



Promise Academy I Charter School

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Principal
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Bridget O'Neill
Principal
High School
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AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, April 21st, 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 (*Connor Fournier*)

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Video Conference

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz, Ken Langone, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Bodie Brizendine, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Alfonso Wyatt, Sara Alvarado, Nana Annan, Candice Ashby, Ari Browne, Joseph Cordero, Amy Deal, Connor Fournier, Kashif Hameed, Shondell James, Jennifer Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, Justin Maker, Bridget O'Neill, Achil Petit, Wesner Pierre, Hayling Price, Susan Rydz, Madelaine Schultz, Troy Smith, 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 February 10, 2021 was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kwame Owusu-Kesse introduced two new executives:

Connor Fournier joined Harlem Children's Zone in February 2021 as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) with a corporate finance degree. Most recently, Connor worked as the Vice President of Finance and Interim CFO at Success Academy.

Stephanie Lilavois joined HCZ as the Managing Director of Communications in February after fifteen years of progressive communication experience for non-profits, including the University of Pittsburg and the City University of New York. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Communications.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse reported that since November, HCZ, in partnership with Mobile Health, has conducted more than 7,000 tests for COVID-19 with a 2% positivity rate. However, last week, 400 tests were conducted with a 5% positivity rate, reflecting the current rise of the rate of infection in Central Harlem. Justin Maker, Senior Managing Director, Human Resources and his team, continue to track data and provide weekly updates to inform HCZ's decision-making and program design.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse also reported that HCZ's internal task force is dedicated to educating the community about vaccines. Planning efforts have included the vaccination of the entire executive team. Additionally, Mr. Owusu-Kesse recently spoke with and received guidance from Dr. Julia Iashare, a senior staff member at New York-Presbyterian and HCZ President and Founder Geoffrey Canada, who continues to address this issue nationally.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)

Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is currently 1,140 for Promise Academy I and 1,053 for Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit also reported that the reopening of Promise Academy Charter Schools to hybrid learning had gone smoothly. Dr. Petit thanked the IT, facilities, and safety teams for their efforts in ensuring the safety of HCZ scholars and that they are equipped with the tools necessary for hybrid learning.

Dr. Petit reminded the board of trustees that information on State exams has still not been released following the New York State Education Department's request for an assessment waiver due to the pandemic. If the Federal Government denies a waiver request, Dr. Petit reported, then NYSED will reduce the number of Regents exams and the length of grades 3-8 exams.

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

Principal Dr. Joseph Cordero reported the Elementary School's attendance was 94% for February.

The Elementary School continues to provide intervention services for students during Academic Hour and Saturday Academy.

The school's weekly jam sessions for parents have helped keep families informed and updated on school practices and events, he said.

The school held virtual parent/teacher conferences with a successful turnout.

For the new marking period, 256 scholars have elected to come to school for hybrid learning, a significant increase from the last marking period.

Students engaged in a reading challenge from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday through to Valentine's Day. The winning scholars in each grade received Barnes and Noble gift cards.

The month's character trait was "perseverance," highlighted by a poem, "The Undeclared," by Kwame Alexander. The poem is a love letter to Black life in the United States.

The Elementary School distributed 100 touchscreen laptops to kindergarten scholars who are still developing their fine motor skills.

The Elementary School held a top performers award ceremony, with 135 parents attending. The school also had a non-academic all-star ceremony, which 245 parents attended. Dr. Petit spoke at the event. The school also held its first teacher service awards and highlighted six staff members' contributions.

For Black History Month, the Elementary School held daily highlights and presentations. There was also a contest called Black Wallstreet, where scholars studied various inventors, and then provided ideas on improvements to some of the inventions. A group of students created a video, "Hey Black Child, I am that Black Child," which was shared with staff and in some classrooms.

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

Principal Madelaine German-Schultz reported that the Middle School's attendance was 98% for February.

