



# Promise Academy I Charter School

A partner of



**Harlem Children's  
ZONE**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Geoffrey Canada**  
**Chairman**

**Anne Williams-Isom**  
**President/CEO**

**Mitch Kurz**  
**Secretary & Treasurer**

**Kenneth Langone**  
**Chairman Emeritus**

**Ellenor (Bodie) Brizendine**  
**Stanley Druckenmiller**  
**Denise Fuller**  
**Willie Mae Lewis**  
**Aisha Tomlinson**  
**Alfonso Wyatt**

**Achil Petit**  
**Superintendent**

**Joseph Cordero**  
**Principal**  
**Elementary School**  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Tel 212.360.3232

**Kashif Hameed**  
**Principal**  
**Middle School**  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Tel 212.360.3233

**Zahida Aminy**  
**Principal**  
**High School**  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Tel 212.360.3234

## AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

at

The Harlem Children's Zone  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> 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. Elementary School (*Joseph Cordero*)
  - ii. Middle School (*Kashif Hameed*)
  - iii. High School (*Zahida Aminy*)
- V. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)
- VI. Teacher Presentation (*Achil Petit*)

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

**Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

**245 West 129th Street**

*Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz (via phone), Anne Williams-Isom, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Denise Fuller, Willie Mae Lewis, Aisha Tomlinson, Alfonso Wyatt (via phone), Zahida Aminy, Esther Addo, Sara Alvarado, Candice Ashby, Victor Boadum, Rowland Boateng, Ari Browne, Joseph Cordero, Amy Deal, Kashif Hameed, Jim Hutter, Katherine Hurtado, Shondell James, Justin Maker, Mindy Miller, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Achil Petit, Jessica Rawlins, Susan Rydz, Troy Smith, Toya Stilley and Bessie Wilkerson.*

**Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. and a motion was called to approve the meeting minutes from January 23, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

**CEO Report (Anne Williams-Isom)**

Chief Executive Officer Anne Williams-Isom reported that senior leadership has begun to introduce the HCZ Values to parents and scholars. She and HCZ Chief Operations Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse have been hosting "HCZ Town Hall" staff meetings to talk about the HCZ Values and to give staff a chance to ask questions.

Ms. Williams-Isom also reported that she has connected with Rebecca O'Neill and Stacey Gershkovich from The Robertson Center, and they will continue to have conversations to share best practices.

Ms. Williams-Isom also thanked everybody who came to the Raj Chetty lecture on upward mobility at Promise Academy I on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Williams-Isom, along with Deputy of Special Projects Susan Rydz and Director of Educational Research Bessie Wilkerson, attended a meeting with N.Y. State Senator Brian Benjamin that had been sponsored by the New York City Department of Education.

**Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)**

Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is at 1,128 for Promise Academy I and at 1,016 for Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit also reported that Promise students in grades K-8 are five weeks away from taking ELA state exams.

Every year, the New York City Department of Education honors outstanding teachers across the city with Big Apple Awards. This year, out of 7,000 educators nominated, three Promise Academy teachers were chosen in the second round. Dr. Petit congratulated music teacher Soah Narm and PAII Middle School teachers Christina Di Leo and Davidson Joseph on their nominations.

### **HCZ Promise Academy I Elementary School (Dr. Joseph Cordero)**

The elementary school's attendance was at 94% for January. Due to the half-day on January 11<sup>th</sup> and the frigid weather on January 31<sup>st</sup>, these were the lowest attendance days.

Fifth-grade students took another trip to a taping of the television show Democracy Now, where they watched a live broadcast, met journalists and toured the studio.

Sixty students who read the Harry Potter book series visited the New York Historical Society to see the Harry Potter "The History of Magic" exhibit.

School leaders held a professional development session on January 11<sup>th</sup> focusing on the "4T method" to further prepare students for the upcoming math state exams. A workshop for trauma-informed pedagogy for teachers of grades K-2 was also held, as well as workshops in data analysis for ELA.

Students are performing well in the Accelerated Reader program and are already close to reaching the goal of reading 50,000 books for the school year.

Teaching assistants and teaching fellows have been doing weekly guided reading workshops to help support reading skills in the classroom.

The school held a Black History Month assembly celebrating the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and other civil rights leaders.

