



# Promise Academy II Charter School

A partner of



**Harlem Children's  
ZONE**

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**Superintendent**

Sheryl Ragland  
**Principal  
Lower Elementary School**  
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New York, NY 10035  
Tel 646.556.6285

Shondell James  
**Principal  
Upper Elementary School**  
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New York, NY 10035  
Tel 646.556.6285

Judy Palacios  
**Principal  
Middle School**  
35 East 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Tel 646.437.1481

Ashley Blount  
**Principal  
High School**  
35 East 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10035  
Tel 646.437.1484

## AGENDA

Promise Academy II Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

at

The Harlem Children's Zone  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> 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 (*Judy Palacios*)
  - iv. High School (*Ashley Blount*)
- IV. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)
- V. Student Presentation (*Zahida Aminy*)

**The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School**

**Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 II Lower Elementary School (Sheryl Ragland)**

Attendance for the month of July was 82%. School leaders saw a fluctuation of numbers during the enrollment process, but the school is off to a better start for the month of September.

The lower elementary is building capacity around fostering the school's culture and enhancing the school's environment.

The school held a week-long series of social meetings, to give parents a chance to ask questions and allow them to become acclimated to the new environment.

The school held its Title I meeting to explain to the parents of students who are struggling the level of support the school will provide to their children.

The school had its back-to-school night and had a very successful turnout. Parents had the opportunity to meet with teachers and discuss the curriculum and expectations.

Ms. Williams-Isom visited the school to talk to teachers to get feedback from them and communicate her appreciation.

School leaders met with the superintendent about the focus for the new school year.

Two student teachers have joined the school from Monroe College.

Mr. Canada reminded lower elementary principals and the superintendent that there is a theory that 3rd grade test scores are influenced by K-2 performance. Ms. Williams-Isom responded that there has already been a focus on strengthening the curriculum for 2nd grade.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II Upper Elementary School (Shondell James)**

Attendance for the month of July was at 85%. The school will work to make sure that attendance improves.

The school held its back-to-school night with 150 families attending. So far, the school has been focusing on new students to help them acclimate to the school's culture. The school has also created a mentorship program for students who need additional support.

The school has veteran teachers partnering with new teachers for added support.

The school is focusing on student engagement in order to help children feel valued and respected by implementing electives such as advanced art, performing arts, chess and instrumental music.

The school has started instructional meetings with ELA and math teachers looking specifically at student work and talking about what methods work well across content areas.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School (Judy Palacios)**

Attendance for the month of July was at 83%. As the school year kicks off, staff members are meeting with students and families to re-iterate the importance of children being in school on time every day.

The principal thanked the CEO and superintendent for the opportunity of having gone to the Relay Principals Program this summer, a two-week intensive program teaching best strategies. As a result, the PAI and PAII middle schools have been working closely together, developing a new level of collaboration.

The middle school held a back-to-school night where parents met with school leaders and teachers, and received a preview of the units of study and other great work in which the students are engaged.

For the month of September, students are working on conceptual word problems, ratio and proportions in math. In ELA, all students are in a realistic fiction unit, where staff members are using Accelerated Reader, software that engages students in reading practice with books and non-fiction articles, and has kids take quizzes while reading independent books.

In social studies and science, we've launched our units with several hands-on activities. Ms. Lucino, the seventh-grade science teacher, has been engaging with students on project-based problem-solving. In social studies, sixth-grade students are studying the early civilization of Mesopotamia, seventh-graders are studying Native American culture and eighth-graders are studying the Civil War.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II High School (Ashley Blount)**

Ms. Blount thanked senior leaders for their support and guidance in her new role, and said that she was looking forward to an exciting and productive school year.

Attendance was at 85% for the month of July. The school is working to increase that percentage going forward.

About 90% of high school seniors participated in summer exposures, including internships, summer college programs and business programs. Some ninth-, tenth- and 11<sup>th</sup> graders went to summer exposures as well.

School leaders are very proud of the high school students and teachers for the Regents results. The school continues to work with the ninth- and tenth-grade students to help them finish their Regents early so that they can focus efforts on college exposure.

There are 55 PAII high school students enrolled in the Bard Early College Program. The school has been collaborating with their sister school, Promise Academy I High School taking elective courses such as Creative Writing, Graphic Novels and Abnormal Psychology.

The focus for the next two months will be to make sure that all seniors are on track to graduate, able to get into the college of their choice and provided help with filling out FAFSA applications.

### **Financial Report (Jim Hutter)**

Jim Hutter covered Promise Academy II's financial report through the first two months of FY17. Enrollment is at 986, which is 8 students above budget. From the standpoint of revenue, PAII is on budget through the first two months. Expenses are \$100,000 favorable.

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 II September 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	
9/6	35	281	88%	32	250	87%	
9/7	21	280	93%	17	250	93%	
9/8	16	280	94%	11	250	96%	
9/9	16	278	94%	7	250	97%	
9/13	12	277	96%	10	251	96%	
9/14	5	277	98%	6	254	98%	
9/15	8	278	97%	5	254	98%	
9/16	12	277	96%	6	253	98%	
9/19	13	275	95%	8	254	97%	
9/20	16	275	94%	6	256	98%	
9/21	9	277	97%	6	255	98%	
9/22	15	276	95%	6	256	98%	
9/23	15	276	95%	6	256	98%	
9/26	14	278	95%	8	259	97%	
9/27	11	279	96%	7	259	97%	
9/28	16	286	94%	5	261	98%	
9/29	10	286	97%	6	261	98%	
9/30	12	287	96%	9	262	97%	
<b>Average</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>96%</b>	

# HCZ Promise Academy II September 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	
9/6	25	241	90%	19	207	91%	
9/7	13	242	95%	15	204	93%	
9/8	5	243	98%	10	204	95%	
9/9	11	243	95%	18	203	91%	
9/13	8	243	97%	10	203	95%	
9/14	4	242	98%	8	206	96%	
9/15	8	242	97%	7	204	97%	
9/16	11	241	95%	4	204	98%	
9/19	7	241	97%	11	204	95%	
9/20	8	241	97%	6	203	97%	
9/21	9	241	96%	6	203	97%	
9/22	4	241	98%	7	203	97%	
9/23	2	241	99%	7	203	97%	
9/26	12	241	95%	7	203	97%	
9/27	11	241	95%	10	203	95%	
9/28	10	241	96%	17	203	92%	
9/29	9	241	96%	11	203	95%	
9/30	6	241	98%	23	203	89%	
<b>Average</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>95%</b>	



## Promise Academy II

### FY 2017 September YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	978	1,000	22	978
Grades	K - 12	K - 12		K - 12
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 4.1	\$ 4.1	\$ -	\$ 16.5
Expenses:				
Salaries	2.7	2.7	-	11.7
Benefits	0.9	0.8	0.1	3.6
OTPS	0.7	0.7	-	3.0
Total Expenses	4.3	4.2	0.1	18.3
HCZ Contribution	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 1.8
per student (whole \$)	\$ 204	\$ 100	\$ 104	\$ 1,840

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

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





## **Promise Academy II**

### **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**