



# Promise Academy I Charter School

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**Kashif Hameed  
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**Jawana Johnson  
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## AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

at

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

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. CEO Report (*Anne Williams-Isom*)
- III. Superintendent's Updates (*Achil Petit*)
- 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*)

## **The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School**

### **Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**245 West 129th Street**

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

#### **CEO's Report (Anne Williams-Isom)**

Anne Williams-Isom asked Geoffrey Canada to speak about Governor Cuomo's task force on the Common Core. Geoffrey Canada explained that there was a report submitted to the Governor. The Common Core State Standards will ultimately be re-written by a group of educators.

Ms. Williams-Isom also mentioned that the U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, came to visit on December 3rd. He spent time with Mr. Canada and Ms. Williams-Isom and met with 70 teachers and about several community members. Duncan said that he would like to come back for another visit.

There will be an event held on January 14, 2016 to honor local police officers.

#### **Superintendent's Update (Achil Petit)**

The superintendent reported that current enrollment was 1,124 for PAI (20 above what was budgeted) and 890 for PAII (23 above what was budgeted). Dr. Petit will continue to monitor the enrollment numbers as we progress through the school year.

Dr. Petit also introduced six PAII middle school students who performed a classical piece for the Board, led by Shelly Bauer, the Director of Arts.

Dr. Petit gave a special thanks to staff members for helping to provide a rigorous academic setting for Promise students and all of their hard work throughout the year.

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

Attendance was at 95% for the month of November. The staff has been receiving guidance from Betina Jean-Louis and her team in order to keep attendance percentages up.

The staff has been focusing on building fluency and automaticity in math for lower elementary students, as they prepare for math challenges in the spring. There is also a focus on building fluency in reading and making sure more time is spent on reading independently.

As a team building exercise, teachers shared what they are grateful for and wrote notes to colleagues thanking them for their support. The staff shared the cards at the holiday celebration.

A few lower elementary students participated in the holiday wrapping, and the holiday celebration with student occurs today.

Next week, the school will hold an award celebration to honor the accomplishments of the students and the parents.

The student's coding assignment was completed in partnership with the Spence School. Students were able to show their work to parents in a luncheon to celebrate the completion of the project.

Volunteers from KPMG visited and read aloud to students.

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

Attendance was at 97% for the month of November.

The school held a math night for parents, who were encouraged to come into the classroom as students to give them an opportunity to see things from their children's point of view.

The school held a special education events called, "Living Gratefully", which focused on ways to support parents of children with special needs. A student with a speech impediment was encouraged to speak at the event. His parent personally thanked the staff.

To emphasize this month's character trait, empathy, students read "Invisible Boy" by Trudy Ludwig. The school's goal is for students to learn 30 different character traits by the end of the school year.

Grandparents were invited to classrooms to read to the students. They were provided with books before the event and staff members gave them strategies on how to read to a whole class and which questions to ask.

Upper elementary's GLAM girls started a pen pal program and are waiting for their responses from Africa.

During the Christmas holiday party, an upper elementary teacher won a trip to the Bahamas.

The school held a scholastic book fair and raised over \$4,000.

The school celebrated its top performers by giving the 112 students honorary crests to wear on their uniforms.

The school's Winter Art Showcase will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> and will exhibit students' paintings, sculptures and collages. The music and dance departments are also putting on a rendition of Spike Lee's, "School Daze."

### **HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School PAIMS (Kashif Hameed)**

Attendance was at 95% for the month of November. Staff members continue to meet with parents to address chronic absence.

The school held a Dinner with Dads event. About 30 fathers visited and played basketball, engaged in team building exercises and had dinner.

Honor roll students received a special recognition ceremony and were awarded certificates. There was also a trip to a restaurant for the 103 honor students, who received 80 or above.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the eighth-grade graduation meeting is scheduled to be held shortly.

The principal and staff are taking a group of male students to Iona College for the first boys group trip. The students will meet some of the college basketball players.

Staff members took a spirit cruise around the Statue of Liberty to encourage team spirit.

The staff meets on a continual basis for ELA and math. A main focus is on small group instruction based on data from benchmarks and classroom observations.

### **HCZ Promise Academy I High School PAIHS (Jawana Johnson)**

Attendance was at 97% for the month of October. The high school has been working as a collaborative team with the College Success Office and the PAI After School program. The team is tackling the college application process with the 54 seniors who are set to graduate next year.

Attendance is at 96% for the month of November. The staff continues to use the attendance team to focus on children with emerging patterns.

The College Committee is continuing to work with seniors in completing their college applications by December 31st. The school held workshops with the College Success Office and Career Services teams to help students with financial aid information, and to address fears and anxiety.

All high school classes are engaging critically with text, using non-fiction across all subjects. The school has also incorporated math labs, to provide additional support to those students who need it as the school continues to prepare for Regents at the end of the year.

