



Promise Academy I Charter School

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AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, April 19th, 2016

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. Health Center (*Lauren Scopaz*)
- IV. Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*KiKi Walton*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Joseph Cordero*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Kashif Hameed*)
 - iv. High School (*Jawana Johnson*)
- V. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)
- VI. Student Presentation (*Sheryl Ragland/KiKi Walton*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016

245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz, Kenneth Langone, Anne Williams-Isom, Stan Druckenmiller, Arlene Gibson (via phone), Willie Mae Lewis, Alfonso Wyatt, Candice Ashby, Ari Browne, Alpha Conteh, Joseph Cordero, Tracey Costello, Tiffany Fountain, Marlene Fox, Michelle Germaine, Debbie Gonzalez, Kashif Hameed, Jim Hutter, Shondell James, Raychael Jensen, Betina Jean-Louis, Jawana Johnson, Marilyn Joseph, Justin Maker, Mindy Miller, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Asif Padela, Judy Palacios, Achil Petit, Conrad Pinnock, Sheryl Ragland, Susan Rydz, Lauren Scopaz, Marquitta Speller, KiKi Walton, and Tonya White.

Superintendent's Updates (Achil Petit)

Anne Williams-Isom spoke about an HCZ event held on March 12th, sponsored by the Mayor's "Children's Cabinet," which promotes children's safety and well-being. The program holds a series of "Baby Showers" around New York City to promote different themes around child welfare. The theme for the Baby Shower held at HCZ was fatherhood, focusing on the important role of fathers in the lives of children. The first lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray, attended, read with children and met with parents. There were about 500 people, and more than 40 agencies and 150 community-based organizations participated.

Dr. Alfonso Wyatt, who also attended the Baby Shower event, stated that it was wonderful to see so many dads interacting with their children, reaffirming that fathers can and do take a strong role in the rearing of their children.

Superintendent Achil Petit reported that current enrollment was 1,101 for PAI (3 below what was budgeted) and 878 for PAII (11 above what was budgeted). Dr. Petit will continue to monitor the enrollment numbers as we progress through the school year.

Dr. Petit talked briefly about the test preparations that are underway for the State exams beginning on April 5th, 2016.

In February, the superintendent joined the CEO and the HCZ Deputy of Strategy and Special Projects, Raychael Jensen in visiting the Uncommon Charter School in Brownsville to share best practices. Uncommon, like Promise Academy I and II, is also in partnership with the Relay/GSE program.

In January, the New York City Department of Education sent a memo out to school leaders regarding changes in the NYS exams. One of the most significant changes is that the exam will be untimed.

HCZ Promise Academy I Lower Elementary School PAILE (KiKi Walton)

Attendance was at 95% for the month of January and 93% for the month of February. The school continues to engage parents and students, using different incentives to get them to be present consistently and on time.

Kindergarten students are reading non-fiction, learning about themselves and the world around them. In first-grade, students are focusing on fluency and strategies on learning challenging words. Second-graders are in book clubs and looking at the characteristics to support predictions.

Kindergarten students visited the Whitney Museum in February, with a focus on artists as storytellers. Students were asked to look at the pictures and contemplate what story the artist was trying to convey. First-graders went to the Museum of Natural History and saw various animal exhibits. Second-graders went to the public library downtown and were introduced to the history of the library. The librarian performed a read-aloud and the students were given a tour.

Students celebrated Black History Month in February by participating in a door-decorating competition. KPMG staff members came for another visit and volunteered to do a read-aloud with the kids.

Spirit week allowed children to come in dressed up as an African American notable figure. Some children dressed up as George Washington Carver and President Obama.

In February, the school invited fathers to come and celebrate. The lower elementary also held a breakfast for grandparents to celebrate their consistent support in the lives of their grandchildren.

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

Attendance was at 97% for the month of January and 96% for the month of February. The school continues to meet with parents to address any attendance concerns.

The school's GLAM group (Girls Learning to Achieve More) held two events: In one event, students created dreamcatchers as a way to keep out negativity and maintain positive thoughts. In the second event, GLAM students engaged in the My Intent Project, created by Chris Pan, which uses jewelry with printed words to encourage people to focus on positive concepts. The students made bracelets with the following words: "beautiful," "family," "strong," and "gratitude."

