



Promise Academy I Charter School

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**Harlem Children's
ZONE**

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Achil Petit
Superintendent

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AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, October 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. Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*KiKi Walton*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Joseph Cordero*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Kashif Hameed*)
 - iv. High School (*Zahida Aminy*)
- IV. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)
- V. Student Presentation (*Zahida Aminy*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 21st, 2016

245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz, Anne Williams-Isom, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Aisha Tomlinson, Zahida Aminy, Candice Ashby, Ashley Blount, Ari Browne, Alpha Conteh, Joseph Cordero, Tracey Costello, Annice Fisher, Tiffany Fountain, Marlene Fox, Michelle Germaine, Debbie Gonzalez, Kashif Hameed, Jim Hutter, Shondell James, Raychael Jensen, Betina Jean-Louis, Marilyn Joseph, Jazmine Lewis, Justin Maker, Mindy Miller, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Judy Palacios, Achil Petit, Sheryl Ragland, Susan Rydz, Lauren Scopaz, Marquitta Speller, KiKi Walton, Bessie Wilkerson, and Tonya White.

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am and a motion was called to approve the meeting minutes from July 19, 2016. The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Updates (Achil Petit)

Superintendent Achil Petit reported that current enrollment for PAI was at 1,144 and 986 for PAII.

Dr. Marquitta Speller introduced the two new high school principals, who both began on July 5, 2016:

Zahida Aminy, principal of the PAI High School, who has been with the organization for seven years is a former science teacher and volleyball coach, and is responsible for helping Promise high school students reach strong science results in Regents exams. She graduated from Stony Brook University with a BA in health sciences and from Hofstra University with a masters in secondary education.

Ashley Blount, principal of the PAII High School, has been with the organization for seven years. She started with HCZ's after school sites as a tutor. She quickly became a star social studies teacher at PAI. Ms. Blount is responsible for helping Promise Academy students achieve high Regents results in US history. She graduated from Montclair State University with a BA in Sociology and her two masters degrees are in educational leadership from Montclair State University and teaching from Columbia University.

Geoffrey Canada welcomed both principals to their new roles.

State Test Results (Bessie Wilkerson/Achil Petit)

Dr. Bessie Wilkerson spoke about state test results, comparing Promise Academy I and II to the district, city, state, and NYC blacks and whites. Dr. Wilkerson also discussed both schools' year-over-year growth percentage for passing students, which was 15% in ELA for PAI and 24% in PAII; and 9% in math for PAI and 10% for PAII. Growth percentage for passing students in both charters exceeded all other comparison groups including NYC whites.

Dr. Wilkerson reported that in math, students at both schools exceeded performance in most comparison groups, with PAI performing better as a whole than all groups with the exception of NYC whites, and with PAII performing better as a whole than all of the regular comparison groups including NYC whites. Both schools outperformed NYS whites in math.

In ELA, PAII as a whole exceeded all comparison groups with the exception of NYC whites. PAI outperformed the district, NYC, NYS and NYC blacks. PAII outperformed NYS whites in ELA.

Dr. Wilkerson also spoke about science results for 4th and 8th graders, comparing PAI and PAII 2015-2016 results to 2014-2015 statewide results.

Dr. Achil Petit showed Promise Academy strategies for ELA over the past two years including the hiring of a recruitment manager to focus solely on attracting talented and high quality teachers and to create a curriculum office to centralize instruction across both schools. Dr. Petit also spoke about the continued improvement efforts for ELA.

Dr. Wilkerson reported the Regents test scores, comparing cohorts of Promise children to 2015 results for NYS whites, NYS blacks and NYS as a whole. Promise high school cohorts are exceeding most comparison groups in the State.

HCZ Promise Academy I Lower Elementary School (KiKi Walton)

Attendance for the month of July was at 85%. The school will continue to focus on ways to improve.

The teachers have been spending time building classroom communities and getting classroom students acclimated to expectations. The school is spending time this month on the character trait "self-discipline."

The school held a back-to-school night for all grades. The Parent Center provided Spanish language translators for families who needed assistance. There were also a number of parents who helped with some of the African dialects for parents who struggled with English. Parents met with teachers and were given "proud parent" T-shirts. The school will continue to work with the Parent Center team to build those relationships.

HCZ Promise Academy I Upper Elementary School (Joseph Cordero)

Attendance for the month of July was at 86%.

The school held a back-to-school assembly in September. Parent attendance was very high.

School leaders and teachers collaborated with the PAI middle school in classroom observations, school culture initiatives and identifying what school leaders want to see in each classroom and incorporating those practices.

The school is running a service learning class this year, focusing on giving back to the community. Students will be helping in various capacities.

Student government has been brought back this year and students are in the process of building their campaigns.

This year begins the upper elementary school's sixth year of Girls Learning to Achieve More (GLAM). Students are doing many activities to demonstrate what moves they can make in the world.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School (Kashif Hameed)

Attendance for the month of July was at 85%. The school is trying to improve this year by incorporating new incentives. This year, school leaders used networking opportunities at Nike to have new gym uniforms designed for the students. A new logo was designed for the school and the new uniforms were given to 140 scholars for good attendance.

