



Promise Academy I Charter School

A partner of



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ZONE**

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Achil Petit
Superintendent

Joseph Cordero
**Principal
Elementary School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 212.360.3232

Madelaine German-Schultz
**Principal
Middle School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 212.360.3233

**Principal
High School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 212.360.3234

AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, October 30th, 2019

at

The Harlem Children's Zone
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. CEO Report (*Anne Williams-Isom*)
- III. Superintendent's Updates (*Achil Petit*)
- IV. Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Elementary School (*Joseph Cordero*)
 - ii. Middle School (*Madelaine German-Schultz*)
 - iii. High School (*Susan Rydz*)
- V. Financial Report (*Sara Alvarado*)
- VI. English Language Learner Preference Resolution (*Candice Ashby*)
- VII. Teacher Presentation (*Achil Petit*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz, Kenneth Langone, Anne Williams-Isom, Bodie Brizendine (by phone), Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Alfonso Wyatt (by phone), Esther Addo, Sara Alvarado, Candice Ashby, Victor Boadum, Rowland Boateng, Ari Browne, Yvonne Canada, Joseph Cordero, Amy Deal, Jeremy Friedman, Kashif Hameed, Jim Hutter, Shondell James, Justin Maker, Bridget O'Neill, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Achil Petit, Jessica Rawlins, Susan Rydz, Madelaine Schultz, Troy Smith, Toya Stilley and Bessie Wilkerson.

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. and a motion was called to approve the meeting minutes from June 19, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Anne Williams-Isom)

Anne Williams-Isom thanked everyone who joined in the 25th Annual Children's March for Peace, which was renamed the Rasuli Lewis Children's March for Peace to honor the HCZ director who passed away this summer and who was one of the original organizers of the Peace March.

Ms. Williams-Isom reported that more than 3,000 children were part of the annual HCZ Summer Games held in July at the Fort Washington Avenue Armory.

The Promise Academy High School graduation was held on June 26th. The keynote speaker, performer and entrepreneur Pharrell Williams, offered summer 2020 internships to the entire graduating class.

September 5, 2019 was the first day of school for all Promise Academy I and II scholars. Principals and senior staff members stood in front of the schools in the mornings of the first two days to greet scholars and their families.

Ms. Williams-Isom and Dr. Achil Petit sat down with teachers to do evaluations after the test scores were released.

Cindy Baah, the founder of Determined to Educate, provided the Promise Academy I Middle School with R&B artist Michael Bivins as a keynote speaker for the eighth-grade graduation in June. Determined to Educate is an organization devoted to supporting New York City's most vulnerable young student populations through group mentoring.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)

Dr. Petit reported that enrollment is at 1,201 for Promise Academy I and at 1,056 for Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit also reported PAII High School principal Katherine Hurtado resigned her position. Kashif Hameed, the former PAI Middle School principal, will take her place and Madelaine German-Schultz, who was the Education Director under Mr. Hameed, has accepted the role of principal for PAI Middle School. Ms. German-Schultz thanked the superintendent for the opportunity. The board welcomed Ms. German Schultz and Mr. Hameed to their new roles.

State Test Scores (Dr. Bessie Wilkerson / Dr. Achil Petit)

Dr. Bessie Wilkerson spoke about State test results, comparing the results of Promise Academy I and II to the results of students in the district, City, State and New York City black and white students.

In ELA, PAI and PAII performed better than all above mentioned comparison groups except for NYC white students. Dr. Wilkerson discussed both schools' growth percentage from 2013 to 2019. In addition, the pass rates for students with disabilities for Promise Academy exceeded New York City rates.

Dr. Petit discussed the ELA goals and initiatives during the 2018-2019 school year that contributed to an increase in proficiency rates for PAI and steady proficiency rates for PAII. The goals included small group instruction based on assessment data, improved levels of questioning during observations, improved pacing of instruction, Go-Live coaching, modified curriculum based on data, use of Academic Intervention Services (AIS) to address deficiencies, Saturday School, updated exit tickets and benchmark exams and increased academic hour during test preparation.

In math, PAI and PAII outperformed all above mentioned comparison groups including NYC white students. Dr. Wilkerson discussed both schools' growth percentage from 2013 to 2019. Both Promise Academies have demonstrated much greater growth over that time period than the standard comparison groups. Additionally, the passing rates for students with disabilities for Promise Academy exceeded New York City rates.

