



Promise Academy Charter School

A partner of



Harlem Children's
ZONE

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Tonya L. White

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Principal

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Tel 646.556.6290

Achil Petit

Upper Elementary School

Principal

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Shakira Petit

Middle School

Principal

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Marquitta T. Speller

High School

Principal

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AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, April 29th, 2014

at

The Harlem Children's Zone

245 West 129th Street

New York, NY 10027

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. Overall Updates
 - i. Pre-Kindergarten (*Kate Shoemaker/Geoff Canada*)
 - ii. Board Resolution Safety Plan (*Sharleen Morris*)
 - iii. Charter Renewal Visit (*Sharleen Morris*)
- III. Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*Tonya White*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Achil Petit*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Shakira Petit*)
 - iv. High School (*Marquitta Speller*)
- IV. Student Presentation (*Tonya White*)
- V. Financial Report (*Alpha Conteh*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 19th, 2014

245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Stan Druckenmiller, Arlene Gibson (via phone), Mitch Kurz, Willie Mae Lewis, Alfonso Wyatt (via phone), Candice Ashby, Shana Brodnax, Alpha Conteh, Tracey Costello, Kevin Dougherty, Kathleen Fernald, Tiffany Fountain, Marlene Fox, Michelle Germaine, Debbie Gonzalez, Marilyn Joseph, George Khaldun, Debbie Kim, Mindy Miller, Sharleen Morris, Steve Nisbett, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Asif Padela, Achil Petit, Shakira Petit, Conrad Pinnock, Sheryl Ragland, Susan Rydz, Lauren Scopaz, Marquitta Speller, Tonya White, Bessie Wilkerson and Anne Williams-Isom

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 February 12, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

Verizon Wireless Cellular Resolution (Lauren Scopaz)

A motion was called to adopt, by written consent, a resolution which would allow Verizon Wireless to design, construct, operate, maintain, repair and upgrade a multi-carrier in-building distributed antenna system at 245 West 129th Street. The motion was approved.

Charter Renewal (Sharleen Morris)

Promise Academy I's charter renewal is progressing, and the Department of Education performed two-thirds of their site visit on March 12th and 13th. The third and final site visit will occur on March 26th. The Public Hearing informing the parents about the charter renewal and giving parents a chance to comment is scheduled for April 7th.

HCZ Promise Academy I Lower Elementary PAILE (Tonya White)

Attendance for the month of February was at 91% due to the snow storms.

Kindergarten teachers are working together to pull children from classrooms and give extra instruction to those who need it. Reading and math benchmarks have proved to be strong.

In first grade, the teacher's assistants have taken the lead with social studies instruction so that teachers can have an additional 30 to 40 minutes three times a week for children who require focused instruction.

The school has begun March Madness, a project in which teachers are focusing on homogeneous groups to work specifically on their reading levels.

Students were taken on a field trip to the Scholastic Store in Soho, where children were able to buy books and bring them back to school.

Black History Month celebrations highlighted Langston Hughes and Romare Bearden.

Lower elementary held a Classroom Door contest where students used art to decorate classroom doors and were judged on creativity, content, student participation and student input.

The school held an awards assembly where kids were recognized for reading, writing and math.

Next week is Spirit Week at PAILE, an annual celebration where students dress up daily to match a predetermined theme.

The school will be honoring teacher's assistants with a special lunch on March 26, which Mr. Canada will attend.

The children will perform "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" on April 9th and 10th at 245 West 129th Street, and at the Schomburg Theatre on April 23rd at 5:30pm.

HCZ Promise Academy I Upper Elementary PAIUE (Achil Petit)

Attendance was at 92% for the month of February due to the amount of snow days. The school is looking to increase the percentage using incentives.

The book of the month was *Camille and the Sunflowers* by Laurence Anholt. "Respect" was the character trait students were asked to focus on. The children's work can be seen posted in the third floor lobby.

Students have been engaged in a reading challenge, which was started in December. The school has been keeping track of student progress, as each grade races to read the most books. Two winners in each grade will receive awards and treats.