Students read "Tar Beach" by Faith Ringgold to focus on the character trait "creativity," and "Henry's Freedom Box" by Ellen Levine, which focused on "courage."

The students celebrated the 100th day of school by engaging in different activities such as 100 seconds of jumping rope, dance, jumping jacks and made 100 snowflakes.

To celebrate Black History Month, students focused on the Civil Rights movement and read famous poems by authors such as Langston Hughes and wrote letters on the importance of Black History Month. Students also visited Jazz at Lincoln-Center, where they learned about jazz and the Harlem Renaissance.

Upper elementary students went to see Beauty and the Beast downtown. The school also held its 2nd Annual all-school honor roll lunch. Honor roll students from each school came together and the high school students talked about how they were able to maintain themselves on the honor roll throughout the years.

The school held a Common Core night with 73 parents attending. Staff leaders talked about the test and their 4T program, Training Terrific Test Takers. As an incentive, students receive stickers and the opportunity to rise to MVP level when they receive a score higher than 80 on any of the quizzes.

The staff held a special education breakfast with 23 parents attending. Special education students presented on the things they are grateful for.

The upper elementary held a parent/teacher conference with 174 parents attending. Teachers had an opportunity to report to parents on their children's progress.

The school held a top performer breakfast for honor roll students with 123 parents attending. Additionally, the school honored the fathers of upper elementary students at an event and held a grandparents breakfast. The events were well attended.

The school held its annual Glitter Ball event where fathers dance with their daughters. The event was very successful with 104 fathers attending.

Students have created a Hydroponic Garden, which is in the third-floor library. The first crop of lettuce is almost ready to be harvested.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School PAIMS (Kashif Hameed)

Attendance was at 94% for the month of January and at 95% for the month of February. The school continues to meet with parents to get students to school on time.

The middle school held a Scholar Recognition Ceremony, where scholars were recognized for making achievements in different grade levels and content areas.

The school held a Jazz concert for band students at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

The school had its second Dinner with Dads event, where fathers played basketball with staff members and had dinner afterwards.

Students engaged in a regional math competition called "Math Counts." One of the seventh-grade students received an award, placing seventh out of 200 students in the competition.

A group of students from Harvard called Kuumba visited the school. Kuumba celebrates African creativity and spirituality through singing and spoken word poetry.

In preparation for the State exams, school leaders are pushing into classes and engaging in small group instruction. Staff members are also working one-on-one with students who have difficulties in understanding particular concepts.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School PAIHS (Jawana Johnson)

Attendance was at 95% for the month of January and 93% for February. The school is being vigilant in working with the guidance team to ensure that absence is at a minimum the day after trips occur.

High school students are currently waiting for college responses. Approximately 90% of seniors have been accepted to more than 137 colleges and universities across the country. High school students received several scholarships, including two full scholarships to Bard College.

At the close of the fall term, more than half of the 85 high school students in the Bard Early College Program had achieved a minimum of eight college credits with over 20 students achieving 24 or more credits.

Staff members have begun the next phase of the college acceptance process in guiding the students through reviewing their award practices and working with HCZ's College Success Office (CSO) to help students look at their financing options. School leaders are also working with the Development Department to use partnerships with different organizations to support students.

Juniors attended their first college fair. The school held its first Junior college night, hosting CSO workshops to help 11th-graders to start making decisions about college. School leaders are working with PAI's sister school, Promise Academy II, to combine efforts in a joint college tour. The CSO team has been helpful in preparing high school seniors with the transition to college.

School leaders are working with the Development team to present opportunities for the rising seniors (class of 2017). School leaders are also working with sophomore students as they complete their Regents a year early.

Honor roll students were taken to see the Greek tragedy "Medea." Students also saw the movie "Creed."

To celebrate Black History Month, the students held an assembly of poetry, music and dramatic readings where both staff and students participated. The theme was "performance with a purpose," and students explored themes of historical significance such as the Harlem Renaissance and gospel music. Performers also looked at the transition of black history through performance including reading an excerpt from the play, "A Raisin in the Sun." The school also held an art expo, which occurred in conjunction with the Black History month assembly.

