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LaKiesha George
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Tel 212.360.3232

Madelaine German-Schultz
**Principal
Middle School**
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Amy Deal
**Principal
High School**
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AGENDA

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I
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 I Updates
 - i. Elementary School (*LaKiesha George*)
 - ii. Middle School (*Madelaine German-Schultz*)
 - iii. High School (*Amy Deal*)
- V. Financial Report (*Ralph Stefano*)

**Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I 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 I Elementary School (LaKiesha George)

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

Principal George thanked Operations Manager Kameyia Van Allen and the Elementary School's enrollment team for helping the school meet its enrollment goals.

The Elementary School held common planning meetings in September to focus on curriculum planning, data analysis, and interventions. Principal George thanked Managing Director of Teaching and Learning Katherine Martinez and Promise Academy Central Office academic coaches for helping the school improve consistency and support in pacing and content knowledge.

The Elementary School continues to recruit to fill vacant positions.

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

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

The Middle School held a Back-to-School Night, with nearly 200 participants attending. School leaders met scholars and their families and welcomed them to the school.

Promise Academy Middle and High Schools attended a dress rehearsal for the award-winning opera "Ainadamar," which will premiere at the Metropolitan Opera House for the 2024-2025 season.

Middle School scholars signed up to join the school's new volleyball team.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School (Dr. Natasha Gutierrez)

Assistant Principal Dr. Natasha Gutierrez reported the High School's attendance was 95% for September.

The High School held town halls for families to welcome them back to school and to set expectations for scholars for the 2024-2025 school year. Scholars were tested on their knowledge of the expectations.

The High School launched the college application process for scholars, and scholars met with representatives from Syracuse University, Colgate University, and Northwestern University. High School seniors attended the HBCU College Fair, and 30 juniors attended the SUNY College Fair. Nine scholars received scholarships from Lincoln University.

Five 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.

The High School is working with Wealth Builds and the College Success Office to expand college exposure opportunities for scholars.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

CEO Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy I's October 1 enrollment is 1,175, which is 14 favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is on budget at \$4.2M YTD. Expenses are \$0.2M favorable, at \$4.3M YTD. HCZ has not made a contribution through two months of FY25.

HCZ Promise Academy I
October 2024 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAI Elementary School			HCZ PAI Middle School			HCZ PAI 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	28	641	96%	12	273	96%	11	258	96%
10/2	42	641	93%	14	273	95%	17	257	93%
10/7	49	640	92%	12	272	96%	11	257	96%
10/8	33	640	95%	3	272	99%	12	257	95%
10/9	21	640	97%	9	272	97%	15	257	94%
10/10	23	640	96%	5	272	98%	16	257	94%
10/11	40	640	94%	12	272	96%	17	257	93%
10/15	46	640	93%	14	272	95%	15	257	94%
10/16	38	640	94%	6	272	98%	8	257	97%
10/17	42	640	93%	10	272	96%	13	257	95%
10/18	53	639	92%	10	272	96%	11	257	96%
10/21	32	640	95%	12	272	96%	7	257	97%
10/22	33	639	95%	11	272	96%	7	257	97%
10/23	29	639	95%	9	272	97%	8	257	97%
10/24	25	641	96%	4	272	99%	6	257	98%
10/25	44	641	93%	18	272	93%	32	257	88%
10/28	45	641	93%	10	272	96%	10	256	96%
10/29	153	641	76%	42	272	85%	11	256	96%
10/30	34	641	95%	13	272	95%	11	256	96%
10/31	40	642	94%	10	272	96%	14	256	95%
Average	43	640	93%	12	272	96%	13	257	95%



Promise Academy I

FY 2025 September YTD Budget vs. Actual

		Budget	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment @ Sept 30	(a)	1,161	1,172	11	1,161
DOE and other gov't funding		\$ 6.3	\$ 6.3	\$ 0.0	\$ 25.3
Expenses:					
Salaries		3.9	3.9	-	15.7
Benefits		1.2	1.1	0.1	4.8
OTPS		1.0	0.9	0.1	4.1
Total Expenses	(b)	6.1	5.9	0.2	24.6
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(a) Enrollment as of November 1: 1,170

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