Families were invited to attend the Second Annual Mother and Son Dance. Families engaged in games and dancing and the best dressed mother and son couple received prizes.

PAIUE's Top Performers Dinner was organized for students who performed well for all three marking periods. Students were asked to invite family members. 300 people attended and had a meal prepared by Chef Andrew.

Schedules were changed to focus more on children who are underperforming, in an effort to get them the targeted instruction that they require to reach grade level. The school is also using Saturday school to focus on children who require extra help.

Students who require special education are being assessed to make sure they are getting the services they need.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School PAIMS (Shakira Petit)

Attendance took a dip in February to 91% due to the inclement weather.

The school is conducting a March Madness project, using basketball as an incentive for the children to strive harder in test preparation.

Some students are currently receiving small group instruction from teacher's assistants, teaching fellows and primary teachers for state test preparation.

Saturday school continues to have strong attendance, between 80 and 90 students every week for targeted instruction and i-Ready.

The school has been engaging heavily in public service this month to try to encourage students to give back to the community. Ten of the school's eighth grade students volunteered for Habitat of the Humanities in early March. The students worked on revitalizing and repainting the Brent Housing Projects Community Center. The children, some of which live in Brent, were exciting about giving back to their own community.

The school is doing an iCare drive this month. Students are donating hygiene products, socks, clean underwear and other items for homeless shelters in the area. Students intend on donating to four different homeless shelters by the end of the month.

The middle school's character education theme this month is caring. The students are tracking themselves on how caring they can be towards their peers and their teachers. The winner at the end of the month gets a special prize from the principal.

The school held parent conferences in February. Out of 244 parents, 164 attended. The conference concluded with a successful action plan. The parents received a mock exam, which helped them to understand the difficulties that their children may go through.

Amber Deas went to the 2014 National Youth Indoor Track & Field Championships and ranked number 5 in the country.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School PAIHS (Marquitta Speller)

Attendance was at 89% for the month of February due to inclement weather.

The high school is beginning its Regents test preparation. There are 24 students who will take the ELA exam two years early. All of the freshmen are preparing to take both Integrated Algebra exams: the new Common Core State Standards version as well as the old State Regents exam. According to the state, the children will be able to use the higher of the two scores for their transcript.

Ninth graders are preparing to go on a college tour. Their parents attended a meeting to go over the agreements for the trip.

Girls Athletic Team Highlights (Shakira Petit/Kevin Dougherty/Marquitta Speller)

The girls athletic teams from PAI Middle School, PAI High School and PAII Junior High School introduced themselves to the Board as well as the position they play in their respective sports team.

Financial Report (Alpha Conteh)

Finance has completed both the financial audit and the OMB A133 audit, and is in the process of finalizing the 990 information returns, which are due by May 15th. As soon as the returns are completed, they will be circulated to the Board for review.

At the last HCZ Board meeting, a consolidated projection was presented for the final outcome of the fiscal year. It was projected that the agency will come under budget by \$500,000. After the meeting, Finance met with directors and principals to review the first seven months of activities and to obtain a detailed line item projection. Most of the projections have been submitted and Finance is in the process of consolidating the information and revising the projections accordingly. By next month's Board meeting, Finance hopes to have respective projections for the schools.

Promise Academy I's enrollment has been steady, with eight students above the budgeted enrollment number of 931. Total revenue is \$200,000 above budget. Expenses are \$400,000 below budget. Overall, the bottom line is improved by \$600,000 year-to-date.

NYC Charter Schools in the 2014 New York State Budget Legislation: A Preliminary Overview

March 29, 2014

Governor Cuomo and leaders in the Senate and Assembly have reached an agreement on a package of budget legislation for enactment on Monday. The new laws, if enacted (as is expected), would provide for the following changes and provisions.

1. Structured Increase in Per-Pupil Funding

Charter school per-pupil funding, which had been held frozen for three years, will increase by \$250 in 2014-15 (to \$13,777 in NYC); by another \$100 in 2015-16 (to \$13,877 in NYC); and by another \$150 in 2016-17 and 2017-18 (to \$14,027 in NYC) – but only if the per-pupil funding in each of these years would be higher than the per-pupil funding for this year (\$13,527 in NYC).

