



Promise Academy I Charter School

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Bridget O'Neill
**Principal
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AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, November 4th, 2020

at

The Harlem Children's Zone
Video Conference

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. CEO Report (*Kwame Owusu-Kesse*)
- 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 (*Bridget O'Neill*)
- V. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Video Conference

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz, Ken Langone, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Nana Annan, Candice Ashby, Ari Browne, Joseph Cordero, Amy Deal, Tiffany Fountain, Kashif Hameed, Jim Hutter, Shondell James, Jennifer Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Justin Maker, Liam McCarthy, Bridget O'Neill, Achil Petit, Wesner Pierre, Hayling Price, Susan Rydz, Madelaine Schultz, and Toya Stilley

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m., and a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 15, 2020, was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that this week marked his 100th day as CEO of HCZ and the 100th day of Keith Meister as Chairman of the HCZ Board of Trustees.

Related to a key pillar of HCZ's COVID-19 Emergency Relief and Recovery effort to protect the most vulnerable in the Harlem community, there was a local distribution of essential supplies—including 35,000 masks, 4,205 non-perishable goods, and 28,000 pounds of produce.

HCZ launched a public health campaign in Harlem called #StayCoveredHarlem, which has generated six million online traffic hits since its launch. As part of the campaign, HCZ distributed over 2,000 thermometers.

Promise Academy has begun hybrid learning, with scholars receiving in-person instruction on a staggered schedule two days a week. The plan is designed for scholars and staff to stay in designated “pods” to further social distancing efforts.

HCZ continues to provide mental health services and staff training, which is in line with one of the pillars in HCZ's approach to the pandemic: mitigating the mental health crisis. Wellness practices and access to teletherapy have been provided to families and staff.

HCZ has partnered with Mobile Health to provide rapid testing for COVID-19. Testing is available for all staff and students at the HCZ Armory. To date, 1,900 individuals have been tested. The organization has also hired a contact tracer in the event that there is a positive case of COVID-19 within the organization.

Besides the work on the ground in Harlem, HCZ has been making a significant impact nationally by serving as a best-practice model of place-based work. HCZ is replicating its efforts in six cities: Oakland, Minneapolis, Chicago, Detroit, Newark, and Atlanta.

To help offset additional transportation costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, HCZ has given a one-time gift of \$50 to all employees.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)

Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is currently 1,155 for Promise Academy I and 1,065 for Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit also reported that enrollment has been favorable due to strong outreach efforts by Promise Academy principals, school administrators, and Central Office staff.

The transition to hybrid learning began on September 29th. Dr. Petit thanked the schools, after-school, IT department, and others who provided support.

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

The elementary school's attendance was 92% for September.

The school has been communicating weekly with parents and families to keep them informed about Promise Academy safety precautions in response to COVID-19 and give them a chance to ask questions. The elementary school also held a parent conference the week before in-person learning began.

The character trait scholars focused on during September was "inclusiveness."

The school's book club started in September, with scholars reading *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold. The book focuses on a school where diversity and inclusion are celebrated.

Elementary scholars wore blue as a sign of unity on Bully Awareness Day.

Scholars are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and learning about Frida Kahlo, Roberto Clemente, and Sammy Davis Jr., among other prominent figures. Students also learned about the African Diaspora, Latin America, and Afro-Latino music by Celia Cruz and Tito Puente. On October 15th, the students will celebrate and showcase Afro-Latino art, essays, language, and recipes.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School (Madelaine German-Schultz)

The middle school's attendance was 98% for September.

The middle school has developed several systems that monitor scholars' progress in order to mitigate learning loss. Scholars who need extra support attend "Academic Hour," and Saturday Academy will begin in late October.

Scholars participated in Space Week by gathering materials to build rockets and space launchers at home during their remote learning days.

Parents receive a weekly newsletter to keep them informed.

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

The PAI high school's attendance was 97% for September.

School leaders hold a community huddle with teachers for 40 minutes every Monday and Friday morning to keep communication lines open. Veteran teachers have also volunteered to share best practices by allowing co-teachers to observe their classes.

Students benefited from a community huddle inspired by the Director of Social-Emotional Learning's programming. Scholars connected and were asked to reflect on how they were feeling.

The high school has been providing ongoing professional development to all teachers by hosting a 10-minute “Tech Tuesday” discussion weekly, providing teachers with a quick overview of new digital tools and apps to support them. School leaders utilized the Bloomz app to communicate with parents and provide them with updates. The tool was also used to create a walkthrough video of the classrooms to show parents the new safety measures for in-person instruction.

On September 16th, a back-to-school night was held with over 100 families participating. Teachers created virtual classrooms and used images to reflect their interests.

Financial Update (Jim Hutter)

PAI’s enrollment is at 1,155, which is 36 favorable versus the budget. PAI revenue is on target with the budget. PAI is \$200,000 favorable, with expenses at \$4.3M. There is no HCZ contribution through three months of FY21.

Grant Thornton is currently performing the audit of FY20 for PAI. Once the audit is complete, the audited financial statements and report on internal control will be filed with the New York State Education Department by the November 2nd deadline.

HCZ Promise Academy I

October 2020 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
10/1	36	661	95%	3	260	99%	7	236	97%
10/2	42	661	94%	6	260	98%	3	236	99%
10/5	37	659	94%	4	260	98%	9	236	96%
10/6	32	660	95%	5	260	98%	9	236	96%
10/7	30	659	95%	1	260	100%	13	236	94%
10/8	39	659	94%	4	260	98%	8	236	97%
10/9	48	659	93%	7	260	97%	3	236	99%
10/13	40	659	94%	3	260	99%	13	236	94%
10/14	41	659	94%	7	260	97%	6	236	97%
10/15	37	659	94%	9	260	97%	8	236	97%
10/16	46	659	93%	5	260	98%	5	236	98%
10/19	28	658	96%	4	260	98%	10	236	96%
10/20	29	658	96%	7	260	97%	8	236	97%
10/21	33	656	95%	5	260	98%	13	236	94%
10/22	36	656	95%	4	260	98%	7	236	97%
10/23	35	656	95%	3	260	99%	4	236	98%
10/26	43	656	93%	3	260	99%	5	236	98%
10/27	43	656	93%	3	260	99%	8	236	97%
10/28	40	656	94%	6	260	98%	2	236	99%
10/29	44	659	93%	2	260	99%	3	236	99%
10/30	46	659	93%	3	260	99%	2	236	99%
Average	38	658	94%	4	260	98%	7	236	97%



Promise Academy I
FY 2021 October YTD Budget vs. Actual
 \$ millions

		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>	<u>Full Year Budget</u>
Enrollment		1,119	1,155	36	1,119
DOE and other gov't funding	(a)	\$ 7.1	\$ 7.1	\$ -	\$ 21.3
Expenses:					
Salaries		4.4	4.3	0.1	13.2
Benefits		1.3	1.2	0.1	4.1
OTPS		1.2	1.0	0.2	3.7
Total Expenses	(b)	6.9	6.5	0.4	21.0
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

*(a) Excludes Government Funding (SBA loan forgiveness).
 Awaiting determination of NYS one-time funding - historically about \$0.2M.*

(b) Excludes bonus, growth fund, PA Blueprint & HCZ allocations.