

AGENDA

Promise Academy I Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
at  
The Harlem Children's Zone  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Geoffrey Canada  
**Chairman**

Kwame Owusu-Kesse  
**President/CEO**

Mitch Kurz  
**Secretary & Treasurer**

Kenneth Langone  
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Ellanor (Bodie) Brizendine  
Stanley Druckenmiller  
Denise Fuller  
Willie Mae Lewis  
Keith Meister  
Aisha Tomlinson  
Alfonso Wyatt

Achil Petit  
**Superintendent**

Saskia Brown  
**Deputy Superintendent**

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

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

Amy Deal  
**Principal  
High School**  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Tel 212.360.3234

- 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 (*Amy Deal*)
- V. Financial Report (*Connor Fournier*)

# Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy I Charter School

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

### Video Conference

*Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Aisha Tomlinson, Alfonso Wyatt, Nana Annan, Candice Ashby, Sabrica Barnett, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Ryan Carroll, Kaitlynn Conwright, Joseph Cordero, Amy Deal, Connor Fournier, Jenn Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, Justin Maker, Katherine Martinez, Liam McCarthy, Amanda Neal, Anna Owusu, Achil Petit, Madelaine Schultz, Toya Stilley, and Jenny Zhou.*

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM and a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 19, 2022, was unanimously approved.

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

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that on November 3, 2022, Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) held an alumni event focused on economic mobility and narrowing the racial wealth gap. The talk was led by Director of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Benita Melton, Mr. Owusu-Kesse, and HCZ Founder and President Geoffrey Canada.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse congratulated Anna Owusu on her promotion to managing director of Social Services and welcomed Dr. Sabrica Barnett to the role of managing director of Research and Evaluation.

Anna Owusu has been part of the HCZ Promise Academy Social Services team for eight years and said that she is looking forward to expanding her work with HCZ.

Dr. Sabrica Barnett joined HCZ in April 2022, and she was previously the director of the Girl Scout Research Institute for 10 years. Dr. Barnett has a Ph.D. in Social Psychology.

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

Superintendent Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is 1,133 for Promise Academy I and 1,008 for Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit also reported that he and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown held a leadership retreat on November 11, 2022, focusing on the theme of "Excellence." Dr. Petit thanked Ms. Owusu and the Social Work team for facilitating some of the sessions during the event.

#### **State Test Scores (Dr. Achil Petit / Dr. Saskia Brown)**

Dr. Petit reported exam results for HCZ Promise Academy scholars and compared them to those of public school and charter school students across New York State (NYS) for grades three through eight.

In ELA, HCZ Promise Academy scholars outperformed NYS charter schools, NYS Black students, NYS white students, and NYS students as a whole. HCZ Promise Academy scholars also performed comparably to other New York City (NYC) charter schools. HCZ Promise Academy Middle School scholars outperformed their NYC and NYS peers by five or more percentage points, while HCZ Promise Academy Elementary School scholars' scores were comparable to their NYS peers. Additionally, HCZ Promise Academy scholars with disabilities had a proficiency rate of 32% in ELA and they outperformed their peers in the city and state.

Dr. Brown spoke about ELA key strategies and initiatives implemented this year to target areas in need of improvement among scholars on the state exams and other assessments. School leaders created small

groups focusing on strategies based on formative data analysis. To prepare scholars, school leaders also increased independent practice time in literacy blocks.

The School implemented targeted teacher supports, including instructional rounds to identify gaps, guidance to normalize the instructional lens, and develop teachers' foundational skills. To leverage the school's extended day programs, the School further developed strategic planning and support for Saturday School and Academic Hour for the 22-23 school year

Dr. Petit reported that HCZ Promise Academy scholars exceeded both their NYC and NYS peers in proficiency and performed comparably to other NYC and NYS charter school students in their math test results. HCZ Promise Academy seventh and eighth graders outperformed their NYC peers by five or more percentage points. Scholars with disabilities outperformed their peers in NYC overall.

Dr. Brown reported the current school year's key math strategies and initiatives included targeted scholar supports that strengthen their mastery of content. The school also implemented teacher supports, including weekly data reviews and reteach opportunities, targeted coaching, and increased feedback and teacher collaboration.