Teachers continue to work with the Bard Early College program. The vice president of Bard visited and spoke with staff members about expanding the program looking specifically at accreditation requirements. Staff performed an instructional walk through with PAII, looking at students both in Bard and at those who are not in the program to examine strategies.

Teachers participate in Penn Literacy Network, a college-based course in both PAI and PAII where they are able to earn three college credits. The course wrapped up last week.

Students and staff attended a Night of Moods performance, sponsored by the Development Team, which was a traditional Indian Jazz dance debut. After the event, there was a celebration where everyone sampled Indian food.

In two weeks, the high school dance group will be performing at the Apollo Theatre with the Forces of Nature group, as part of the Kwanzaa.

Students have been asked to consider social justice both personally and globally through Jean Michel Basquiat-inspired artwork.

The high school has implemented an increase in community service efforts. A canned food drive was held and over 600 cans were collected and donated to the Salem Community Center. A coat drive is also underway. Students in grades 9-11 volunteered at a senior center in the Bronx. Seniors participated in holiday gift wrapping and some students are interned in schools with lower grades.

The staff had a holiday gift exchange, which they enjoyed. Staff leaders are engaging in teacher coffee breaks to check in with them and support them with any challenges. The school has also held parent coffee breaks to get feedback from parents. Staff members are working with juniors and seniors as they get ready for college and the challenges that occur.

In the Charter School Athletics Association, the high school girls volleyball team are the city champs. The boys Junior Varsity team made it to the finals and have a game on Saturday.

### **Financial Report (Jim Hutter)**

Jim Hutter covered Promise Academy I's financial report: PAI is 20 students ahead of budget for enrollment. Revenue and expenses are overall on target. Expenses will be monitored over the remaining seven months.

In response to the board's request, the cost of current Promise Academy vendors, were compared to New York City Department of Education-authorized vendors. In many cases, costs were the same. A closer look at the existing process will continue.

Dr. Speller introduced the girls volleyball team, led by their coaches, Simone Summers and Zahida Aminy. The students spoke about their experiences on the volleyball team and what they learned about accountability, confidence, and leadership. The coaches played a slideshow for the Board, of the team at play. The team recently won first place in the CSAA.

Dr. Petit introduced six students from the middle school orchestra led by Ms. Bauer. Ms. Bauer also introduced music teacher Soah Narm, who teaches 55 students across the Promise Schools. The children performed the classical piece "Troika" by Prokofiev.

# HCZ Promise Academy I

## December 2015 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	
12/1	9	292	97%	5	299	98%	
12/2	11	292	96%	8	299	97%	
12/3	16	292	95%	9	299	97%	
12/4	9	292	97%	10	299	97%	
12/7	14	292	95%	7	299	98%	
12/8	16	292	95%	9	299	97%	
12/9	8	292	97%	4	299	99%	
12/10	13	292	96%	8	299	97%	
12/11	16	292	95%	10	299	97%	
12/14	15	292	95%	12	299	96%	
12/15	12	292	96%	5	299	98%	
12/16	11	292	96%	4	299	99%	
12/17	10	292	97%	6	299	98%	
12/18	19	292	93%	9	299	97%	
12/21	16	292	95%	14	299	95%	
12/22	15	292	95%	9	299	97%	
12/23	30	292	90%	21	299	93%	
<b>Average</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>97%</b>	

# HCZ Promise Academy I December 2015 Attendance Report

		HCZ PAJ Middle School			HCZ PAJ High School		
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	
12/1	7	265	97%	1	269	100%	
12/2	10	265	96%	2	269	99%	
12/3	9	265	97%	10	269	96%	
12/4	14	265	95%	10	269	96%	
12/7	16	264	94%	8	269	97%	
12/8	12	264	95%	6	269	98%	
12/9	6	264	98%	9	268	97%	
12/10	13	264	95%	7	268	97%	
12/11	9	264	97%	17	268	94%	
12/14	22	264	92%	12	268	96%	
12/15	16	264	94%	7	268	97%	
12/16	10	264	96%	11	268	96%	
12/17	6	264	98%	13	268	95%	
12/18	15	264	94%	22	268	92%	
12/21	21	264	92%	17	268	94%	
12/22	26	264	90%	22	267	92%	
12/23	46	264	83%	67	267	75%	
<b>Average</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>95%</b>	



## Promise Academy I

### FY 2016 December YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	1,104	1,117	13	1,104
Grades	K - 12	K - 12		K - 12
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 9.1	\$ 9.0	\$ (0.1)	\$ 18.2
Expenses:				
Salaries	5.8	5.6	0.2	11.6
Benefits	2.1	2.1	-	4.1
OTPS	1.8	1.8	-	3.5
Total Expenses	9.7	9.5	0.2	19.2
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.6	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.1	\$ 1.0
per student (whole \$)	\$ 543	\$ 416	\$ 127	\$ 906

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.