan, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Asif Padela, Achil Petit, Conrad Pinnock, Sheryl Ragland, Susan Rydz, Kate Shoemaker, Lauren Scopaz, Debra Sostre, Marquitta Speller, Monalisa Tolbert, Tonya White, Bessie Wilkerson, 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 October 29, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Updates (Achil Petit)

Dr. Petit and his team continue to improve ELA instruction by using professional development for teachers with topics that include assessment grading, data analysis, teaching for the extended response writing, video study and unit planning.

Anne Williams-Isom added that HCZ held a Thanksgiving celebration for the St. Nicholas community on November 24th, with 307 families attending. Turkeys were also given to many of the families with students in Promise Academy just before Thanksgiving, with 636 families attending the giveaway event.

Ms. Williams-Isom also mentioned that on November 21st, 150 Promise II students performed in a gospel concert at the school.

Strengthening Harlem Gems and K-2

(Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Dr. Betina Jean-Louis, Marilyn Joseph, Tonya White & Sheryl Ragland)

Kwame Owusu-Kesse spoke about the deepening of work across the pipeline, particularly in Early Childhood programs where the focus is on school readiness within a changing environment. One of the main tools used to identify school readiness is the Bracken, an individual cognitive test designed for children who are in pre-Kindergarten through second grade.

Dr. Jean-Louis gave a brief summary of the basic concept scale, a normed instrument that assesses the development of the basic building blocks of learning (such as colors, letters, numbers, sizes and shapes). Dr. Jean-Louis also reported that 100% of children in HCZ pre-

kindergarten programs reach average to high level towards the end of the year. By the end of last year, 75% of children were advanced or very advanced, much higher than the 16% who would have been expected to be in these levels according to national norms.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse continued by reporting that staff members looked at Gems' students' performance on the Bracken, which showed them the following: In looking at the school readiness indicator, it seemed that Gems students scored substantially higher than their peers nationally. The same is true for the total test component but just slightly higher than the national average compared to their cohort. Although staff members generally discuss the school readiness subtest, the analysis shows that the total test correlates more highly with 3rd grade state test performance than the school readiness subtest does. The total test, most specifically scoring higher than the 80th percentile on total test, seems like a more appropriate benchmark, given the more stringent academic expectations resulting from the Common Core. Staff continues to review the data for confirmation of this hypothesis.

The partnership with Promise Academy and the HCZ pipeline programs has been very strategic in sharing data, professional development, and best practices. Marilyn Joseph spoke about the Gems work in connecting and following the lead of the superintendent. Last year, there was a strong look at literacy and that work is being continued with K-2 as well as observations, assessments, transition techniques and other work. There has also been a strong effort to look at parents as first teachers resulting in an increase in home packets and an effort to individualize the home packets.

PAI lower elementary is working closely with PAII lower elementary by aligning curriculums and sharing professional development best practices. The school is working with teachers and teacher's assistants around literacy and math. PAILE has also looked at data to determine the next steps in the classroom. Benchmarks for reading levels at the end of the year have been increased and have changed in each grade to match the highest standards of the Common Core. There is a strong emphasis on reading and writing. A Story of Units developed by EngageNY and test preparation has been further implemented.

HCZ Promise Academy I Lower Elementary School PAILE (Tonya White)

Attendance for the month of October was at 96%. Incentives were used to increase attendance on Halloween including students being allowed to come in as their favorite book character.

The school held a workshop called "Literacy Learning at Home," which taught parents how to work with their children to improve literacy. The event was well attended.

Lower elementary held its parent/teacher conference with 248 parents attending.

The school's awards assembly will take place on November 25th at 9:30 AM, and will recognize the school's high achievers.

On November 24th, lower elementary students went on a field trip to Green Meadows Farm.

Staff professional development focused on vocabulary and what it means for young people.

The school held an appreciation luncheon for teachers and teacher's assistants to thank them for their hard work.

Kindergarten level kids are focusing on writing conventions. First- and second-graders are focusing on informational writing.

Kindergarten kids are spending more time reading books and first- and second-graders are focusing on the differing aspects of fiction versus non-fiction.

In math, kindergarten level students are focusing on geometry - mainly three-dimensional shapes. First- and second-graders are working on place values.

HCZ Promise Academy I Upper Elementary School PAIUE (Joseph Cordero)

Attendance was at 97% for the month of October.