A fourth-grade teacher and her students had the opportunity to video-call author April Jones Prince, who writes about history for young readers. Students read one of Prince's books and asked her questions.

The school celebrated the 100th Day of School with activities and decorations in the classrooms and hallways, and students were challenged with one hundred fitness routines.

Fourth-grade students visited the New York Transit Museum to learn about electrical circuits. Also, the school's fifth-grade group Girls Learning to Achieve More (GLAM) held a workshop on healthy relationships.

The education directors are working in the classrooms to ensure that students are prepared for state exams.

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

The middle school's attendance was at 96% for January. The school continues to focus on attendance incentives.

Sixth-grade students read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, which focuses on young survivors of the civil war in Sudan. The students also had a video conference with an actual survivor of the Sudanese Civil War, which the students found very impactful.

Eighth-grade students had the opportunity to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Broadway and meet one of the stars, actor Gbenga Akinnagbe, who played Tom Robinson. Mr. Akinnagbe spoke to the students about his childhood and his time at Brown University.

For Black History Month, inspiring quotes and cultural facts were read over the intercom daily. Students were encouraged to write down the facts and memorize them. Students also did black history projects in their history classes and 18 of the students who received the highest grades on their projects got to visit the United Nations and have lunch with the principal.

Students from Hunter College are doing fieldwork by working in small ELA test preparation groups with students. Afterschool staff, education directors and operations directors are all pushing in to help support students with test preparation.

### **HCZ Promise Academy I High School (Zahida Aminy)**

The high school's attendance was at 95% for February. Staff members continue to work with parents to make sure that students are coming in on time every day.

The school held staff team-building events at Chelsea Piers. Team-building events were also held for students in the gymnasium.

The high school held an honor roll lunch before midwinter recess for 72 scholars.

Students who have met graduation requirements are doing community service twice a week and volunteering with Promise Academy I Elementary and Middle School by assisting teachers in tutoring students and helping them with homework.

High school students will be participating in a showcase on February 28<sup>th</sup> with performances in dance, music, poetry, and spoken word.

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

PAI's enrollment is at 1,128, which is eight students above budget. PAI revenue is \$100,000 favorable versus the budget. PAI is \$800,000 favorable with expenses at \$11.9M. There is no HCZ contribution through six months of FY19.

The Tax Form 990 prepared by Grant Thornton was filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

### **Student Presentation (Shelly Bauer)**

The students of the PAII High School orchestral quartet performed Mozart's "*Divertissement*" - led by music teacher Soah Narm.

# HCZ Promise Academy I February 2019 Attendance Report

	HCZ PAJ Elementary School				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	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present
2/1	78	627	88%	8	255	97%	19	247	92%			
2/4	29	627	95%	7	255	97%	5	247	98%			
2/6	18	626	97%	4	255	98%	9	247	96%			
2/7	11	626	98%	5	255	98%	7	247	97%			
2/8	21	626	97%	7	255	97%	10	247	96%			
2/11	17	626	97%	5	255	98%	18	247	93%			
2/12	41	626	93%	21	255	92%	25	247	90%			
2/13	22	626	96%	6	255	98%	9	247	96%			
2/14	15	626	98%	8	255	97%	8	247	97%			
2/15	22	626	96%	10	255	96%	15	247	94%			
2/25	27	625	96%	6	255	98%	9	247	96%			
2/26	25	625	96%	7	255	97%	9	247	96%			
2/27	28	625	96%	1	255	100%	7	247	97%			
2/28	21	625	97%	2	255	99%	6	247	98%			
<b>Average</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>95%</b>			

## Promise Academy I

### FY 2019 Feb YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	1,120	1,124	4	1,120
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 13.7	\$ 13.8	\$ 0.1	\$ 20.5
Expenses:				
Salaries	8.7	8.1	0.6	13.3
Benefits	2.9	2.7	0.2	4.5
OTPS	2.7	2.6	0.1	4.1
Total Expenses	14.3	13.4	0.9	21.9
Expenses in excess of public funding	0.6	-	0.6	1.4
Contribution Components:				
Private Funding	0.9	0.9	-	1.3
HCZ Contribution	-	-	-	0.1
per student (whole \$)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89

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

FY19 Budget includes PA Blueprint project