Dr. Petit discussed the math goals and initiatives during the 2018-2019 school year that contributed to an increase in proficiency rates for PAI and PAII, which included providing actionable feedback during teacher observations, modifying the curriculum based on 2018 State test data, an increased focus on test preparation, weekly grade team meetings, weekly Go-Live sessions with new teachers, data meetings, incentivized academic hour, targeted aggressive monitoring and increased use of technology.

Dr. Wilkerson reported on Regents exam results for PAI and PAII high school students, comparing Promise scores to the 2018 results for black and white New York State students and all New York State students as a whole. PAI and PAII high school senior cohorts outperformed all New York State comparison groups in all five of the required Regents exams. Even prior to their senior year of high school, Promise Academy cohorts were already passing Regents exams in most subjects at rates higher than NYS's students as a whole. This is true for the 2018-2019

junior cohort in all five subjects, true of sophomores in some subjects, and true for freshmen in math.

HCZ Promise Academy I Elementary School (Dr. Joseph Cordero)

The elementary school's attendance was at 84% for July.

During the summer session, the elementary school focused on improving reading levels across grades K through 5. The school created another leveled reading library on the second floor.

Students went on two trips during the summer. The first was to the New York Historical Society, where scholars went on a scavenger hunt looking for artifacts. The second was to the Museum of the City of New York, where scholars participated in the "future lab" and students looked at different ways to design New York City that took into account sociological factors, environmental factors, and urban design.

The first day of school was successful and scholars were enthusiastic to be back at Promise Academy.

A book vending machine has been installed, where scholars can use tokens to check out high interest books. The school has a partnership with The Book Fairies, a not-for-profit organization that collects reading materials for people in need throughout New York City. The organization will be supplying the school with books throughout the school year.

The school will hold its back-to-school night on September 12, 2019.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School (Madelaine Schultz)

The middle school's attendance was at 79% for July.

Over the summer, three middle school scholars were given the opportunity to participate in the Youth Climate Summit at the United Nations on September 21, 2019. The scholars representing Promise Academy at the summit will discuss different reasons and possible solutions for climate change.

School leaders and teachers participated in restorative practice training and have seen a positive difference in interactions between scholars and teachers.

Ms. Kyler Morris, a seventh-grade math teacher, was cited for working closely with her students for test preparation, with 95% of her scholars earning proficiency on the NYS math exams.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School (Bridget O'Neill)

The high school's attendance was at 85% for July.

97% of the senior class has met their graduating testing requirements. School leaders are working with the remaining 3% to meet benchmarks.

Scholars engaged in summer exposure opportunities at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, New York University, Syracuse University, Harvard University and Susquehanna University. One of the senior students won first place at the University of Pennsylvania for creating a proposal for an app that would give underprivileged students viable options for

summer exposure programs. The senior scholar presented in front of more than 200 students and board members.

PAI and PAII scholars in the Forces of Nature dance team went on a trip to South Africa for ten days engaging in volunteer community projects.

In partnership with the College Board, the high schools have been working with two new curricula, Pre-AP and SpringBoard, to ensure college readiness for Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs). School leaders have been working closely with teachers in developing college readiness and all freshmen teachers went to a four-day training institute over the summer. School leaders will be closely monitoring implementation of the new curricula.

Financial Report (Jim Hutter)

PAI's enrollment is at 1,201, which is 73 students favorable. PAI revenue is on track with its budget. PAI is \$200,000 favorable with expenses at \$2.9M. There is no HCZ contribution through the first two months of FY20.

