



Promise Academy I Charter School

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AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, January 20th, 2021

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

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Video Conference

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz, Ken Langone, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Alfonso Wyatt, Sara Alvarado, Nana Annan, Candice Ashby, Ari Browne, Joseph Cordero, Amy Deal, Tiffany Fountain, 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 Stille

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 November 4, 2020, was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that executive leadership continues to be proactive in communication to families within the community.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse also reported that senior leaders designed systems to make rapid testing available to all employees, students, and the community to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season. Since the beginning of September, the organization has conducted 2,668 tests in partnership with Mobile Health. In addition, some staff members, students, and families have also been tested externally using their own primary care resources.

Harlem Children's Zone continues to be a major part of the national discussion around COVID-19 recovery. Geoffrey Canada and Mr. Owusu-Kesse recently wrote an op-ed piece for *The New York Times* emphasizing the importance of comprehensive place-based work.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse and Dr. Achil Petit met virtually with new teachers to allow them to ask questions about the organization's COVID-19 response.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)

Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is currently 1,151 for Promise Academy I and 1,061 for Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit thanked COO Nana Annan, Executive Chef Andrew Benson, and team members who gave out turkeys to families during the holidays. The team continues to distribute meals to Promise Academy families every week.

School leaders continue efforts to provide strong professional development for staff members and additional support and interventions for students. There has been strong attendance for Academic Hour and Saturday Academy, with teachers going above and beyond to ensure that students reach benchmarks.

During talks with new teachers, Mr. Owusu-Kesse and Dr. Petit received positive feedback from new hires who stated that they have felt supported by leadership during onboarding.

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

The elementary school's attendance was 94% for November.

School leaders continue to hold weekly jam sessions with parents to keep them informed and allow them to ask questions. Principal Madelaine Schultz joined a recent jam session to talk to parents about the transition for fifth graders to middle school. Chef Benson also joined to discuss meal distribution.

The elementary school continues to provide Academic Hour and Saturday Academy for students who require additional help.

The school distributed report cards for the first marking period and held parent/teacher conferences to discuss student progress with families.

The elementary school held its first virtual honor roll celebration for the school year. The event had a great turnout of parents and families.

Students read “Tia Isa Wants a Car” by Meg Medina to explore the theme of gratitude—which was the month's character trait.

The school distributed 200 turkeys to PAI Elementary families. They also gave students notebooks and other school supplies.

The elementary school held two fire drills before returning to remote instruction.

School leaders held professional development on Election Day, allowing staff members to choose from various workshops.

The school held a staff appreciation “Grab and Go” lunch for all staff members. School leaders also thanked teachers and staff for their ongoing support.

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

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

The school's theme of the month was gratitude. Students explored the theme by writing letters to veterans and thank you notes to their parents, families, and teachers. They also spent time during the month journaling in restorative circles.

The middle school held an honor roll ceremony, rewarding students who achieved high grades and scholars who have shown improvement.

There has been a rise in student attendance for both Saturday Academy and Academic Hour, with scholars being proactive about meeting their benchmarks. The middle school also launched virtual peer tutoring, allowing scholars who are exceeding expectations to help their fellow students.

The school held its first Positive Parenting professional development workshop, where positivity coach Amber Forrester taught parents different restorative practices used in the middle school.

School staff members distributed over 100 turkeys to very thankful families.

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

The high school's attendance was 97% for November.

The theme of the month for the high school was gratitude. Students were asked to find gratitude in unexpected places and reflect on them collectively. Staff members created a virtual gratitude wall with a daily challenge to reflect on a question and share memories and pictures of their families.

Promise Academy I and II High School students are working on completing college applications. During the week of November 9th, the high schools held a “College Week” with five days of events. On CUNY College Day, CUNY representatives and Promise alumni spoke to high school students about their collegiate experiences. On SUNY Day, Promise Academy High School students attended virtual college tours for SUNY Albany, Oswego, and the University of Buffalo. The school held private university and Ivy League college days for interested scholars.

On Saturday, December 12th, scholars will participate in a virtual HBCU College Fair, which they will attend with their college coordinators.

The high school has been hosting “Instant Decision Days,” which allow scholars to present their applications and portfolios to recruiters from Seton Hall University and Monroe College.

The high school continues to work with staff members on professional development. Following their first cycle of formal observations, individual coaching plans were put into place to help teachers work on their goals. Both Promise high schools have been working closely together to share best practices.

The school held an honor roll ceremony with bronze, silver, and gold honorable achievements for the marking period. Character awards were also given to scholars who showed improvement, had excellent attendance, and excelled in a virtual setting.

Financial Update (Jim Hutter)

PAI's enrollment is at 1,151, which is 32 favorable versus the budget. PAI revenue is on target with the budget. PAI is \$700,000 favorable, with expenses at \$8.1M. There is no HCZ contribution through five months of FY21.

HCZ Promise Academy I

December 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
12/1	33	656	95%	3	260	99%	3	236	99%
12/2	35	656	95%	4	259	98%	5	236	98%
12/3	37	656	94%	6	259	98%	2	236	99%
12/4	32	656	95%	3	259	99%	4	236	98%
12/7	28	656	96%	3	258	99%	5	236	98%
12/8	30	655	95%	3	258	99%	5	236	98%
12/9	21	654	97%	5	258	98%	1	236	100%
12/10	30	654	95%	2	258	99%	1	236	100%
12/11	36	654	94%	1	258	100%	3	236	99%
12/14	40	654	94%	8	258	97%	1	236	100%
12/15	30	653	95%	5	258	98%	5	236	98%
12/16	32	653	95%	8	258	97%	3	236	99%
12/17	33	653	95%	2	258	99%	4	236	98%
12/18	28	653	96%	8	258	97%	9	236	96%
12/21	42	653	94%	8	258	97%	9	236	96%
12/22	52	653	92%	6	258	98%	6	236	97%
Average	34	654	95%	5	258	98%	4	236	98%



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

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>	<u>Full Year Budget</u>
Enrollment	1,119	1,145	26	1,119
DOE and other gov't funding (a)	\$ 10.6	\$ 10.6	\$ -	\$ 21.3
Expenses:				
Salaries	6.4	6.3	0.1	13.2
Benefits	2.0	1.9	0.1	4.1
OTPS	1.8	1.2	0.6	3.7
Total Expenses (b)	10.2	9.4	0.8	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 COVID/Emergency relief & HCZ allocations.