This is a modest increase of about \$70 over what the funding formula would have provided in 2014-15, but possibly less than the formula would have provided in the out years. However, please keep in mind that negotiation over education funding takes place on an annual basis in Albany.

2. Ban on Rent for NYC Charter Schools

New York City is required to allow any charter school that is co-located or will be co-located to use its co-located space without cost or charge of any kind.

3. Protection for Previously Approved Co-Locations

After April 1, 2014, any co-location approval that has not been previously changed cannot be amended or revoked and will be implemented unless the charter school consents or loses its charter. This means that the mayor's previous decisions to not co-locate or amend the co-location of four charter schools will remain undisturbed. However, those charters will be eligible for rent assistance per below though it does not seem, absent mayoral intervention, that the two schools that had been scheduled to open will be able to open in 2014 or receive the rent assistance funding (described below).

4. Co-Location or Rent Assistance Funding for New and Newly Expanding Schools in NYC

New York City charter schools that first commence instruction or require additional space due to grade level expansion pursuant to a charter amendment or a new charter after April 1, 2014, must receive either adequate co-located space in the community school district served by the charter school or, prior to 2016, the lesser of (1) the actual rental cost of a lease or (b) an additional 20% of per-pupil funding to be paid towards rent. After 2016, such schools must receive either adequate co-located space in the community school district or the lesser of (a) the actual rental cost of a lease or (b) the maximum amount the state provides the city when it leases a building pursuant to the building aid program to be used for rent.

This provision does not apply to schools which have already commenced instruction in private space and to any grade that such school already has approval to provide per its charter; it will apply to such private space schools however that seek new authority under their charter to expand, e.g., an existing K-5 school seeks and gets approval to expand to middle school grades. It also applies effectively to schools in co-located space that are expanding pursuant to an existing EIS/BUP.

Under this provision, NYC DOE has the right to first make an offer of space. If the charter school does not accept the offer because it deems the space inadequate, then the charter school may challenge the offer via (a) a lawsuit in state court, (b) an expedited appeal to the state commissioner of education or (c) independent arbitration. If the charter school prevails, it can then elect to receive Rent Assistance Funding, or, if it chooses, ask the district for additional space which the district may or may not provide. If the charter school does not prevail, it must accept the space offered.

Finally, this provision is clearly meant to work in tandem with the current siting process provided for under the mayoral control provisions enacted in 2009 and further refined in 2010, e.g., issuance of an educational impact statement, building utilization plan, hearings and final approval by the Panel for Educational Policy.

5. Eligibility to Provide Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Through a School District

NYC charter schools are eligible to provide UPK through NYC DOE's existing RFP process. If the charter school is not granted authority it may seek authority directly from the state commissioner of education. A charter school's UPK program will be subject to the oversight of its charter entity but must meet all applicable state requirements. Consistent with the Charter Schools Act, which gives the Board of Regents joint oversight over all charter schools, the State Education Department will also have oversight. Students who complete UPK in a charter school may be treated as returning students for purposes of kindergarten admissions. Charter schools are not exempt from UPK regulations concerning teacher certification but such teachers may be exempted under the existing aggregate exemptions given to charters as to certification (30% or five teachers, whichever is less, may be uncertified though otherwise highly qualified).

6. Auditing Power for City and State Comptroller

The NYC Comptroller is authorized to conduct fiscal audits of NYC charter schools, and the New York State Comptroller is authorized to conduct fiscal audits of charter schools located in the rest of the state. For this purpose only, the legislature has deemed charter schools to be political subdivisions. (The Charter Center is exploring the legality of these provisions.)

7. Reversion of Public Assets to School District upon Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of a charter school, and after payment of all debts and obligations, any remaining funds that can be attributed to public funding will be paid over to the school district in an amount that is proportional to the number of students enrolled in the charter school from the district. Private assets can still be turned over to another charter school in the school district, as per current law. In the past all assets could be distributed to another charter school on the election of the school that was being dissolved.

**WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
HARLEM CHILDREN’S ZONE PROMISE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

THE UNDERSIGNED, being members of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of HARLEM CHILDREN’S ZONE PROMISE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL, a New York not-for-profit corporation (the “Corporation”), acting pursuant to the By-Laws of the Corporation and the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law for the purpose of taking the action and adopting the resolutions set forth below do hereby waive any notice requirement, take the following action and adopt the following resolutions by written consent to action:

WHEREAS, Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy Charter School has implemented a School Emergency Response Plan for the school site and facilities located at 245 West 129th Street, New York, New York. The objectives of the plan are to: 1) protect the safety and welfare of students, employees, and staff, 2) provide a safe and coordinated response to emergencies, 3) protect the school’s facilities and property, and 4) enable the school to restore normal conditions with minimal confusion in the shortest time possible.

WHEREAS, In an effort to fully implement the School Emergency Response Plan, Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy, supports planning, training, and exercising the plan at the school site level.

WHEREAS, Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy participates with all responding agencies within the State of New York and in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy Charter School does hereby support the School Emergency Response Plan.

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HCZ Promise Academy I

March 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	
3/3	18	293	94%	17	283	94%	
3/4	10	293	97%	12	283	96%	
3/5	4	293	99%	3	283	99%	
3/6	5	293	98%	8	283	97%	
3/7	11	293	96%	8	283	97%	
3/10	16	293	95%	13	282	95%	
3/11	17	293	94%	12	282	96%	
3/12	9	293	97%	11	282	96%	
3/13	11	293	96%	15	282	95%	
3/18	11	293	96%	18	282	94%	
3/19	7	293	98%	11	282	96%	
3/20	9	292	97%	7	282	98%	
3/21	11	292	96%	14	282	95%	
3/24	11	292	96%	16	282	94%	
3/25	11	292	96%	10	282	96%	
3/26	10	292	97%	10	282	96%	
3/27	9	292	97%	5	282	98%	
3/28	18	292	94%	12	282	96%	
3/31	15	292	95%	13	282	95%	
Average	11	293	96%	11	282	96%	

HCZ Promise Academy I March 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	
3/3	17	244	93%	9	119	92%	
3/4	11	244	95%	6	119	95%	
3/5	10	244	96%	7	119	94%	
3/6	10	244	96%	4	119	97%	
3/7	9	244	96%	4	119	97%	
3/10	16	244	93%	5	119	96%	
3/11	13	244	95%	5	119	96%	
3/12	5	244	98%	6	119	95%	
3/13	9	244	96%	4	119	97%	
3/18	12	244	95%	10	119	92%	
3/19	9	244	96%	7	119	94%	
3/20	10	244	96%	12	119	90%	
3/21	6	244	98%	8	119	93%	
3/24	11	243	95%	9	119	92%	
3/25	14	243	94%	12	119	90%	
3/26	7	242	97%	8	119	93%	
3/27	7	242	97%	7	119	94%	
3/28	7	242	97%	4	119	97%	
3/31	13	242	95%	18	119	85%	
Average	10	243	96%	8	119	94%	

Promise Academy I

FY14 March YTD Budget Report

\$ millions

	Actual	Budget	Inc/(Dec)	Full Year Budget	Full Year Projection	Inc/(Dec)
Enrollment	934	931	3	931	934	3
Grades	K - 10	K - 10		K - 10	K - 10	
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 10.8	\$ 10.6	\$ 0.2	\$ 14.1	\$ 14.4	\$ 0.3
Expenditures:						
Salaries	7.4	7.5	(0.1)	10.3	10.2	(0.1)
Benefits	2.2	2.2	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0
OTPS	2.1	2.3	(0.2)	3.1	3.1	0.0
Total Expenditure	11.8	12.0	(0.3)	16.4	16.3	(0.1)
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.9	\$ 1.5	\$ (0.5)	\$ 2.3	\$ 1.9	\$ (0.4)
<i>per student (whole \$)</i>	\$ 1,001	\$ 1,595		\$ 2,494	\$ 2,051	