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Madelaine German-Schultz
**Principal
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Amy Deal
**Principal
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AGENDA

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, December 14th, 2023
at
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. CEO Report (*Kwame Owusu-Kesse*)
- III. Superintendent's Updates (*Achil Petit*)
- IV. HCZ Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Elementary School (*LaKiesha George*)
 - ii. Middle School (*Madelaine German-Schultz*)
 - iii. High School (*Amy Deal*)
- V. Financial Report (*Connor Fournier*)
- VI. Resolution
 - i. Waitlisted Applicants' Weighted Preference (*Candice Ashby*)

**Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I Charter School
Board Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023
245 West 129th Street**

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Aisha Tomlinson, Alfonso Wyatt, Candice Ashby, Sabrica Barnett, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Ryan Carroll, Kaitlynn Conwright, Amy Deal, Connor Fournier, LaKiesha George, Jenn Klein, Stephanie Lilavois, Katherine Martinez, Liam McCarthy, Amanda Neal, Michelle Paige, Achil Petit, Toya Stilley, and Ryan Warren.

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM, and a motion to approve previous meeting minutes was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that on November 14 and 15, he attended and was a guest speaker at the Concrete Rose Capital Annual Summit. The Summit brings together tech and social impact leaders committed to expanding access to technology and entrepreneurship by closing wealth gaps for underserved communities.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse introduced two new HCZ colleagues: Harvard Business School Fellow Ryan Warren and Chief Program Officer Michelle Paige.

In November, HCZ honored Mr. Canada for his 40 years at the organization with a celebration at the Geoffrey Canada Community Center. Hundreds of Mr. Canada's family, friends, HCZ alumni, and staff, including Grammy Award-winning musician and entrepreneur Pharell Williams, attended the event.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)

Superintendent Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is 1,179 for HCZ Promise Academy I and 1,044 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit presented the New York State test results for third through eighth-grade scholars.

HCZ Promise Academy I and II increased ELA proficiency rates by 7% and 2%, respectively, from 2022. Both schools outperformed their peers in New York City (NYC) Community School District 5 (CSD05) and citywide in ELA. HCZ Promise Academy I and II outperformed their NYC peers in every grade. Additionally, HCZ Promise Academy scholars with disabilities outperformed students with disabilities in NYC in every grade.

HCZ Promise Academy I and II increased math proficiency rates by 23% and 17%, respectively, from 2022. HCZ Promise Academy I and II outperformed students in CSD05 and citywide, and HCZ Promise Academy I outperformed their NYC white

peers. Four out of six HCZ Promise Academy grade levels outperformed their NYC peers by 15% or more. HCZ Promise Academy scholars with disabilities' math proficiency increased by 18% from the previous year, and they outperformed NYC students with disabilities by 13%.

Dr. Petit attributed both schools' academic success to the HCZ Promise Academy leadership team, staff, and HCZ's pipeline of comprehensive services. He also thanked Deputy Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown for her support.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse thanked Managing Director of Research and Evaluation Dr. Sabrica Barnett and her team for analyzing and presenting the New York State testing data.

HCZ Promise Academy I Elementary School (LaKiesha George)

Principal LaKiesha George reported the Elementary School's attendance was 94% for October.

In October, 408 families attended parent-teacher conferences.

The Elementary School hosted a movie night in September for families and scholars.

Scholars in grades three through five received free vision screenings and glasses as needed.

Principal George hosted a Just A Moment session where families asked questions and received information about school activities.

On October 28, the HCZ Promise Academy After School team hosted HCZ's annual Boo Bash at the Geoffrey Canada Community Center. Scholars and their families dressed in costumes and enjoyed a haunted house, treats, and other fun activities.

Elementary School leaders completed the majority of their formal observations in October using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System. The data gathered will help Elementary School leaders refine their instructional plans. Principal George thanked the Literacy Team for hosting targeted instructional development for teachers on November 7.

Approximately 90 scholars attended Saturday Academy in early November.

Principal George thanked her fellow HCZ Promise Academy principals for providing support as she adapted to her new role.

HCZ Promise Academy I Middle School (Dr. Saskia Brown)

Dr. Saskia Brown reported that the Middle School's attendance was 96% for October.

Last month, Middle School leaders conducted classroom observations to provide feedback to teachers on student engagement.

The HCZ Promise Academy Teen After School Team hosted its Spooky Soiree.