In celebration of Black History Month, scholars picked a local hero, including Cicely Tyson, Madam C.J. Walker, and Geoffrey Canada, and described their impact on the community. Three local heroes were also invited to speak to scholars virtually: Kevin Reilly, the Bronx District 12 City Councilman; Jachelle Walker, the Special Assistant at the New York State Senate; and Elijah Lee, a 12-year old who fights against child abuse as part of Marvel's Hero Project. The month ended with an assembly where scholars presented their work, hosted an art show, and recited poems.

High-performing eighth-grade scholars in the Ladies of Promise Academy group have successfully paired with Middle School girls who need extra support. Struggling students have made up to 17% gains in academic success during the current marking period.

The school prepared for March Madness by teaching scholars soft organization skills, including how to draft emails, keep their spaces tidy, and prevent procrastination. Each week, a challenge was held, the winners of which received a gift card.

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

Principal Bridget O'Neill reported that the High School's attendance was 88% for February.

In February, the High School celebrated school counselors who have been pivotal in supporting families during the pandemic and remote learning. School counselors received personalized letters from scholars and families mailed to their homes. Counselors also engaged in a fun “escape the room” virtual challenge, received artworks made for them by scholars, and were given Promise Academy paraphernalia.

Principal O'Neill partnered with Principal Kashif Hameed of Promise Academy II High School and met with every senior scholar and their families at the end of the first term to give them updates and go over their progress towards graduation.

Both high schools launched a mentorship program to support students who are struggling academically. Leaders across the organization have been supporting seniors through mentorship meetings, academic help, and daily reminders to keep them on task.

The high schools also held an intensive support program over the midwinter recess, with 125 students receiving additional academic support from 20 high school teachers.

100% of PAI High School seniors have been accepted to at least one college or university. Guidance counselors and advisors will be working with seniors and their families to identify the best fit for graduates.

Financial Update (Connor Fournier)

CFO Connor Fournier reported that PAI's enrollment is at 1,140, which is 21 favorable versus the budget. PAI revenue is on target with the budget. PAI is \$700,000 favorable, with expenses at \$13M. There is no HCZ contribution through eight months of FY21.

HCZ Promise Academy I

March 2021 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
3/1	38	648	94%	4	257	98%	31	235	87%
3/2	33	648	95%	3	257	99%	23	235	90%
3/3	41	648	94%	8	257	97%	36	235	85%
3/4	39	648	94%	4	257	98%	18	235	92%
3/5	48	648	93%	6	257	98%	20	235	91%
3/8	28	648	96%	6	257	98%	24	235	90%
3/9	32	648	95%	7	257	97%	25	235	89%
3/10	47	648	93%	7	257	97%	14	235	94%
3/11	43	648	93%	12	257	95%	15	235	94%
3/15	38	648	94%	7	257	97%	27	235	89%
3/16	46	648	93%	6	257	98%	17	235	93%
3/17	45	648	93%	10	257	96%	13	235	94%
3/18	45	648	93%	7	257	97%	26	235	89%
3/19	50	648	92%	8	257	97%	17	235	93%
3/22	39	648	94%	11	257	96%	18	235	92%
3/23	41	648	94%	1	257	100%	25	235	89%
3/24	47	647	93%	8	257	97%	18	235	92%
3/25	39	647	94%	12	257	95%	15	235	94%
3/26	60	647	91%	11	257	96%	10	235	96%
Average	42	648	94%	7	257	97%	21	235	91%



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

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>	<u>Full Year Budget</u>
Enrollment	1,119	1,139	20	1,119
DOE and other gov't funding (a)	\$ 16.0	\$ 16.0	\$ -	\$ 21.3
Expenses:				
Salaries	9.5	9.2	0.3	13.2
Benefits	3.0	3.0	-	4.1
OTPS	2.8	2.3	0.5	3.7
Total Expenses (b)	15.3	14.5	0.8	21.0
Expenses in excess of public funding	-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:				
HCZ Contribution	-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(a) Excludes Government Funding (SBA loan forgiveness).

(b) Excludes bonus, growth fund, PA COVID/Emergency relief & HCZ allocations.