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Veronica Delva
Principal
Middle School
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Shannon Ortiz-Wong
Principal
High School
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AGENDA

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy II
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
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 (*Veronica Delva*)
 - iii. High School (*Shannon Ortiz-Wong*)
- V. Financial Report (*Ralph Stefano*)

**Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy II Charter School
Board Meeting
Thursday, January 30, 2025
245 West 129th Street**

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Candice Ashby, Shannon Benson, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Amy Shan, Amy Deal, Veronique Delva, Garraud Etienne, Michelle Field, LaKiesha George, Madelaine German-Schultz, Jenn Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, John Macapagal, Katherine Martinez, Liam McCarthy, Kiana Morris, Shannon Ortiz-Wong, Meredith Peckosh-Soffrin, Ralph Stefano, and Toya Stille.

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM, and a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 17 was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse reported that HCZ's Wealth Builds initiative is in the final stages of selecting scholars for its HCZ Scholarship Program. Two hundred and fifty HCZ scholars will interview for the opportunity, with results expected in early April 2025.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse also reported that leaders across the organization attended Strategy Day on January 29 in Weehawken, New Jersey. Staff engaged in learning opportunities centered around the day's theme, "Your Culture is Your Performance." Mr. Owusu-Kesse thanked Chief Strategy Officer Jazmine Lewis, Interim Managing Director of Research and Evaluation Laila Moustapha, and Harvard Business School Fellow Amy Shan for organizing the event.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Saskia Brown)

Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown reported that enrollment is 1,157 for HCZ Promise Academy I and 1,033 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

On January 2, HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools and Harlem Gems celebrated Superintendent's Day. Director of Business Administration Ari Browne received the Superintendent's Award. Staff participated in professional development sessions on topics such as College, Career, and Life Readiness to support teaching and learning. Dr. Brown thanked Managing Director of Teaching and Learning Katherine Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Neisha Evans-Staye, the Wealth Builds Team, and HCZ Promise Academy and Harlem Gems leaders for facilitating the event.

The Superintendent's Cabinet is working with McREL International — a nonprofit, nonpartisan education research, development, and service organization — to develop behaviors and mindsets that support HCZ's Core Beliefs and Values.

Leaders are completing Mid-year Performance Reviews and using them as an opportunity to coach and develop the teaching staff.

Dr. Brown thanked Ms. Shan, Ms. Moustapha, and Ms. Lewis for facilitating Strategy Day.

HCZ Promise Academy II Elementary School (Kiana Morris)

Principal Kiana Morris reported the Elementary School's attendance was 87% for December. Attendance decreased due to incidents of cold and flu among scholars.

The Elementary School held parent-teacher conferences, with 150 families attending in person to discuss their scholars' progress.

The Elementary School hosted its first open house event for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. More than 20 families of incoming kindergarteners attended the open house and toured the school building.

On January 30, the Elementary School hosted its Girls' Group Pinning ceremony. Scholars in kindergarten through second grade were paired with girl mentors from grades three through five. Next week, boys will participate in the same ceremony using bow ties.

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

Principal Dr. Veroniqua Delva reported the Middle School's attendance was 90% for December.

The Middle School implemented weekly Free Play Scholars, where teachers choose five academically and behaviorally excellent scholars to participate in physical education activities.

The Middle School is collaborating with the Athletic Team to streamline protocols for positive scholar behavior between day school and athletics.

The Middle School participated in Saturday Academy and Academic Hours, with 334 scholars attending across ten days in December.

Dr. Delva thanked Safety Officers Jeanine Fortune, Eddie Semper, and Brandon Brown for providing support to the Middle School.

Dr. Delva thanked Director of Operations Toya Stilley for supporting the Middle School with safety guidance.

Dr. Delva thanked the Teaching and Learning Team and Director of Food Services Charline Calixte and her team for supporting the Middle School during quarterly assessments.

Dr. Delva thanked Dr. Brown and Deputy Superintendent Shannon Benson for supporting and coaching Middle School teachers.

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

Principal Shannon Ortiz-Wong reported the High School's attendance was 91% for December.

HCZ College Success Office brought High School scholars who applied to Yale University on a campus visit.

HCZ Promise Academy I and II High Schools hosted a panel discussion with admission officers from Vanderbilt University, College of the Holy Cross, Amherst College, and schools from the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY). Panelists spoke to scholars and their families about the college admissions process.

The High School hosted professional development sessions for staff where school leaders provided feedback and how their work is connected to HCZ's Theory of Action.

High School scholars received college acceptance letters from Boston University, SUNY Plattsburgh Virginia State, Monroe College, and Delaware State University.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

Chief Financial Officer Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy II's preliminary January 1 enrollment is 1,033, which is 26 favorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is \$0.3M favorable versus the budget at \$9.8M YTD. Expenses are \$0.1M unfavorable, at \$9.1M YTD. HCZ has not made a contribution through five months of FY25.

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy II

January 2025 Attendance Report

	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
Date	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present
1/3	190	570	67%	109	257	58%	117	204	43%
1/6	50	566	91%	15	257	94%	15	204	93%
1/7	45	566	92%	19	257	93%	13	204	94%
1/8	51	566	91%	24	257	91%	12	204	94%
1/9	60	566	89%	19	257	93%	14	204	93%
1/10	74	566	87%	30	257	88%	11	204	95%
1/13	43	566	92%	22	257	91%	14	204	93%
1/14	51	566	91%	12	256	95%	15	204	93%
1/15	53	566	91%	10	255	96%	9	204	96%
1/16	62	566	89%	20	255	92%	22	204	89%
1/17	74	566	87%	38	255	85%	15	204	93%
1/21	72	566	87%	39	255	85%	11	204	95%
1/22	75	565	87%	47	255	82%	10	204	95%
1/23	52	565	91%	38	255	85%	6	204	97%
1/24	70	565	88%	41	255	84%	6	204	97%
1/27	67	565	88%	18	255	93%	13	204	94%
1/28	66	565	88%	22	255	91%	7	204	97%
1/30	58	565	90%	22	255	91%	12	204	94%
1/31	62	565	89%	17	255	93%	16	204	92%
Average	67	566	88%	30	256	88%	18	204	91%



Promise Academy II

FY 2025 December YTD Budget vs. Actual

		Budget	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment @ Dec 31	(a)	1,007	1,032	25	1,007
DOE and other gov't funding		\$ 11.4	\$ 11.8	\$ 0.4	\$ 22.7
Expenses:					
Salaries		6.7	7.2	(0.5)	14.5
Benefits		2.2	1.9	0.3	4.5
OTPS		1.8	1.9	(0.1)	3.6
Total Expenses	(b)	10.7	11.0	(0.3)	22.6
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(a) Enrollment as of February 1: 1,025

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