

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Geoffrey Canada
Chairman

Kwame Owusu-Kesse
President/CEO

Mitch Kurz
Secretary & Treasurer

Kenneth Langone
Chairman Emeritus

Ellanor (Bodie) Brizendine
Stanley Druckenmiller
Denise Fuller
Willie Mae Lewis
Keith Meister
Aisha Tomlinson
Alfonso Wyatt

Saskia Brown
Superintendent

LaKiesha George
**Principal
Elementary School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 212.360.3232

Madelaine German-Schultz
**Principal
Middle School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 212.360.3233

Amy Deal
**Principal
High School**
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY 10027
Tel 212.360.3234

AGENDA

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

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

On October 29, the Elementary School hosted a professional development half-day for teachers and staff. The Elementary School partnered with HCZ Promise Academy After School to support more than 200 families on the half-day.

In October, the Elementary School collaborated with the Managing Director of Teaching and Learning, Katherine Martinez, to use technology to provide Spanish language instruction to all grades.

Elementary School leaders reviewed quarterly assessments and, in partnership with the Teaching and Learning Team, used the data to improve educational outcomes by creating strong, tiered instructional plans.

The first-grade cohort went apple picking at Apple Ridge Orchards.

The Elementary School partnered with HCZ Promise Academy After School for the Creepy Carnival and the Top Performers Dinner. Principal George thanked Board Trustee Stan Druckenmiller for gifting top performers tickets to *The Lion King*.

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

Principal Madelaine German-Schultz reported the Middle School's attendance was 96% for October.

In November, Middle School scholars campaigned and gave speeches as part of the Student Government election process.

The Middle School initiated scholar peer groups, which met with volunteer staff members after school to discuss academic progress and critical issues. Eighty-six of

90 scholars met academic standards and were eligible to attend a trip to Bear Mountain.

Principal Schultz thanked Ms. Martinez and the Teaching and Learning staff for helping to launch the Middle School's first computer-based assessments for English Language Arts and math.

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

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

Principal Dr. Amy Deal reported the High School's attendance was 95% for October.

Dr. Deal thanked the Executive Team, Assistant Principal Dr. Natasha Guterrez, the Central Office, Director of Humanities Dr. Andrew Wintner, and Director of STEM Kaitlynn Conwright for their support during her leave of absence.

Dr. Deal escorted seniors on a college tour to SUNY Oswego, the University of Albany, the University of Buffalo, and Syracuse University. They also visited Niagara Falls.

College representatives from Colgate University, Yale University, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Oswego, Bowdoin University, Monroe College, Syracuse University, and Boston University visited the High School. Scholars also visited the Historical Black Colleges and Universities Fair at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Seniors received acceptances to Fisk University, Delaware State University, Lincoln University, Miles University, Virginia State University, Clinton College, Simmons University, and Simmons College of Kentucky.

Dr. Deal thanked Mr. Druckenmiller on behalf of her scholars for the tickets to *The Lion King*.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

CEO Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy I's November 1 enrollment is 1,170, which is nine favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is on budget at \$6.3M YTD. Expenses are \$0.2M favorable, at \$5.9M YTD. HCZ has not made a contribution through three months of FY25.

HCZ Promise Academy I November 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 |
| 11/4 | 35 | 642 | 95% | 16 | 272 | 94% | 9 | 255 | 96% |
| 11/5 | 77 | 642 | 88% | 44 | 272 | 84% | 42 | 255 | 84% |
| 11/6 | 31 | 642 | 95% | 12 | 272 | 96% | 11 | 255 | 96% |
| 11/7 | 41 | 642 | 94% | 10 | 272 | 96% | 16 | 255 | 94% |
| 11/8 | 34 | 642 | 95% | 15 | 271 | 94% | 15 | 255 | 94% |
| 11/12 | 22 | 640 | 97% | 18 | 271 | 93% | 6 | 254 | 98% |
| 11/13 | 32 | 640 | 95% | 13 | 271 | 95% | 10 | 254 | 96% |
| 11/14 | 27 | 640 | 96% | 9 | 270 | 97% | 11 | 254 | 96% |
| 11/15 | 56 | 641 | 91% | 22 | 270 | 92% | 15 | 254 | 94% |
| 11/18 | 48 | 640 | 93% | 18 | 270 | 93% | 10 | 254 | 96% |
| 11/19 | 38 | 640 | 94% | 5 | 270 | 98% | 13 | 254 | 95% |
| 11/20 | 46 | 640 | 93% | 8 | 270 | 97% | 15 | 254 | 94% |
| 11/21 | 43 | 640 | 93% | 16 | 270 | 94% | 24 | 254 | 91% |
| 11/22 | 76 | 640 | 88% | 11 | 270 | 96% | 36 | 254 | 86% |
| 11/25 | 41 | 640 | 94% | 8 | 270 | 97% | 13 | 254 | 95% |
| 11/26 | 47 | 640 | 93% | 18 | 270 | 93% | 24 | 254 | 91% |
| 11/27 | 137 | 640 | 79% | 41 | 270 | 85% | 64 | 254 | 75% |
| Average | 49 | 641 | 92% | 17 | 271 | 94% | 20 | 254 | 92% |



Promise Academy I

FY 2025 October YTD Budget vs. Actual

| | | Budget | Actual | Fav/(Unfav) | Full Year Budget |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Enrollment @ Oct 31 | (a) | 1,161 | 1,170 | 9 | 1,161 |
| DOE and other gov't funding | | \$ 8.4 | \$ 8.4 | \$ (0.0) | \$ 25.3 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Salaries | | 5.1 | 5.0 | 0.1 | 15.7 |
| Benefits | | 1.6 | 1.9 | (0.3) | 4.8 |
| OTPS | | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 4.1 |
| Total Expenses | (b) | 8.1 | 8.3 | (0.2) | 24.6 |
| Expenses in excess of public funding | | - | - | - | - |
| Contribution Components: | | | | | |
| HCZ Contribution | | - | - | - | - |
| per student (whole \$) | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |

(a) Enrollment as of December 1: 1,164

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