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Shannon Ortiz-Wong
Principal
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AGENDA

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy II
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, November 19th, 2024
at
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. CEO Report (*Kwame Owusu-Kesse*)
- III. Superintendent's Updates (*Saskia Brown*)
- IV. HCZ Promise Academy II Updates
 - i. Elementary School (*Kiana Morris*)
 - ii. Middle School (*Veroniqua Delva*)
 - iii. High School (*Shannon Ortiz-Wong*)
- V. Financial Report (*Ralph Stefano*)

**Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy II Charter School
Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2024
245 West 129th Street**

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Ellanor (Bodie) Brizendine, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Aisha Tomlinson, Candice Ashby, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Amy Shan, Veroniqua Delva, Garraud Etienne, LaKiesha George, Madelaine German-Schultz, Natasha Gutierrez, Jenn Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Katherine Martinez, Liam McCarthy, Kiana Morris, Shannon Ortiz-Wong, Michelle Paige, Ralph Stefano, and Toya Stilley.

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM, and a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 19 was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that the CEO's monthly leadership meeting on October 21 focused on HCZ's theory of action, performance measurements, and resources for young people. Mr. Owusu Kesse said he was pleased with the positive feedback he received from staff members.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse also reported that he was named Time100 Next 2024, TIME's list of "the next 100 most influential people in the world." *Time* praised Mr. Owusu-Kesse for his visionary leadership and launch of HCZ's Wealth Builds initiative, "a landmark strategy to chip away at the wealth gap."

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Saskia Brown)

Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown reported that enrollment is 1,175 for HCZ Promise Academy I and 1,049 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

Dr. Brown reported that she attended 170 staff review meetings with Mr. Owusu-Kesse to provide performance feedback to staff members for the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Brown thanked Mr. Owusu-Kesse for his support and for connecting with the staff.

Promise Academy held Promise Academy Parent Association Board Elections with 123 parents attending. Promise Academy is planning to engage with the new Board members.

Promise Academy kicked off an initiative to support the retention of new staff members. The schools hosted a session to engage 12 staff members on wellness and connectivity, and they will host five more sessions this year. Dr. Brown thanked Director of Social Emotional Learning Deirdre Schwiring, Director of Humanities Dr.

Andrew Wintner, Director of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Naeemah Cranston, Director of STEM Kaitlyn Conwright, and Director of Special Services Gissell Scottborgh for working after hours with staff members to provide support and mentorship.

In October, Promise Academy After School held its 12th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Mini March, with 529 scholars and staff members participating.

Through HCZ's partnership with National Equity Lab, 23 Promise Academy High Schools are participating in the Essentials of Personal Finance course offered by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Scholars will have the opportunity to attend courses taught by a faculty member and earn college credit.

HCZ Promise Academy II Elementary School (Kiana Morris)

Principal Kiana Morris reported the Elementary School's attendance was 94% for September.

The Elementary School held its first parent-teacher conference, with more than 300 families attending in-person and Zoom sessions to discuss their scholars' progress.

Second-grade scholars had their first field trip of the school year to Central Park Zoo.

To celebrate high scholar attendance, kindergarten through first-grade scholars enjoyed a "Glow-in-the-dark Just Dance" party, and scholars in second through fifth grades had a pizza party. The Elementary School celebrated around 350 scholars for good attendance.

The Elementary School completed i-Ready testing, and it will use the results to support targeted instruction.

The Elementary School launched Academic Hour and Saturday Academy for the new school year. Principal Morris thanked the Promise Academy After School team for helping to provide additional academic support for scholars.

HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School (Veroniqua Delva)

Interim Principal Veroniqua Delva reported the Middle School's attendance was 93% for September.

The Middle School held a Back-to-School Night and a parent-teacher conference, and 164 parents attended the events.

The Middle School held town halls for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to reaffirm expectations for the school year. Principal Delva thanked the Positive Behaviors and Intervention Supports team for supporting the events.

On October 16, music teacher Samuel Marchan took a group of scholars and families to the Sphinx Gala at Carnegie Hall. Interim Principal Delva thanked Mr. Marchan for consistently connecting with opportunities to expose scholars to the arts.