Students were also recognized during an assembly for 100% homework completion for the first two weeks of school. Teachers were also recognized for their help with attendance and class work completion.

The principal talked about his training at Relay, which included how to frame professional development and school culture. School leaders passed along the information to teachers and staff.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School PAIHS (Zahida Aminy)

Ms. Aminy thanked Mr. Canada and Ms. Williams-Isom for giving her the opportunity to be the principal of the Promise Academy I High School. She also thanked Dr. Petit and Dr. Speller for their faith in her and their guidance. Finally, Ms. Aminy thanked the principals and central office for their support and help.

Over 70 juniors and seniors participated in college summer exposures. Numerous students attended Syracuse and Cornell University and some female students participated in the STEM initiative at Columbia University. The school is planning a symposium to share their experiences with the staff and other students.

The school held an informal meet-and-greet with the parents of PAI high school students. The school also held a back-to-school night where parents met the staff and went over expectations for the year. The school had a strong turn-out.

In partnership with the Bard Early College Program, the high school is looking to expand the course selection by adding Abnormal Psychology as a credit-bearing class for Bard juniors and seniors. Both PAI and PAII are taking classes together to inspire more collaboration between high schools.

Ms. Aminy congratulated a ninth-grade high school math teacher, Ms. Rivera, for creating and launching a program called Study Buddies, which offers some ninth-grade students the opportunity to mentor and tutor sixth-grade Promise students in mathematics.

The school, along with PAII, is preparing for their trip to The Island School, a transformative educational program in Eleuthera, Bahamas, that allows students to explore Eleuthera's cultural and environmental landscape. Students and staff leave for the Island School on Sunday, October 9th.

Financial Report (Jim Hutter)

Jim Hutter covered Promise Academy I's financial report through the first two months of FY17. Enrollment is at 1,144, which is 29 students above budget. PAI is on budget from the revenue and expenses standpoint. The HCZ contribution is \$100,000 through two months.

The Grant Thornton audit for FY16 is in process. The audit is on target and an update will be given at the October board meeting.

HCZ Promise Academy I September 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	
9/6	30	286	90%	22	296	93%	
9/7	22	284	92%	13	292	96%	
9/8	14	287	95%	13	292	96%	
9/9	16	286	94%	16	293	95%	
9/13	12	288	96%	13	293	96%	
9/14	7	288	98%	4	294	99%	
9/15	7	287	98%	10	293	97%	
9/16	8	287	97%	11	293	96%	
9/19	13	290	96%	15	294	95%	
9/20	12	288	96%	12	294	96%	
9/21	8	288	97%	10	297	97%	
9/22	4	289	99%	11	297	96%	
9/23	20	291	93%	16	297	95%	
9/26	12	291	96%	12	297	96%	
9/27	8	293	97%	10	298	97%	
9/28	19	293	94%	10	298	97%	
9/29	9	293	97%	13	298	96%	
9/30	8	293	97%	15	297	95%	
Average	13	289	96%	13	295	96%	

HCZ Promise Academy I September 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	
9/6	28	272	90%	22	278	92%	
9/7	16	273	94%	16	278	94%	
9/8	6	273	98%	12	278	96%	
9/9	16	273	94%	14	279	95%	
9/13	8	274	97%	12	279	96%	
9/14	8	274	97%	9	279	97%	
9/15	7	274	97%	10	278	96%	
9/16	4	274	99%	20	278	93%	
9/19	15	274	95%	15	279	95%	
9/20	2	274	99%	11	279	96%	
9/21	15	274	95%	11	279	96%	
9/22	13	274	95%	8	279	97%	
9/23	9	274	97%	10	279	96%	
9/26	1	275	100%	7	279	97%	
9/27	14	275	95%	13	279	95%	
9/28	6	275	98%	10	279	96%	
9/29	30	275	89%	30	279	89%	
9/30	22	275	92%	30	279	89%	
Average	12	274	96%	14	279	95%	



Promise Academy I

FY 2017 September YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual ⁽¹⁾	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	1,115	1,147	32	1,115
Grades	K - 12	K - 12		K - 12
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 4.7	\$ 4.7	\$ -	\$ 18.8
Expenses:				
Salaries	2.7	2.7	-	12.0
Benefits	1.1	1.1	-	4.3
OTPS	1.0	0.9	0.1	3.9
Total Expenses	4.8	4.7	0.1	20.2
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 0.1	\$ 1.4
per student (whole \$)	\$ 90	\$ -	\$ 90	\$ 1,256

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

Budget amounts have been adjusted to better reflect anticipated 2017 activity.



Promise Academy I FY 16 Draft Financial Statements

- * Audit of Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2016**
- * Grant Thornton is our auditors**
- * Field work is in progress**
- * Financial statements include:**
 - * Auditor's Opinion**
 - * Financial Position**
 - * Revenues & Expenses**
 - * Government grant revenue**
 - * "In-kind" support from HCZ**
 - * Supplemental schedule of Functional Expenses**
 - * Related Party accounting and disclosure**
- * Report on Internal Control:**
 - * Over Financial Reporting**
 - * Compliance with Government Auditing Standards**
- * Audited financial statements and Report on Internal Control are required to be filed with the DOE by November 1, 2016**
- * We are currently on target**