HCZ Promise Academy I

September 2019 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAI Elementary School				HCZ PAI Middle School				HCZ PAI High School			
	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present
9/5	54	692	92%	19	245	92%	28	266	89%			
9/6	49	665	93%	7	241	97%	20	259	92%			
9/9	31	665	95%	6	241	98%	9	259	97%			
9/10	39	665	94%	2	241	99%	14	259	95%			
9/11	31	665	95%	5	240	98%	11	259	96%			
9/12	35	665	95%	4	240	98%	11	258	96%			
9/13	24	664	96%	6	240	98%	14	257	95%			
9/16	28	664	96%	12	240	95%	13	256	95%			
9/17	26	664	96%	13	240	95%	6	255	98%			
9/18	25	663	96%	12	240	95%	13	255	95%			
9/19	25	663	96%	9	240	96%	2	255	99%			
9/20	40	663	94%	10	240	96%	16	255	94%			
9/23	28	661	96%	4	240	98%	9	255	96%			
9/24	29	661	96%	8	240	97%	6	255	98%			
9/25	20	661	97%	5	240	98%	6	255	98%			
9/26	21	660	97%	1	240	100%	5	255	98%			
9/27	16	660	98%	3	240	99%	5	255	98%			
Average	31	665	95%	7	240	97%	11	257	96%			



Promise Academy I

FY 2020 September YTD Budget vs. Actual \$ millions

	Budget	Actual ⁽¹⁾	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	1,128	1,144	16.0	1,128
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 5.4	\$ 5.4	\$ -	\$ 21.4
Expenses:				
Salaries	3.0	2.9	0.1	12.7
Benefits	1.0	0.9	0.1	4.0
OTPS	1.0	1.0	-	3.8
Total Expenses	5.0	4.8	0.2	20.5
Expenses in excess of public funding	-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:				
Private Funding	0.3	0.3	-	1.3
HCZ Contribution	-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

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

FY20 Operating Budget does not include PA Blueprint project

Promise Academy I

FY 19 Draft Financial Statements

- **Audit of Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2019**
- **Grant Thornton is our auditor**
- **Fieldwork is in progress**
- **Draft Financial Statements included in Board package**
- **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, 2019**
- **We are currently on target**

Changes to Promise Academy I Charter (Lottery Preferences)

houses). This recruitment will be done by way of telephone calls, mailings, flyers and when all else fails, home visits. There is a distribution mailing to reach out to those families who haven't given a definitive answer of whether their child will take the seat.

The Enrollment Lottery

HCZ Promise Academy is committed to helping students get a "head start" in established Pre-K programs. Therefore, the school accepts applications for kindergarteners two school years before those children can matriculate at HCZ Promise Academy. In admitting students by lottery two years prior to kindergarten, the school helps families find placements for their children in established Pre-K programs so that students are even better prepared. Conducting a lottery two years prior to the start of the kindergarten year ensures that all applicants have an equal chance at enrollment.

In the event that HCZ Promise Academy receives more applications than allotted spaces, the school holds a lottery in a manner consistent with all legal requirements. This random and publicly held lottery is audited by a disinterested and independent individual to be determined. All applicants are notified of the time and the place of the lottery and are invited to attend. The lottery is held in the summer of each year. HCZ Promise Academy's uses the following criteria in the lottery when space is made available:

- if applicable, first preference is given to students who attended the school the previous year and are returning to the school;
- second preference is given to siblings of students enrolled in the school;
- third preference is given to students who reside in the NYCHA's Saint Nicholas Houses;
- fourth preference is given to low-income students (as indicated by free or reduced lunch qualification) who reside in New York City School District 5 in Central Harlem;
- fifth preference is given to English Language Learners who reside in New York city School District 5 in Central Harlem;
- fifth-sixth preference is given to other students living in Central Harlem who are low-income and who are zoned to attend a low-performing public school if not admitted to HCZ Promise Academy I;
- sixth-seventh preference is given to all other students who reside in New York City School District 5; and
- seventh-eighth preference is given to low-income students who live outside of District 5.

On ~~ce~~ the available spaces are filled by students whose names are drawn and/or by students whose siblings are selected for enrollment, the remaining applicants are placed on a waiting list in the order in which their names are drawn (students with siblings enrolled in the school receive preference over waiting list candidates who do not have siblings enrolled). In addition, vacancies at each grade level will be filled through a process that acknowledges the date of application submittal of children on the waiting list. When HCZ Promise Academy fills a vacancy, it makes reasonable efforts to contact the parent or guardian of the student next on the waiting list to determine whether the student is still interested in enrolling at the school. If attempts to contact the student's parents/guardians are unsuccessful, the school may remove that student from the waiting list and proceed to contacting the next person on the list. Documentation of