

**Harlem Children's Zone**  
**Promise**  
**Academy II®**

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Achil Petit  
**Superintendent**

Shondell James  
**Principal**  
**Elementary School**  
2005 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10035  
Tel 212.360.3236

Ryan Carroll  
**Principal**  
**Middle School**  
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New York, NY 10035  
Tel 212.360.3237

Kaitlynn Conley  
**Principal**  
**High School**  
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New York, NY 10035  
Tel 212.360.3238

**AGENDA**

Promise Academy II Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 II Updates
  - i. Elementary School (*Shondell James*)
  - ii. Middle School (*Ryan Carroll*)
  - iii. High School (*Kaitlynn Conley*)
- V. Financial Report (*Connor Fournier*)

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

### **Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

### **Video Conference**

*Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Mitch Kurz, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Ellanor (Bodie) Brizendine, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Alfonso Wyatt, Sara Alvarado, Nana Annan, Candice Ashby, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Ryan Carroll, Kaitlynn Conley, Joseph Cordero, Amy Deal, Connor Fournier, Shondell James, Jennifer Klein, Jessica Lake, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, Justin Maker, Achil Petit, Hayling Price, Susan Rydz, Madelaine Schultz, Troy Smith, Toya Stilley, and Peter Weiss*

#### **Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM, and a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 15, 2021, was unanimously approved.

#### **CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)**

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that Promise Academy scholars returned to in-person learning on October 4, 2021. Mr. Owusu-Kesse thanked HCZ staff members for their support for Promise Academy during the first week of school.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse also reported that Gateway COVID-19 testing continues at the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Armory. Since September 13, about 3200 PCR and rapid tests have been administered with a 0.15 positivity rate. Since HCZ enacted a COVID-19 vaccine, all staff members have been vaccinated. Senior leaders are planning to enact vaccine mandates for scholars participating in extracurricular activities, including sports, dance, woodwind instrument playing, and all other activities deemed high-risk for contracting COVID-19.

Geoffrey Canada continues to be a leading voice on the importance of getting vaccinated to protect young people, Mr. Owusu-Kesse said.

#### **Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)**

Superintendent Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is currently 1,156 for Promise Academy I and 1,050 for Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit introduced two new staff members to the Board:

Peter Weiss, executive director of Training and Development, is formerly the principal of Achievement First Public Charter Schools. Armed with more than ten years of experience, Mr. Weiss will work over the next two years to enhance teacher coaching and high-quality instruction. Mr. Weiss thanked principals for welcoming him into their classrooms to begin this important work.

Dr. Saskia Brown, the new deputy superintendent, comes to Promise Academy with more than 15 years of experience in education. An accomplished leader in education, Dr. Brown has served

as a general education and special education teacher, Title I school program coordinator, and school administrator in both public and charter school environments. Dr. Brown is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Seton Hall University; her current research focuses on the implications of race in the college choice process for Black students. She holds a BA in Psychology and graduate degrees in Special Education and Educational Leadership, with a research focus on enhancing parental involvement in urban school districts.

Dr. Petit thanked the Safety team, and Troy Smith, managing director of Promise Afterschool programs, for supporting the return of scholars to in-person learning. He also thanked the principals for their leadership during this transition.

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

Principal Dr. Shondell James reported the Elementary School's attendance was 91% for September.

Two virtual back-to-school nights were held for families of K-2 grade scholars and 3-5 grade scholars. Families met with the administrative and office teams, and classroom teachers. The Elementary School also held a parent-teacher meeting to update parents on activities and protocols.

Staff members met with school leaders to ask questions and engage in fun activities, including a raffle.

The School celebrated Hispanic Heritage month from September 15 through October 15 to encourage scholars to embrace diversity.

Students in grades K-2 are receiving additional academic and social-emotional support in the transition to in-person learning. Students are also receiving extra help in reading. The reading specialist is supporting lead English language arts teachers and teaching assistants in the classroom by working with children in small groups.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School (Ryan Carroll)**

Principal Ryan Carroll reported that the Middle School's attendance was 96% for September.

The Middle School welcomed back staff members to a full in-person work week for the first time since March 2020. During the week, teachers balanced their remote teaching responsibilities with preparing the building for scholars to return to in-person learning on October 4, 2021. All teachers received custom printed bags, hats, and rain gear. School leaders also raffled a high-tech camera at their morning meeting.