Guest speaker Darryl "D.M.C." Matthews McDaniels, talked to students about staying focused on academics. McDaniels, a musician and one of the pioneers of hip-hop culture, shared his compelling story with the students.

The Cornell Center for Material Science visited and partnered with our chemistry class. The school assisted them in piloting a new lab sequence that they will package to teachers across the country.

The girls varsity basketball team had a great season. The boys varsity basketball team is currently the regional champions.

Financial Report (Jim Hutter)

Jim Hutter covered Promise Academy I's financial report through eight months. PAI is three students below the budget from an enrollment standpoint; however, we are on target for revenue. Expenses are \$100,000 favorable versus the budget. The HCZ contribution is at \$700,000 which is slightly favorable versus the budget.

In February, the OMB audit and the Tax 990 Form were filed with the Office of Management Budget and the IRS respectively.

HCZ Promise Academy I

March 2016 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	
3/1	17	290	94%	13	296	96%	
3/2	16	290	94%	6	296	98%	
3/3	8	290	97%	9	296	97%	
3/4	22	290	92%	9	296	97%	
3/7	10	290	97%	11	296	96%	
3/8	9	290	97%	7	296	98%	
3/9	14	290	95%	7	296	98%	
3/10	20	290	93%	4	296	99%	
3/11	11	290	96%	5	295	98%	
3/14	17	290	94%	13	295	96%	
3/15	25	290	91%	11	295	96%	
3/16	15	290	95%	12	295	96%	
3/17	10	290	97%	10	295	97%	
3/18	12	289	96%	7	295	98%	
3/21	16	289	94%	12	296	96%	
3/22	9	289	97%	6	296	98%	
3/23	9	289	97%	6	296	98%	
3/24	15	289	95%	7	295	98%	
3/28	26	289	91%	17	295	94%	
3/29	22	289	92%	11	295	96%	
3/30	10	289	97%	11	295	96%	
3/31	15	289	95%	8	295	97%	
Average	15	290	95%	9	296	97%	

HCZ Promise Academy I

March 2016 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	
3/1	9	257	96%	13	258	95%	
3/2	7	257	97%	9	258	97%	
3/3	6	257	98%	17	258	93%	
3/4	12	257	95%	19	258	93%	
3/7	9	257	96%	17	258	93%	
3/8	6	257	98%	10	258	96%	
3/9	9	257	96%	9	258	97%	
3/10	8	257	97%	7	258	97%	
3/11	5	257	98%	18	258	93%	
3/14	11	257	96%	23	258	91%	
3/15	15	257	94%	6	258	98%	
3/16	11	257	96%	14	258	95%	
3/17	8	257	97%	18	258	93%	
3/18	10	257	96%	15	258	94%	
3/21	9	257	96%	10	258	96%	
3/22	6	257	98%	6	258	98%	
3/23	6	257	98%	9	258	97%	
3/24	13	257	95%	12	258	95%	
3/28	13	257	95%	28	258	89%	
3/29	6	257	98%	9	258	97%	
3/30	4	257	98%	14	257	95%	
3/31	3	257	99%	14	257	95%	
Average	8	257	97%	14	258	95%	

Promise Academy I

FY 2016 March YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual ⁽¹⁾	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	1,104	1,097	(7)	1,104
Grades	K - 12	K - 12		K - 12
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 13.7	\$ 13.8	\$ 0.1	\$ 18.2
Expenses:				
Salaries	8.5	8.3	0.2	11.6
Benefits	3.1	3.2	(0.1)	4.1
OTPS	2.9	2.9	-	3.7
Total Expenses	14.5	14.4	0.1	19.4
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.8	\$ 0.6	\$ 0.2	\$ 1.2
per student (whole \$)	\$ 725	\$ 547	\$ 178	\$ 1,087

DOE reimbursement up to 1250 students.

(1) Excludes bonus, growth fund, occupancy and "in-kind" contributions.

Budget amounts have been adjusted to better reflect anticipated 2016 activity.