



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 16th, 2015

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 II Updates
 - i. Lower Elementary School (*Sheryl Ragland*)
 - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Shondell James*)
 - iii. Middle School (*Sharleen Bernard*)
 - iv. High School (*Asif Padela*)
- IV. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)
- V. Student Presentations (*Jawana Johnson/Shelly Bauer*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School

Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 18th, 2015

245 West 129th Street

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

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 October 21, 2015. The motion was unanimously approved.

CEO's Report (Anne Williams-Isom)

Anne Williams-Isom talked about "Parents Rock" Month, an initiative to make parents feel involved and welcomed. Promise staff members have been celebrating parents by wearing purple ribbons in their honor, acknowledging parents with friendly phone calls and pep rallies, and working with parents on different projects.

Ms. Williams-Isom also talked about the Halloween celebrations at Promise, when senior staff members dressed up in costumes and visited children in every classroom and visited HCZ programs.

Promise Academy II is holding its annual Thanksgiving/gospel concert on November 20th at the Geoffrey Canada Community Center. About 800 parents are expected to attend and will receive a full Thanksgiving meal. A similar celebration is being held at PAI for the St. Nicholas community next week. Additionally, celebrations for the winter holidays will be held for both charters.

Ms. Williams-Isom spoke about the Paris attacks and communicated with teams and educators to stay alert and to be ready to provide reading materials and information in case families and students have questions.

The Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, is visiting on December 3rd. Geoffrey Canada and Ms. Williams-Isom will take him on a tour of the schools and to meet some of the Promise teachers.

Superintendent's Updates (Achil Petit)

Superintendent Achil Petit reported that current enrollment was 1,125 for PAI (21 above what was budgeted) and 882 for PAII (26 above what was budgeted). Dr. Petit will continue to monitor the enrollment numbers as we progress through the school year.

Dr. Petit shared his gratitude for Stan Druckenmiller's gift of 25 tickets to the Broadway musical "School of Rock" and the dinner that followed. The tickets were distributed to the schools and given to staff members to show appreciation for their hard work. The staff enjoyed themselves and wrote thank you notes to Mr. Druckenmiller and senior leaders.

Dr. Petit discussed Promise's partnership with Relay Graduate School of Education, a program that allows teachers to learn the most reliable techniques from master educators through apprenticeships. Eight Promise teachers with significant growth potential have been selected to join the program. The founder, Norman Atkins, has been invited to present to the board.

Quality Reports (Bessie Wilkerson)

Dr. Bessie Wilkerson announced that the Quality Reports were released this month by the New York City Department of Education. The reports present information about school practices, learning environment, and performance results. The core areas that the new administration is focusing on in the newest version of the reports are rigorous instruction, collaborative teachers, supportive environment, effective school leadership, strong family and community ties, and trust, which all feed into student achievement. Schools earn a rating of excellent, good, fair or poor.

The K-8 portions of the reports were rated "good" for Promise Academy I and "excellent" for Promise Academy II. Promise high schools do not yet have official student achievement ratings because they have not had multiple graduating classes in recent years.

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

Attendance was at 96% for the month of October. The school has received support from Betina Jean-Louis and her team as well as Marilyn Joseph and the school's parent coordinator Raymond Johnson. The school has also been using incentives to keep attendance rates up.

The school honored Breast Cancer Awareness month by making ribbons for staff members participating in the Breast Cancer Walk.

The school also celebrated Anti-Bullying month. Students made posters and hung them around the school.

PAII lower elementary celebrated Hispanic Heritage month and parents brought in dishes representing their cultural backgrounds.

The principal has been working with an African staff member from the Parent Engagement team to improve communication with African students and their families.

On Election Day, the school held a day of professional development for staff members, which included fun team-building exercises. The day concluded with a faculty meeting.

The school is hosting four interns this year from Hunter College, Monroe College and Syracuse University in addition to the residents from Relay GSE. The partnership has been very successful and the schools have offered to send three additional interns.

Cheryl Tyler, a former principal of New York City public schools, has trained 22 teacher's assistants, teaching fellows and teacher interns in Promise I & II lower elementary and PAII upper elementary. The training is ongoing throughout the year. Ms. Tyler is a reading specialist with Teachers College and also the Director of "Reading Rescue," a program supporting early literacy.

The school has a new vocabulary program called "Text Talk." The teachers have encouraged the children to use a list of vocabulary words when talking in class and to their peers. The children earn "scholar dollars," which they may use to get prizes.

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

Attendance for October was at 96%. We are working with Family Workers and Parent Coordinators to maintain and increase attendance even further.

The school has been holding monthly parent meetings, giving parents an opportunity to voice any concerns.

Upper elementary recently held a "Parents Read to Your Child Day." The parents visited in the morning and read in the classrooms.

The school has a partnership with Northside Center for Childhood Development. Upper elementary has two reading specialists from Northside with the hope of obtaining a third. The specialists are working with 23 of the school's struggling fifth-grade students.

The principal hosts an early morning book club for three of the school's fifth-graders. The group also goes over test preparation and are currently reading "Peace, Locomotion" by Jacqueline Woodson.