Principal Carroll thanked the facilities team for their support in preparing the building for scholars, and the Safety team for supporting arrivals and dismissals of scholars. He also thanked Director of Information Systems Ari Browne and the Information Technology department for their support. Mr. Carroll also thanked the Executive Team for their logistical support.

Middle School leaders noted that scholars were more engaged during in-person instruction than they were during remote instruction.

The Middle School held a virtual back-to-school night, where parents were introduced to the administrative staff. The Middle School also hosted a virtual building tour for students and families.

The Middle School is calculating data from math and ELA student assessments and will compare that data to previous years. Scholars have been participating in Academic Hour daily, as well as Saturday Academy, which provides additional academic support. Teachers and administrators are using exit ticket data to ensure that scholars who are not mastering each lesson are targeted for daily intervention blocks and other support. Additionally, the Middle School is partnering with Alef Education to support students in math. Alef is an online platform designed to help students academically with individualized instruction.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II High School (Kaitlynn Conley)**

Principal Kaitlynn Conley reported that the High School's attendance was 95% for September.

The High School held a virtual back-to-school night for parents, who met with teachers and staff to discuss student expectations.

The High School rolled out Kickboard, a positive behavior system. Students can earn and use points at the School Store by following behavior protocols and resolving conflicts through restorative practice.

A virtual senior night for seniors was held, with 85% of families and scholars attending. In addition, scholars received information about applying for college and scholarships.

Principal Conley thanked the facilities team for their support during the transition to in-person learning.

Academic benchmarks will be completed by October 19, and teachers will assess students and identify those who may require additional academic support. School leaders are also planning weekly lessons across grade bands to ensure lessons are consistently reinforced among scholars.

### **Financial Update (Connor Fournier)**

CFO Connor Fournier reported that Promise Academy II's enrollment is 1,050, which is 22 favorable versus the budget. The School's revenue is on target with the budget. Expenses are \$100,000 unfavorable at \$4.8M. HCZ has not made a contribution through three months of FY22.

# HCZ Promise Academy II

## October 2021 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAII Elementary School			HCZ PAII Middle School			HCZ PAII 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	81	596	86%	10	261	96%	24	226	89%
10/4	106	600	82%	27	261	90%	36	225	84%
10/5	91	599	85%	14	261	95%	21	225	91%
10/6	63	599	89%	14	260	95%	27	225	88%
10/7	64	599	89%	7	260	97%	20	225	91%
10/8	89	599	85%	13	260	95%	18	225	92%
10/12	76	600	87%	24	261	91%	20	225	91%
10/13	82	597	86%	22	260	92%	15	225	93%
10/14	77	597	87%	25	260	90%	16	225	93%
10/15	72	595	88%	23	259	91%	22	225	90%
10/18	76	595	87%	16	259	94%	20	225	91%
10/19	66	595	89%	16	258	94%	17	225	92%
10/20	61	595	90%	13	258	95%	23	225	90%
10/21	71	595	88%	14	258	95%	16	225	93%
10/22	66	594	89%	9	257	96%	15	225	93%
10/25	91	594	85%	15	257	94%	21	225	91%
10/26	125	594	79%	15	257	94%	38	225	83%
10/27	46	594	92%	8	257	97%	22	225	90%
10/28	63	594	89%	7	255	97%	19	225	92%
10/29	62	594	90%	7	255	97%	22	225	90%
<b>Average</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>90%</b>



**Promise Academy II**  
 FY 2022 October YTD Budget vs. Actual  
 \$ millions

		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>	<u>Full Year Budget</u>
Enrollment		1,028	1,044	16	1,028
DOE and other gov't funding	(a)	\$ 6.9	\$ 6.9	\$ -	\$ 20.6
Expenses:					
Salaries		4.5	4.6	(0.1)	12.9
Benefits		1.4	1.3	0.1	4.0
OTPS		1.1	1.1	-	3.3
Total Expenses	(b)	<u>7.0</u>	<u>7.0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20.2</u>
Expenses in excess of public funding		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

*(a) Excludes funding from Federal ESSER and Robertson Foundation.*

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