



Promise Academy II Charter School

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**Harlem Children's
ZONE**

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AGENDA

Promise Academy II Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, December 17th, 2014

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 Alumni/College Success Office Presentation
(*Marquitta Speller*)
- IV. Promise Academy II Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*Sheryl Ragland*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Debra Sostre*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Kevin Dougherty*)
 - iv. High School (*Asif Padela*)
- V. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 25th, 2014

245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Stan Druckenmiller, Mitch Kurz, Ken Langone, Aisha Tomlinson, Anne Williams-Isom, Candice Ashby, Alpha Conteh, Joseph Cordero, Kevin Dougherty, Tiffany Fountain, Marlene Fox, Michelle Germaine, Debbie Gonzalez, Kashif Hameed, Jim Hutter, Betina Jean-Louis, Jawana Johnson, Marilyn Joseph, George Khaldun, Debbie Kim, Latasha Morgan, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Asif Padela, Achil Petit, Conrad Pinnock, Sheryl Ragland, Susan Rydz, Kate Shoemaker, Lauren Scopaz, Debra Sostre, Marquitta Speller, Monalisa Tolbert, Tonya White, Bessie Wilkerson, and Adam Zalisk

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 October 29, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Updates (Achil Petit)

Dr. Petit and his team continue to improve ELA instruction by using professional development for teachers with topics that include assessment grading, data analysis, teaching for the extended response writing, video study and unit planning.

Anne Williams-Isom added that HCZ held a Thanksgiving celebration for the St. Nicholas community on November 24th, with 307 families attending. Turkeys were also given to many of the families with students in Promise Academy just before Thanksgiving, with 636 families attending the giveaway event.

Ms. Williams-Isom also mentioned that on November 21st, 150 Promise II students performed in a gospel concert at the school.

Strengthening Harlem Gems and K-2

(Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Dr. Betina Jean-Louis, Marilyn Joseph, Tonya White & Sheryl Ragland)

Kwame Owusu-Kesse spoke about the deepening of work across the pipeline, particularly in Early Childhood programs where the focus is on school readiness within a changing environment. One of the main tools used to identify school readiness is the Bracken, an individual cognitive test designed for children who are in pre-Kindergarten through second grade.

Dr. Jean-Louis gave a brief summary of the basic concept scale, a normed instrument that assesses the development of the basic building blocks of learning (such as colors, letters, numbers, sizes and shapes). Dr. Jean-Louis also reported that 100% of children in HCZ pre-

kindergarten programs reach average to high level towards the end of the year. By the end of last year, 75% of children were advanced or very advanced, much higher than the 16% who would have been expected to be in these levels according to national norms.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse continued by reporting that staff members looked at Gems' students' performance on the Bracken, which showed them the following: In looking at the school readiness indicator, it seemed that Gems students scored substantially higher than their peers nationally. The same is true for the total test component but just slightly higher than the national average compared to their cohort. Although staff members generally discuss the school readiness subtest, the analysis shows that the total test correlates more highly with 3rd grade state test performance than the school readiness subtest does. The total test, most specifically scoring higher than the 80th percentile on total test, seems like a more appropriate benchmark, given the more stringent academic expectations resulting from the Common Core. Staff continues to review the data for confirmation of this hypothesis.

The partnership with Promise Academy and the HCZ pipeline programs has been very strategic in sharing data, professional development, and best practices. Marilyn Joseph spoke about the Gems work in connecting and following the lead of the superintendent. Last year, there was a strong look at literacy and that work is being continued with K-2 as well as observations, assessments, transition techniques and other work. There has also been a strong effort to look at parents as first teachers resulting in an increase in home packets and an effort to individualize the home packets.

The Promise Academy I Lower Elementary school is working closely with PAII Lower Elementary by aligning curriculums and sharing professional development best practices. The school is working with teachers and teacher's assistants around literacy and math. PAILE has also looked at data to determine the next steps in the classroom. Benchmarks for reading levels at the end of the year have been increased and have changed in each grade to match the highest standards of the Common Core. There is a strong emphasis on reading and writing. A Story of Units developed by EngageNY and test preparation has been further implemented.

HCZ Promise Academy II Lower Elementary School PAILE (Sheryl Ragland)

Attendance for the month of October was at 96%. Halloween proved to be a challenging day for attendance due to concerns about gangs in the community.

The school held a successful parent meeting where parents were made aware of their student's scores throughout the year.

Lower elementary is having successful turnouts for their Father's Fellowship events. Some of the same parents are attending workshops in the school.

The school held an epilepsy workshop because there are a few lower elementary students who have epilepsy. A second part to the workshop is currently being scheduled.

The school held a parent/teacher conference with 240 parents attending.

The Friday professional development sessions are a success, and the school is using the opportunity to dig deeper and to review all of the data from the unit on assessments.

The lower elementary school's collaboration with after-school is running smoothly as PAIILE celebrates College Week by giving out pamphlets and t-shirts.

