

**Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I Charter School
Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
245 West 129th Street**

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Keith Meister, Alfonso Wyatt, Candice Ashby, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Ryan Carroll, Kaitlynn Conwright, Amy Deal, LaKiesha George, Madelaine German-Schultz, Iraisia Jones, Jenn Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, Katherine Martinez, Liam McCarthy, Amanda Neal, Michelle Paige, Achil Petit, Ralph Stefano, Toya Stille, and Ryan Warren.

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM, and a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 30, 2024, was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools pivoted to remote instruction due to inclement weather. Mayor Eric Adams and Chancellor David Banks also decided to transition New York City Department of Education public schools to remote instruction for the day. Mr. Owusu-Kesse also reported that select employees will be supporting at each School's location in case any parents missed the communication.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Achil Petit)

Superintendent Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment is 1,165 for HCZ Promise Academy I and 1,023 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

Dr. Petit reported that attendance had improved in January and thanked Deputy Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown for leading the charge to ensure that scholars come to school every day and on time.

HCZ Promise Academy I Elementary School (LaKiesha George)

Principal LaKiesha George reported the Elementary School's attendance was 93% for January.

Principal George thanked Dr. Petit for supporting "Go Lives," where coaches develop teachers by observing them during sessions with scholars and providing instructional feedback. She also Managing Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Katherine Martinez, Director of Educational Training and Development Dr. Veroniqua Delva, and the Literacy Team, who have all been supporting with deliberate practice where educators get the opportunity to rehearse lessons and look at data during common planning meetings.

The Elementary School administered i-Ready assessment tests. School leaders are reviewing the data and making appropriate instructional changes.

Principal George thanked Ms. Martinez, PAII Elementary Principal Amanda Neal, and PAII Science teacher Tyler Sanders for assistance in providing workshops in Amplified Science for PAI K-2 science teachers.

Report cards were sent to families at the end of the second marking period, and 190 top performers have been identified, which is a slight increase from the previous marking period.

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

Principal Madelaine German-Schultz reported that the Middle School's attendance was 95% for January.

In January, the Middle School held a finals week, with scholars completing assessments in all four major academic classes.

The Middle school launched a Positive Behaviors and Interventions System school store where scholars can redeem "scholar bucks" awarded to them for good behavior.

The Middle School celebrated its top performers, with 76% of scholars on the honor roll.

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

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

Held FAFSA night for our families in partnership with Wealth Builds, who provided information for parents. Devices were set up for parents.

The High School partnered with the College Success Office, which held a college panel. Alumni sat on panels and spoke to juniors and seniors about their college experiences.

The High School worked with its sister school, HCZ Promise Academy II High School, and gave Advanced Placement mock exams during Regents and Finals week.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

CFO Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy I's enrollment is 1,169, which is 14 favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is \$0.2M favorable at \$12.4M. Expenses are \$0.4M favorable, at \$11.5M. HCZ has not made a contribution through seven months of FY24.

HCZ Promise Academy's Literacy Program (Dr. Saskia Brown)

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown reported on the structure of the HCZ Promise Academy literary program. The Schools' literacy instruction is grounded in the science of reading and built on five instructional pillars: Phonics, Phonemic Awareness, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. Using a balanced literacy

approach, scholars are provided with 90 minutes of literacy instruction, which includes writing, with scholars in grades kindergarten through second grade receiving an additional 30 minutes of foundation skills practice. The instructional block is built on having direct instruction, time-guided practice, and independent practice. Within the instructional block, scholars are provided with tiered intervention for more targeted instruction.