

Harlem Children's Zone

Promise Academy II®

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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, December 17th, 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, November 19, 2024
245 West 129th Street**

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Fatime Cadoo, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Candice Ashby, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Amy Shan, Amy Deal, Veroniqua Delva, Garraud Etienne, LaKiesha George, Madelaine German-Schultz, Jenn Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, Katherine Martinez, Liam McCarthy, Kiana Morris, Shannon Ortiz-Wong, Michelle Field, Meredith Peckosh-Soffrin, 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 October 22 was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that William Julius Wilson Institute (WJWI) at Harlem Children's Zone held the third annual Power of Place: It Takes a Village convening in Miami, Florida. The convening brought together 600 cross-sector leaders, practitioners, and policymakers in 34 states working tirelessly to drive social and economic mobility at scale for the country's most vulnerable children and families. HCZ scholars performed spoken word and dance and shared the impact of HCZ on their lives.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse introduced the new Managing Director of Social Services Meredith Peckosh-Soffrin:

Ms. Peckosh-Soffrin is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who brings a wealth of knowledge as an administrator, educator, and clinician to HCZ. She has a BA in English from the University of Maryland and an MSW from New York University. Over 15 years as a social services professional, she has worked with New Yorkers, ranging from young children to older adults. She is dedicated to breaking barriers to reduce gaps in mental and emotional health services for all.

Most recently, Ms. Peckosh-Soffrin worked with Ascend Charter Schools, serving as the Director of Behavioral Health for K-12 Scholars across Brooklyn. Prior to Ascend, she spent five years as the Senior Director of Social Work at Broome Street Academy (in partnership with The Door), providing education and wraparound services to high school scholars. Prior to those roles, Ms. Peckosh-Soffrin was a school clinician, a preventive case planner, and a clinical program manager for adults with dual diagnoses.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Saskia Brown)

Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown reported that enrollment is 1,170 for HCZ Promise Academy I and 1,042 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

Dr. Brown thanked Director of Compliance and Reporting Candice Ashby for working on and submitting the annual reports to the New York State Education Department. Dr. Brown also thanked the Finance Department for their contributions to the reports.

Dr. Brown introduced seven HCZ Promise Academy I and II scholars 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 finalists spoke to the Board about their top college choices and future aspirations.

HCZ Promise Academy II Elementary School (Kiana Morris)

Principal Kiana Morris reported the Elementary School's attendance was 92% for October.

Elementary School scholars received dental screenings.

The Elementary School sent out surveys to families in preparation for the HCZ Promise Academy After School Turkey Giveaway.

Fifth-grade scholars started Jury Club with the support of fifth-grade teacher Ms. Fatoumata Dukuray.

A fifth-grade scholar started a peer group, for which he is writing lesson plans with Counselor Ashley's help.

Families expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend *The Lion King* on Broadway. Ms. Morris thanked Mr. Druckenmiller for the opportunity.

HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School (Dr. Veroniqua Delva)

Principal Dr. Veroniqua Delva reported the Middle School's attendance was 93% for October. Dr. Delva thanked Middle School Operations Director Kurt Samuels and Central Office's Director of Operations Toya Stilley for their support in improving the Middle School's attendance.

Dr. Delva thanked Mr. Druckenmiller for providing tickets to *The Lion King* for scholars and their families. Middle School leaders connected the event with musical theater for the second marking period.

Dr. Delva thanked Parent Coordinator Krystal Velez for creating parent engagement opportunities to support scholars. These opportunities include Science and Social Studies Game Night and Dive-in with Dr. Delva, where parents can voice concerns

and ask questions. The Middle School will host a Family Honor Roll Brunch for parents to celebrate their scholars.

Six scholars were elected to Principal's Cabinet positions.

Dr. Delva thanked the Teaching and Learning Team for collaborating in restructuring Academic Intervention Services and strengthening tiered and targeted support for scholars.

Director of Humanities Dr. Andrew Wintner and Director of STEM Kaitlynn Conwright supported professional development efforts by modeling best practices, and Director of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Deirdre Schwiring and SEL Manager Ezra Cabrerros reinforced SEL practices in the classroom.

To support professional development, Director of Special Services Gissell Scottborgh and her team helped teachers address learning needs. The Positive Behaviors and Intervention Team also provided best practices for de-escalating classroom behaviors.

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

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

The High School hosted a parent-teacher conference for 50 families.

On October 16, Wealth Builds launched its Scholarship Program and presented it to scholars. The following week, scholars attended a college tour. School leaders are collaborating with the College Success Office to provide further support and opportunities for scholars.

On October 29, the High School collaborated with the Teaching and Learning Team to conduct classroom walkthroughs and share best practices for high-quality instruction.

Principal Ortiz-Wong thanked Mr. Druckenmiller for providing tickets to *The Lion King* for scholars and their families.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

CEO Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy I's November 1 enrollment is 1,042, which is 35 favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is \$0.2M favorable versus the budget at \$5.9M YTD. Expenses are \$0.7M favorable, at \$4.9M YTD. HCZ has not made a contribution through three months of FY25.

HCZ Promise Academy II November 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
11/4	40	576	93%	9	258	97%	10	205	95%
11/5	108	576	81%	41	258	84%	37	205	82%
11/6	32	576	94%	13	258	95%	13	205	94%
11/7	48	576	92%	15	258	94%	16	205	92%
11/8	69	576	88%	16	258	94%	16	205	92%
11/12	32	576	94%	19	258	93%	15	205	93%
11/13	25	576	96%	16	258	94%	8	205	96%
11/14	54	576	91%	22	258	91%	20	205	90%
11/15	56	576	90%	14	258	95%	15	205	93%
11/18	41	576	93%	17	258	93%	14	204	93%
11/19	39	576	93%	10	258	96%	16	204	92%
11/20	46	576	92%	22	258	91%	14	204	93%
11/21	55	576	90%	32	258	88%	19	204	91%
11/22	77	576	87%	32	258	88%	21	204	90%
11/25	72	576	88%	16	258	94%	23	204	89%
11/26	80	576	86%	22	258	91%	20	204	90%
11/27	141	576	76%	33	258	87%	35	204	83%
Average	60	576	90%	21	258	92%	18	205	91%



Promise Academy II

FY 2025 October YTD Budget vs. Actual

		Budget	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment @ Oct 31	(a)	1,007	1,040	33	1,007
DOE and other gov't funding		\$ 7.6	\$ 7.8	\$ 0.2	\$ 22.7
Expenses:					
Salaries		4.7	4.8	(0.1)	14.5
Benefits		1.5	1.1	0.4	4.5
OTPS		1.2	1.2	(0.0)	3.6
Total Expenses	(b)	7.4	7.1	0.3	22.6
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(a) Enrollment as of December 1: 1,038

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