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

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

The Elementary School celebrated the character trait of "generosity" for the month, highlighted by the book of the month, *Mela and the Elephant* by Dow Phumiruk.

The ELA and Math teams held 663 parent-teacher conferences with families.

The Elementary School celebrated Black Solidarity Day.

The Elementary School held an ELA night with 76 parents attending to gain an understanding of what their scholars are learning.

Dr. Cordero gave appreciation for the Leadership event held on Veteran's Day.

The Elementary School gave out over 200 turkeys to families this week in celebration of Thanksgiving.

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

Principal Madelaine German-Schultz reported that the Middle School's attendance was 94% for October.

Middle School scholars visited the Museum of Natural History to conceptualize the lessons in their African American Studies class. Scholars also visited the African Burial Ground, the oldest and largest known excavated burial ground in North America for both free and enslaved Africans.

The Middle School partnered with Global Scholars, a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies that enables scholars from ages 10 to 13 to communicate directly with peers from all over the world. In the program, scholars are encouraged to discuss issues that affect the world and collaborate to come up with solutions.

The Middle School launched a newsletter that gives scholars a platform to express their thoughts and talk about current events.

### **HCZ Promise Academy I High School (Amy Deal)**

Principal Amy Deal reported that the High School's attendance was 94% for October.

Promise Academy I and II High School scholars attended a three-day college tour in which they visited college campuses and engaged in fun activities.

College acceptance season has begun and the Promise Academy I and II High Schools arranged for visits from higher education institutions including Virginia State, which awarded two HCZ Promise Academy scholars \$40,000 scholarships based on their Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. Additionally, 28 scholars received conditional acceptances to Monroe College. Scholars also attended the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Fair.

In celebration of the holiday season, the High School created a Warm and Fuzzy wall where scholars wrote kind notes to the staff.

**Financial Update (Connor Fournier)**

CFO, Connor Fournier, reported that Promise Academy I's enrollment is 1,133, which is one favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is \$0.1M unfavorable at \$7.5M. Expenses are \$0.1M favorable at \$7.0M. HCZ has not made a contribution through four months of FY22.

## HCZ Promise Academy I November 2022 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAI Elementary School			HCZ PAI Middle School			HCZ PAI High School		
	Students	Enrollment	Present	Students	Enrollment	Present	Students	Enrollment	Present
11/1	42	619	93%	16	266	94%	11	247	96%
11/2	27	619	96%	14	266	95%	8	247	97%
11/3	26	619	96%	7	266	97%	13	247	95%
11/4	32	619	95%	13	266	95%	12	247	95%
11/7	37	618	94%	15	266	94%	14	247	94%
11/8	69	618	89%	30	266	89%	18	247	93%
11/9	35	618	94%	19	266	93%	7	247	97%
11/10	33	618	95%	5	266	98%	12	247	95%
11/14	37	618	94%	11	266	96%	19	247	92%
11/15	43	618	93%	14	266	95%	18	247	93%
11/16	43	618	93%	21	266	92%	15	247	94%
11/17	35	618	94%	22	266	92%	18	247	93%
11/18	158	618	74%	47	266	82%	39	247	84%
11/21	46	618	93%	13	266	95%	21	247	91%
11/22	52	618	92%	14	266	95%	23	247	91%
11/23	89	618	86%	29	266	89%	53	247	79%
11/28	50	619	92%	19	266	93%	20	247	92%
11/29	44	618	93%	17	266	94%	21	247	91%
11/30	39	619	94%	12	266	95%	18	247	93%
<b>Average</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>92%</b>



## Promise Academy I

### FY 2023 November YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

		Budget	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment		1,132	1,131	(1)	1,132
DOE and other gov't funding	(a)	\$ 9.5	\$ 9.4	\$ (0.1)	\$ 22.9
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Salaries		5.5	5.4	0.2	13.3
Benefits		1.9	1.7	0.2	4.6
OTPS		1.5	1.4	0.1	3.6
Total Expenses	(b)	9.0	8.5	0.4	21.5
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
<b>Contribution Components:</b>					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	-
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.*