The school held its parent/teacher conference with 180 parents showing up. Upper elementary also held an ELA and math night where 100 parents learned about the different strategies and practices they can use with their children at home.

75 students attended a Jazz at Lincoln Center concert.

There were collaborative efforts between ELA, Spanish and art classes. In celebration of the Mexican holiday Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead) the students created arts and crafts and wrote narratives about people who had passed away.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School PAIMS (Kashif Hameed)

Attendance for the month of October was 96%.

Initiatives around student achievement included taking students to Red Lobster to celebrate honor roll achievement.

The middle school is celebrating college week and all of the homeroom classes have been named after colleges. A student vs. faculty basketball game will occur later in the week. The celebrations are incentives to encourage children not to break early for the holidays.

Collaboration with the PAII Middle School continues with alignment of professional development.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School PAIHS (Marquitta Speller)

Attendance was at 95% for the month of October.

The high school is looking at ways to help enhance literacy development with all teachers in all subject areas, collaborating with Penn Literacy and the Bard Early College Program. This is to develop what they do as a practice and to help students transition from high school to college.

Our sophomores just came from a 3-day college tour where Howard University was a big hit. A former Promise student from the class of 2013, who is doing well at Howard, spoke to current Promise students, giving them some insight into life after Promise Academy. The school is also working more closely with the College Success Office (CSO) so that students have more of a personalized plan for college. Beginning in February, juniors will attend workshops in the CSO that will teach them about acclimating to college life, financial aid and other college-related situations.

The school is beginning Regents preparation early and working with PAII high school to align efforts.

The high school is doing its second “data day” of assessments where administrators will meet with all of the teachers to discuss what is going on in the classrooms.

Financial Report (Jim Hutter)

Promise Academy I’s revenue is right on plan at \$5.5 million. Expenses are \$200,000 favorable for the first four months of FY15.

The FY14 financial statements have been audited and filed with DOE on November 1st.

Student Performances (Kevin Dougherty, Sheryl Ragland, Debra Sostre & Asif Padela)

The Gospel Choir performed a song and a dance routine from the larger show they performed in mid-November.

HCZ Promise Academy I

November 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	
11/3	13	292	96%	6	291	98%	
11/5	10	293	97%	4	291	99%	
11/6	14	294	95%	6	291	98%	
11/7	13	294	96%	4	291	99%	
11/10	19	294	94%	4	292	99%	
11/12	13	294	96%	4	292	99%	
11/13	3	294	99%	4	292	99%	
11/14	9	295	97%	8	292	97%	
11/17	23	296	92%	11	292	96%	
11/18	14	296	95%	6	291	98%	
11/19	12	296	96%	5	291	98%	
11/20	12	296	96%	9	291	97%	
11/21	54	296	82%	16	291	95%	
11/24	14	296	95%	8	291	97%	
11/25	16	296	95%	8	291	97%	
11/26	39	296	87%	46	291	84%	
Average	17	295	94%	9	291	97%	

HCZ Promise Academy I

November 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	
11/3	8	240	97%	7	213	97%	
11/5	8	240	97%	6	213	97%	
11/6	2	240	99%	4	213	98%	
11/7	15	240	94%	11	213	95%	
11/10	14	241	94%	7	213	97%	
11/12	10	241	96%	7	212	97%	
11/13	5	240	98%	8	212	96%	
11/14	7	240	97%	10	212	95%	
11/17	11	240	95%	7	212	97%	
11/18	7	240	97%	4	212	98%	
11/19	8	241	97%	12	212	94%	
11/20	6	241	98%	8	212	96%	
11/21	9	243	96%	4	212	98%	
11/24	18	243	93%	7	212	97%	
11/25	8	243	97%	9	212	96%	
11/26	39	243	84%	52	212	75%	
Average	11	241	96%	10	212	95%	



Promise Academy I

FY 2015 November YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual ⁽¹⁾	Inc/(Dec)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	1,034	1,040	6	1,034
Grades	K - 11	K - 11		K - 11
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 6.9	\$ 6.9	\$ -	\$ 16.5
Expenses:				
Salaries	4.2	4.1	(0.1)	10.9
Benefits	1.2	1.2	-	3.2
OTPS	1.4	1.5	0.1	2.9
Total Expenses	<u>6.8</u>	<u>6.8</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17.0</u>
HCZ Contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.4
per student (whole \$)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 435

DOE reimbursement up to 1118 students.

(1) Excludes bonus and "in-kind" contributions.