



Promise Academy II Charter School

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Sheryl Ragland
Principal
Lower Elementary School
2005 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10035
Tel 646 556.6285

Shondell James
Principal
Upper Elementary School
2005 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10035
Tel 646 556.6285

Principal
Middle School
35 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035
Tel 646 437.1481

Asif Padela
Principal
High School
35 East 125th Street
New York, NY 10035
Tel 646.437.1484

AGENDA

Promise Academy II Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, April 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. Health Center (*Lauren Scopaz*)
- IV. Promise Academy II Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*Sheryl Ragland*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Shondell James*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Judy Palacios*)
 - iv. High School (*Asif Padela*)
- V. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)
- VI. Student Presentation (*Sheryl Ragland/KiKi Walton*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 23rd, 2016

245 West 129th Street

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

Superintendent's Updates (Achil Petit)

Anne Williams-Isom spoke about an HCZ event held on March 12th, sponsored by the Mayor's "Children's Cabinet," which promotes children's safety and well-being. The program holds a series of "Baby Showers" around New York City to promote different themes around child welfare. The theme for the Baby Shower held at HCZ was fatherhood, focusing on the important role of fathers in the lives of children. The first lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray, attended, read with children and met with parents. There were about 500 people, and more than 40 agencies and 150 community-based organizations participated.

Dr. Alfonso Wyatt, who also attended the Baby Shower event, stated that it was wonderful to see so many dads interacting with their children, reaffirming that fathers can and do take a strong role in the rearing of their children.

Superintendent Achil Petit reported that current enrollment was 1,101 for PAI (3 below what was budgeted) and 878 for PAII (11 above what was budgeted). Dr. Petit will continue to monitor the enrollment numbers as we progress through the school year.

Dr. Petit talked briefly about the test preparations that are underway for the State exams beginning on April 5th, 2016.

In February, the superintendent joined the CEO and the HCZ Deputy of Strategy and Special Projects, Raychael Jensen in visiting the Uncommon Charter School in Brownsville to share best practices. Uncommon, like Promise Academy I and II, is also in partnership with the Relay/GSE program.

In January, the New York City Department of Education sent a memo out to school leaders regarding changes in the NYS exams. One of the most significant changes is that the exam will be untimed.

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

Attendance was at 94% for the month of January and 91% for the month of February. There was a flu bug that affected the school population.

Arts Power visited and performed a play called “Chicken Dance” to lower elementary students. The goal of Arts Power is to bring inspiring theatre to America’s children, which feeds their intellect while enhancing the cultural life of their communities.

The school held its first Oscar Awards, which celebrated the students of the month.

For Black History Month, the school celebrated the 50th anniversary of The Black Panthers with guest speaker/performer Dr. Abiodun Oyewole from The Last Poets. The Last Poets are a group of poet/musicians who arose from the late 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

The school completed its most recent four-week session with Spence School for Girls. Lower elementary students have benefited from Promise Academy’s rich partnership with Spence, where students have been learning how to code.

On March 22, the school held its 4th epilepsy workshop, which the parent engagement team assisted in spearheading.

The school held transition meetings with the Early Childhood department to prepare students who will start kindergarten in the fall.

The superintendent has been meeting with the team, looking at data to determine where students are in their focus of study.

HCZ Promise Academy II Upper Elementary School PAIUE (Shondell James)

Attendance was at 94% for the month of January and 93% for the month of February. Staff will continue to communicate with parents to ensure that they understand the importance of getting students in school on time.

The upper elementary is currently in test preparation mode, using data to be strategic as possible in targeting the needs of our students and working in small groups. Staff leaders are meeting with teachers to notice any trends or patterns as students are working on their tasks. Students are also rewarded each week for their efforts in an attempt to keep stress levels down and promote perseverance.

The school’s Science Technology Engineering Arts Math (STEAM) program continues to support ELA and math with test preparation, while at the same time exposing students to different cultures. Students made Lunar New Year kites and engineered New Year idiophones, which are hand-made musical instruments.

In February, our fifth-graders participated in a Black History Wax Museum, where students recited monologues as famous African Americans. The school also celebrated Black History Month, with an educational and entertaining show.

Ms. James presented a piece of artwork from one of the fourth-grade students, who entered the Crayola’s *Creativity Connects the World* 2015-2016 Art Exhibition. The student was selected as one of the finalists and her original artwork will be framed and exhibited at the U.S. Department of Education national headquarters in Washington, D.C., and its regional offices across the

country. It will become part of a significant, permanent collection of children's original art and their creativity statements.

HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School PAIIMS (Judy Palacios)

Attendance was at 94% for the month of January and at 96% for the month of February. The school continues to meet with parents to get students to school on time.

During Black History month, students were on the PA system every day sharing Black History facts, which the scholars enjoyed. The staff has decided to continue to allow students to share interesting and educational facts on the PA system throughout the year because it was such a big hit. Additionally, the PAII after school team put on a Black Lives Matter showcase and many of the middle school students participated.

The school held a Random Act of Kindness month, inspiring students to do nice things for others.

The school held their quarterly assembly highlighting scholars who were most improved with awards (citizenship award, Promise scholar award and perfect attendance award). At the end, there was a battle of the cohorts in basketball and the winning class played against the teachers. The children and staff really enjoyed the event.