Middle School leadership participated in a day of professional development focused on restorative practice training, student discourse, and co-planning.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School (Dr. Amy Deal)

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

Seniors attended the annual college tour, visiting Syracuse University, University at Albany (SUNY), SUNY Oswego, and the University at Buffalo (SUNY). Principal Deal thanked Operations Director Jenny Arias for arranging a trip to Niagara Falls for the senior class.

Some seniors received early admission to colleges and universities, including Temple University, Clark Atlanta, Delaware State University, Virginia State University, SUNY Plattsburgh, Livingston, and SUNY Delhi.

The High School hosted parent-teacher conferences.

HCZ Promise Academy I Boys and Girls Basketball Teams won junior varsity games hosted by the Charter School Athletic Association.

On November 2, high school scholars attended the first HCZ Wealth Builds High School Career Fair, where they discovered professional opportunities and networked with career fair visitors.

Financial Update (Connor Fournier)

CFO Connor Fournier reported that HCZ Promise Academy I's enrollment is 1,179, which is 24 favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is \$0.1M favorable at \$8.2M. Expenses are \$0.1M favorable, at \$7.8M. HCZ has not made a contribution through four months of FY24.

HCZ Promise Academy Family Handbook (Candice Ashby)

A motion was called to approve an update to the grading criteria in the HCZ Promise Academy Family Handbook. The motion was approved. The updated handbook can be found on the [HCZ Promise Academy website](#).

HCZ Promise Academy I November 2023 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAI Elementary School			HCZ PAI Middle School			HCZ PAI High School		
	Number of Students		% of Students	Number of Students		% of Students	Number of Students		% of Students
	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present
11/1	50	656	92%	16	264	94%	9	258	97%
11/2	33	656	95%	9	264	97%	20	258	92%
11/3	50	656	92%	23	264	91%	15	258	94%
11/6	30	655	95%	9	264	97%	7	258	97%
11/7	206	655	69%	52	264	80%	38	258	85%
11/8	20	655	97%	9	264	97%	5	258	98%
11/9	27	654	96%	9	264	97%	11	258	96%
11/10	64	654	90%	18	264	93%	19	258	93%
11/13	37	654	94%	4	264	98%	13	258	95%
11/14	37	654	94%	8	264	97%	8	257	97%
11/15	24	654	96%	13	264	95%	13	257	95%
11/16	40	654	94%	14	264	95%	10	257	96%
11/17	44	654	93%	20	264	92%	11	257	96%
11/20	53	654	92%	12	264	95%	16	257	94%
11/21	52	654	92%	12	264	95%	12	257	95%
11/22	154	653	76%	39	264	85%	46	257	82%
11/27	59	653	91%	11	264	96%	13	257	95%
11/28	54	653	92%	12	264	95%	20	257	92%
11/29	34	653	95%	12	264	95%	15	257	94%
11/30	48	653	93%	13	264	95%	14	257	95%
Average	56	654	91%	16	264	94%	16	257	94%



Promise Academy I

FY 2024 November YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

		Budget	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment		1,155	1,174	19	1,155
DOE and other gov't funding	(a)	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.3	\$ 0.1	\$ 24.4
Expenses:					
Salaries		6.3	5.8	0.5	15.0
Benefits		1.9	1.9	0.0	4.6
OTPS		1.8	1.5	0.2	4.2
Total Expenses	(b)	9.9	9.2	0.7	23.8
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:					
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.

- fifth preference is given to English Language Learners who reside in New York City School District 5 in Central Harlem;
- sixth preference is given to other students living in Central Harlem who are low-income and who are zoned to attend a low-performing public school if not admitted to HCZ Promise Academy I;
- seventh preference is given to all other students who reside in New York City School District 5; and
- eighth preference is given to low-income students who live outside of District 5.

Once the available spaces are filled by students who have received preferences and whose names were randomly drawn, the remaining applicants are placed on a waiting list in that same order.

After the lottery drawing, applicants will be added to the waitlist by date of application in the following order:

- First preference is given to scholars who have a sibling enrolled in the school;
- Second preference is given to scholars who reside in the NYCHA's Saint Nicholas Houses;
- Third preference is given to all other scholars in the order of the date of the application.

When HCZ Promise Academy fills a vacancy, it makes reasonable efforts to contact the parent or guardian of the student next on the waiting list to determine whether the student is still interested in enrolling at the school. If attempts to contact the student's parents/guardians are unsuccessful, the school may remove that student from the waiting list and proceed to contact the next person on the list. Documentation of attempts made to contact the parents/guardians of any student removed from the waiting list is maintained by the Superintendent's office.

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