The Middle School held elections for the Principal's Cabinet, and scholars are campaigning to work with Interim Principal Delva and other school leaders on Student Government initiatives.

Interim Principal Delva thanked Promise Academy II Teen After School Director Emanuel Alvarez, Assistant Director Marcel Barrett, and Program Coordinator Paris Shivers for working with the Middle School to streamline scholar transitions to the after-school program.

HCZ Promise Academy II High School (Shannon Ortiz-Wong)

Principal Shannon Ortiz-Wong reported the High School's attendance was 92% for September.

The High School held town halls for families, during which school leaders introduced staff members, set expectations and answered questions.

The High School held a Back-to-School Night and a parent-teacher conference, and 50 families attended the events.

Two High School seniors were selected as finalists for QuestBridge scholarships from a pool of 25,500 applicants. QuestBridge connects high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with full four-year scholarships to 50 of the nation's best colleges.

Two High School seniors were also selected for the final round of Posse scholarships, full-tuition scholarships awarded by partner colleges and universities. Scholars complete an eight-month Pre-Collegiate Training Program before matriculating to college.

Promise Academy I and II High School scholars attended an HBCU College Fair in September. Six representatives from higher learning institutions, including Colgate University, Yale University, and Northwestern University, also visited to speak with scholars.

The High School held an Inaugural Commitment Ceremony, during which seniors wrote letters to themselves about their commitment before graduating. Scholars will open the letters to read them the day before graduation. Scholars also worked on their networking skills during the ceremony, and executive leaders Chief Strategy Officer Jazmine Lewis, Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown, and other leaders attended for support.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

CEO Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy II's October 1 enrollment is 1,049, which is 42 favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is \$0.1M favorable at \$3.9M YTD. Expenses are \$0.2M favorable, at \$3.9M YTD. HCZ has not made a contribution through two months of FY25.

HCZ Promise Academy II
October 2024 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAII Elementary School			HCZ PAII Middle School			HCZ PAII High School		
	Number of Scholars		% of Scholars	Number of Scholars		% of Scholars	Number of Scholars		% of Scholars
	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present
10/1	29	576	95%	13	261	95%	23	211	89%
10/2	43	576	93%	18	261	93%	14	211	93%
10/7	41	580	93%	17	261	93%	15	209	93%
10/8	32	580	94%	22	261	92%	12	209	94%
10/9	27	581	95%	17	261	93%	14	208	93%
10/10	34	581	94%	17	261	93%	17	208	92%
10/11	43	581	93%	19	260	93%	21	208	90%
10/15	44	580	92%	15	260	94%	18	207	91%
10/16	39	580	93%	12	260	95%	17	207	92%
10/17	40	580	93%	22	260	92%	15	207	93%
10/18	54	580	91%	24	258	91%	17	206	92%
10/21	41	579	93%	10	258	96%	14	205	93%
10/22	34	579	94%	9	258	97%	10	205	95%
10/23	44	579	92%	13	258	95%	11	205	95%
10/24	44	579	92%	16	258	94%	21	205	90%
10/25	62	579	89%	15	258	94%	36	205	82%
10/28	48	579	92%	15	258	94%	13	205	94%
10/29	163	579	72%	54	258	79%	22	205	89%
10/30	25	579	96%	10	258	96%	11	205	95%
10/31	47	579	92%	26	258	90%	14	205	93%
Average	47	579	92%	18	259	93%	17	207	92%



Promise Academy II
FY 2025 September YTD Budget vs. Actual

		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>	<u>Full Year Budget</u>
Enrollment @ Sept 30	(a)	1,007	1,048	41	1,007
DOE and other gov't funding		\$ 5.7	\$ 5.9	\$ 0.2	\$ 22.7
Expenses:					
Salaries		3.6	3.4	0.2	14.5
Benefits		1.1	0.7	0.4	4.5
OTPS		0.9	0.8	0.1	3.6
Total Expenses	(b)	5.6	4.9	0.7	22.6
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(a) Enrollment as of November 1: 1,042

(b) Excludes PA Initiatives, bonus, growth fund, & other HCZ allocations.