Fourth-graders recently went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to culminate their art curriculum.

The school has begun an initiative to make sure that teachers feel that they are part of a winning team. The school held a professional development day on November 3rd, where staff met for a short time to do community-building activities.

HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School PAIIMS (Sharleen Bernard)

Attendance was at 97% for the month of October. The school continues to work with parents to make sure attendance remains consistent during the winter months.

Middle-school scholars are going to their annual Shark Reservation trip in November, where there will be team-building activities.

Students in the lacrosse program took their annual trip to Andover, where they participated in activities with Andover High School students.

As a continuation of the school's speaker series, urban planners visited and discussed with students the aspects of building a city. Inspired by the instruction, students built miniature cityscapes.

The school held a parent cafe night, where there were conversations with parents about what they can do at home to support their children in strengthening their skills in line with the Common Core State Standards.

On Election Day, the school held community engagement and professional development sessions, which the staff enjoyed.

HCZ Promise Academy II High School PAIHS (Asif Padela)

Attendance was at 96% for October. The staff is working with Betina Jean-Louis' team to continue to identify those students who are struggling with attendance. Staff has also given out incentive rewards to students who are consistently coming in on time.

We have started our preparations for the January Regents for juniors, who are taking the exam six months in advance. Staff members are also working on getting as many students as possible to work on the Advanced Regents diploma, the Earth Science Regents as well as the Geometry Regents. The last two weeks, we've been administering mock exams to gather data around which of our students need the most help. The school is working in collaboration with the after school program so that students have targeted instruction on a 1:5 ratio, to hone in on their particular skills.

On the school's professional development day, the CEO came to speak to high school teachers on subjects that were relevant to the staff, such as work/life balance. The staff really enjoyed and appreciated the event. Dr. Speller will continue the practice by arranging breakfast sessions with the staff to increase communications. The school also used the PD to collaborate in math and science.

Students went on a 3-day college tour in the Philadelphia-area where they visited five colleges. A month ago, there was a tour to Stanbrook University for female students only. This month, the school followed up with an all-male visit to Fordham University. PAI tenth-graders are starting to visit CUNY schools to give them exposure to colleges. Tomorrow, they will visit Hunter College to help encourage them to begin thinking about their options. For the 11th-graders, efforts towards creating interest have begun.

Financial Report (Jim Hutter)

Jim Hutter covered Promise Academy II's financial report: PAII is 26 students favorable in enrollment vs. budget. Revenue at \$4.8M is on target. We are on track versus the expense budget of \$5M. The HCZ contribution through the first four months is \$200,000.

The financial audit from Grant Thornton was completed and we've filed the audits with NY State as well as the Department of Education. We are currently completing the OMB A-133 compliance audit and the form 990 information return.

HCZ Promise Academy II

November 2015 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	
11/2	22	274	92%	9	241	96%	
11/4	8	274	97%	9	241	96%	
11/5	13	274	95%	12	241	95%	
11/6	17	274	94%	17	241	93%	
11/9	19	274	93%	12	240	95%	
11/10	13	274	95%	10	240	96%	
11/12	14	274	95%	14	240	94%	
11/13	19	274	93%	20	240	92%	
11/16	8	274	97%	8	240	97%	
11/17	20	274	93%	12	240	95%	
11/18	9	274	97%	12	240	95%	
11/19	14	274	95%	11	240	95%	
11/20	17	274	94%	15	240	94%	
11/23	23	275	92%	13	241	95%	
11/24	16	275	94%	8	241	97%	
11/25	36	273	87%	17	241	93%	
11/30	17	273	94%	13	241	95%	
Average	17	274	94%	12	240	95%	

HCZ Promise Academy II

November 2015 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
11/2	9	241	96%	6	136	96%
11/4	9	241	96%	5	136	96%
11/5	12	241	95%	2	136	99%
11/6	17	241	93%	9	136	93%
11/9	12	240	95%	6	136	96%
11/10	10	240	96%	2	136	99%
11/12	14	240	94%	7	136	95%
11/13	20	240	92%	5	136	96%
11/16	8	240	97%	5	136	96%
11/17	12	240	95%	7	136	95%
11/18	12	240	95%	9	136	93%
11/19	11	240	95%	16	136	88%
11/20	15	240	94%	9	136	93%
11/23	13	241	95%	6	136	96%
11/24	8	241	97%	10	136	93%
11/25	17	241	93%	25	136	82%
11/30	13	241	95%	3	136	98%
Average	12	240	95%	8	136	94%



Promise Academy II

FY 2016 November YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual ⁽¹⁾	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	867	890	23	867
Grades	K - 11	K - 11		K - 11
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ -	\$ 14.4
Expenses:				
Salaries	3.8	3.8	-	9.7
Benefits	1.2	1.2	-	3.3
OTPS	1.1	1.1	-	2.6
Total Expenses	6.1	6.1	-	15.6
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 1.2
per student (whole \$)	\$ 115	\$ 112	\$ 3	\$ 1,399

DOE reimbursement up to 1040 students.

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