Guest speaker Julian Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton and a CNN contributor, met with scholars for Social Studies and talked about his book and some of his travels. He gave a copy of his book to each of the participating students.

Staff leaders are pushing into classrooms to support test preparation for the State exams.

HCZ Promise Academy II High School PAIHS (Asif Padela)

Attendance was at 95% for the month of January and 93% for February. The school is being vigilant in working with the guidance team to ensure that absence is at a minimum the day after trips occur.

PAI and PAII high school worked together to make sure all students were prepared for Regents. Of Promise Academy I students, 100% passed the ELA Regents and Geometry Regents, with 93% passing the Common Core Geometry as well. Additionally, 93% of PAII passed the ELA Regents exam (100% of Juniors and 83% of the sophomores). The school is working to get all of the sophomores passing the Regents a year in advance by the end of the 2015-2016 school year. PAII has condensed the two-year Global History Regents course to one year; 86% of students passed with 66% passing with 80% or above.

The high school is collaborating with CSO and Career Services to guide and give reassurance to juniors during their transition to 12th-grade and their college preparation. The school held a parent meeting for juniors exclusively and implemented a partnership with Overgrad, a website where children can enter in their information, and get matched with the schools that fit their academic and social needs.

Parents have been advised to encourage their children to log into the student-based website NextGen so students can get information about colleges and career opportunities. Staff is working with students to focus on career choices. The school held a presentation about business

and orchestrated a visit to Monroe College, where students have the potential of receiving a full scholarship.

The school is focused on the May administration of SAT. The high school is in partnership with CollegeSpring, an organization that helps students from low-income backgrounds boost SAT scores, navigate college admissions and financial aid. Over the past year, CollegeSpring has provided class-wide instruction, and are currently partnered with Kaplan to do individualized instruction for SAT. The students are meeting for one or two hours a day in preparation.

Financial Report (Jim Hutter)

Jim Hutter covered Promise Academy II's financial report through eight months. PAII is eleven students above the budget from an enrollment standpoint. We are on target for revenue. Expenses are \$100,000 favorable versus the budget. The HCZ contribution is at \$1.1M, which is slightly favorable versus the budget.

In February, the OMB audit and the Tax 990 Form were filed with the Office of Management Budget and the IRS respectively.

HCZ Promise Academy II

March 2016 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	
3/1	10	267	96%	5	238	98%	
3/2	15	267	94%	12	238	95%	
3/3	13	267	95%	11	238	95%	
3/4	25	267	91%	16	238	93%	
3/7	10	267	96%	8	238	97%	
3/8	18	267	93%	12	238	95%	
3/9	20	267	93%	15	238	94%	
3/10	20	267	93%	12	237	95%	
3/11	23	267	91%	8	237	97%	
3/14	23	267	91%	19	237	92%	
3/15	24	267	91%	19	237	92%	
3/16	12	267	96%	11	237	95%	
3/17	21	267	92%	14	237	94%	
3/18	15	267	94%	8	237	97%	
3/21	24	267	91%	13	237	95%	
3/22	15	267	94%	11	237	95%	
3/23	21	267	92%	8	237	97%	
3/24	14	267	95%	8	237	97%	
3/28	27	267	90%	19	237	92%	
3/29	15	267	94%	15	237	94%	
3/30	22	266	92%	14	237	94%	
3/31	18	266	93%	14	237	94%	
Average	18	267	93%	12	237	95%	

HCZ Promise Academy II

March 2016 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	
3/1	3	239	99%	9	134	93%	
3/2	6	239	97%	7	134	95%	
3/3	4	239	98%	5	134	96%	
3/4	2	239	99%	6	134	96%	
3/7	5	239	98%	5	133	96%	
3/8	5	239	98%	9	133	93%	
3/9	6	239	97%	4	133	97%	
3/10	12	239	95%	1	133	99%	
3/11	18	239	92%	5	133	96%	
3/14	19	239	92%	12	133	91%	
3/15	11	239	95%	6	133	95%	
3/16	9	239	96%	6	133	95%	
3/17	9	239	96%	5	133	96%	
3/18	11	239	95%	3	133	98%	
3/21	16	239	93%	3	133	98%	
3/22	10	239	96%	4	133	97%	
3/23	9	239	96%	5	133	96%	
3/24	13	239	95%	4	133	97%	
3/28	17	239	93%	19	133	86%	
3/29	10	239	96%	7	133	95%	
3/30	14	239	94%	7	133	95%	
3/31	3	239	99%	9	133	93%	
Average	10	239	96%	6	133	95%	



Promise Academy II

FY 2016 March YTD Budget vs. Actual \$ millions

	Budget	Actual ⁽¹⁾	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	867	875		867
Grades	K - 11	K - 11	8	K - 11
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 10.8	\$ 10.8	-	\$ 14.4
Expenses:				
Salaries	7.4	7.7	(0.3)	10.2
Benefits	2.3	2.3	-	3.1
OTPS	2.4	2.2	0.2	3.0
Total Expenses	12.1	12.2	(0.1)	16.3
HCZ Contribution	\$ 1.3	\$ 1.4	\$ (0.1)	\$ 1.9
per student (whole \$)	\$ 1,499	\$ 1,600	\$ (101)	\$ 2,191

DOE reimbursement up to 1040 students.

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

Budget amounts have been adjusted to better reflect anticipated 2015 activity.