HCZ Promise Academy II Upper Elementary School PAIUE (Debra Sostre)

Attendance was at 96% for the month of October. The school previously received feedback from parents regarding attendance on Halloween and discovered that religious practices were a strong deterrent from attending school for some. The school focused on book characters for Halloween, instead of commercial characters, and received slightly better attendance as a result.

The school's parent teacher conference was well attended with 167 parents plus an additional 22 opting to attend via conference call.

Upper elementary has begun its Saturday test preparation.

Fifth-grade joined PAI students to see a Jazz at Lincoln Center concert.

The school had its college spirit day in mid-November and plans to culminate the event with a celebration on November 26th.

HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School PAIIMS (Kevin Dougherty)

Attendance for the month of October was 95%. On Halloween, the school held a fun Friday event in conjunction with the after school program that worked as an incentive for attendance.

The school's lacrosse team went to Andover, Massachusetts, and practiced with one of the local teams there. There was also an 8th grade trip to Ramapo for Children in Rhinebeck, NY. The overnight trip focused on team building and community.

Cornell graduate students visited to do lessons with Promise middle school students on sound waves and communications.

A mentoring program is being set up with the PAII high school to help middle school children acclimate to high school.

The school's gospel choir performed this month and did a great job.

Parent teacher conferences had a great turnout, with 80% of parents attending. Thank you cards were sent out to parents with occasional prizes as an incentive for attendance for future events.

HCZ Promise Academy II High School PAIHS (Asif Padela)

Attendance was at 95% for the month of October. The school is continuing to explore why students may be absent. However, there have been no chronic absences for the month of October.

The school held its parent/teacher conference meetings with 80% of parents attending. Teachers reached out to parents who weren't able to attend to update them on their children's progress.

Students went on a trip to Lincoln Center to see a play called "Brownsville Song" about a young African American who receives a scholarship for college before a tragedy occurs that ends his life. The students wrote letters to express how they felt about the play.

High school students visited artist John Newman's studio and spoke to him about his work.

The high school has started an aeronautics program, where students are learning the engineering aspects of flight.

Dr. Kristy McMorris from the Bard Early College Program has been working with teachers on professional development.

Financial Report (Jim Hutter)

Promise Academy II's revenue is \$100,000 favorable at \$4.1 million. Expenses are \$300,000 favorable for the first four months of FY15.

The FY14 financial statements have been audited and filed with DOE on November 1st.

Student Performances (Kevin Dougherty, Sheryl Ragland, Debra Sostre & Asif Padela)

The Gospel Choir performed a song and a dance routine from the larger show they performed in mid-November.

HCZ Promise Academy II

November 2014 Attendance Report

HCZ PAII Lower Elementary School				HCZ PAII Upper Elementary School			
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	
11/3	20	267	93%	11	229	95%	
11/5	13	267	95%	2	229	99%	
11/6	13	267	95%	5	229	98%	
11/7	17	267	94%	6	229	97%	
11/10	10	266	96%	17	229	93%	
11/12	15	266	94%	12	229	95%	
11/13	19	264	93%	5	229	98%	
11/14	14	264	95%	10	229	96%	
11/17	24	264	91%	12	229	95%	
11/18	12	264	95%	7	229	97%	
11/19	14	264	95%	10	229	96%	
11/20	16	264	94%	6	229	97%	
11/21	17	264	94%	14	229	94%	
11/24	13	264	95%	13	229	94%	
11/25	14	263	95%	10	229	96%	
11/26	24	263	91%	17	229	93%	
Average	16	265	94%	10	229	96%	

HCZ Promise Academy II

November 2014 Attendance Report

HCZ PAII Middle School		HCZ PAII High School				
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present
11/3	10	227	96%	2	75	97%
11/5	5	227	98%	2	75	97%
11/6	7	227	97%	2	75	97%
11/7	12	227	95%	3	75	96%
11/10	5	227	98%	5	75	93%
11/12	4	227	98%	0	75	100%
11/13	8	227	96%	2	75	97%
11/14	6	227	97%	2	75	97%
11/17	11	226	95%	2	75	97%
11/18	6	226	97%	1	75	99%
11/19	3	226	99%	4	75	95%
11/20	7	226	97%	3	75	96%
11/21	12	226	95%	6	75	92%
11/24	12	226	95%	7	75	91%
11/25	6	226	97%	2	75	97%
11/26	33	226	85%	13	75	83%
Average	9	227	96%	4	75	95%



Promise Academy II

FY 2015 November YTD Budget vs. Actual \$ millions

	Budget	Actual ⁽¹⁾	Inc/(Dec)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	777	789	12	777
Grades	K - 10	K - 10		K - 10
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 5.1	\$ 5.1	\$ -	\$ 12.1
Expenses:				
Salaries	3.6	3.5	(0.1)	9.2
Benefits	1.1	1.1	-	2.8
OTPS	1.1	0.9	(0.2)	2.4
Total Expenses	5.8	5.5	(0.2)	14.4
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.7	\$ 0.5	(0.2)	\$ 2.3
per student (whole \$)	\$ 889	\$ 596	\$ (294)	\$ 2,971

DOE reimbursement up to 815 students.

(1) Excludes bonus and "in-kind" contributions.