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Amy Deal
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AGENDA

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2025
at
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. Superintendent's Updates (*Saskia Brown*)
- III. HCZ Promise Academy I Updates
 - i. Elementary School (*LaKiesha George*)
 - ii. Middle School (*Madelaine German-Schultz*)
 - iii. High School (*Amy Deal*)
- IV. Financial Report (*Ralph Stefano*)

**Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I Charter School
Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
245 West 129th Street**

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Willie Mae Lewis, Keith Meister, Alfonso Wyatt, Candice Ashby, Shannon Benson, 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 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 February 11 was unanimously approved.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse provided updates on HCZ Athletics.

Little Ballers East at HCZ Promise Academy II, 70 East 112th Street, launched a weekly basketball program for 30 to 40 community elementary school scholars.

The HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School Girls Basketball Team attended Division I college games at Farleigh Dickinson University, Saint John's, and Manhattan University. The scholar-athletes met players and coaches and experienced competitive collegiate basketball.

The HCZ Promise Academy II High School Girls Basketball Team also won seven out of eight regular-season games and will enter the Charter School Athletic League playoffs as the No. 2 seed. The playoffs begin the week of March 24.

High School scholars practice basketball twice a week at 6 AM at HCZ Promise Academy I and HCZ Promise Academy II.

HCZ Promise Academy I High School senior Kevin Bahena received a track scholarship at Xavier University.

Eighty percent of the HCZ Promise Academy II Elementary Boys Basketball Team made the honor roll last marking period.

Two HCZ Promise Academy teams won the Bronx/Manhattan Borough and New York City Middle School Basketball League championships. HCZ Promise Academy II won the junior varsity division, and HCZ Promise Academy I won the varsity division.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse thanked the coaches and players for all of their hard work and dedication.

Superintendent's Update (Shannon Benson)

Deputy Superintendent Shannon Benson reported that enrollment is 1,147 for HCZ Promise Academy I and 1,020 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

HCZ Promise Academy leaders submitted the Annual Comprehensive Review. Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown and Mr. Benson thanked Director of Business Administration Ari Browne and Director of Compliance and Reporting Candice Ashby for successfully submitting the report.

HCZ Promise Academy celebrated Read Across America Week and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Week. Staff, scholars, and families participated in activities promoting literacy and SEL awareness. Mr. Benson thanked Managing Director of Teaching and Learning Katherine Martinez, Director of Social Emotional Learning Deirdre Schwiring, SEL Managers Ezra Cabrerios and Kelsie Whitehall, and K-2 Education Directors Priscilla Hardial and Jessica Bezozo, for organizing the event.

On March 19, the recruitment team will host *Impact Our Young People, Impact Your Career*. Founder and President Geoffrey Canada and Mr. Owusu-Kesse are scheduled to speak and will discuss HCZ's impact and how interested applicants can build their careers at the organization. So far, 300 people have registered.

HCZ Promise Academy I Elementary School (LaKiesha George)

Principal LaKiesha George reported the Elementary School's attendance was 92% for February.

The Elementary School hosted Professional Development Day focused on data related to scholar interventions and supports.

Third through fifth grade scholars took ELA and math mock exams to prepare for state exams. Scholars also participated in Spirit Week to celebrate the upcoming testing period.

Twenty families attended the Elementary School's open house on February 8. Parents and caregivers asked questions and learned more about the school.

The Elementary School also hosted parent-teacher conferences and partnered with HCZ Wealth Builds to share information about the initiative's Youth Opportunity Fund with families.

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

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

The Middle School hosted an art gallery walk to celebrate Women's History Month. Scholars showcased their creativity and paid homage to influential women in history.

Middle School scholars attended *Moby Dick* dress rehearsal at The Metropolitan Opera, where they got a behind-the-scenes look at the opera production.

Scholars used positive behavior incentive points to buy Valentine's Day cards and send messages of love and friendship to their peers. Scholars also delivered flowers to classmates.

The Middle School held its Pep Rally to celebrate scholars on their academic and athletic achievements during March Madness. As part of the event, staff and scholars competed in a basketball game to help build excitement for the upcoming state exams.

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

Principal Dr. Amy Deal reported the High School's attendance was 94% for February.

The High School Student Government President was inducted into the National Education Equity Lab Honor Society, an education justice non-profit committed to propelling economic mobility and opportunity. The scholar received the honor for "demonstrating outstanding academic performance by performing in the top 10% of all scholars in the nation" who completed Essentials of Personal Finance offered by the Wharton College of the University of Pennsylvania.

A college representative from Morgan State University visited the High School to speak with juniors and seniors. Scholars were accepted to Xavier University, University of Connecticut, Louisiana State University, and Morgan State University.

High School scholars attended *Moby Dick* dress rehearsal at The Metropolitan Opera, where they got a behind-the-scenes look at the opera production.

In honor of Black History Month, scholars produced a fashion show, *Through the Decades*. They modeled classic and vintage outfits from previous eras. The High School girls rock band performed three songs at the event.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

Chief Financial Officer Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy I's preliminary March 1 enrollment is 1,147, which is 14 unfavorable versus the budget. The school's revenue is on budget at \$14.8M YTD. Expenses are \$0.3M unfavorable, at \$14.5M YTD. HCZ has not made a contribution through seven months of FY25.

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy I

March 2025 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAI Elementary School			HCZ PAI Middle School			HCZ PAI High School		
	Number of Scholars Absent	Enrollment	% of Scholars Present	Number of Scholars Absent	Enrollment	% of Scholars Present	Number of Scholars Absent	Enrollment	% of Scholars Present
3/3	39	627	94%	15	266	94%	14	253	94%
3/4	31	627	95%	10	266	96%	10	253	96%
3/5	38	627	94%	15	266	94%	11	253	96%
3/6	35	626	94%	10	266	96%	22	253	91%
3/7	33	626	95%	12	266	95%	26	253	90%
3/10	57	626	91%	19	266	93%	14	253	94%
3/11	46	626	93%	14	266	95%	10	253	96%
3/12	30	626	95%	22	266	92%	12	253	95%
3/13	45	626	93%	12	266	95%	19	253	92%
3/14	64	626	90%	18	266	93%	15	253	94%
3/17	70	626	89%	12	266	95%	15	253	94%
3/18	179	625	71%	45	266	83%	14	253	94%
3/19	40	625	94%	17	266	94%	16	253	94%
3/20	41	625	93%	10	266	96%	21	253	92%
3/21	74	625	88%	21	266	92%	22	253	91%
3/24	41	625	93%	18	266	93%	17	253	93%
3/25	36	625	94%	11	266	96%	11	253	96%
3/26	29	625	95%	7	266	97%	10	253	96%
3/27	38	625	94%	21	266	92%	11	253	96%
3/28	62	625	90%	21	266	92%	16	253	94%
Average	51	626	92%	17	266	94%	15	253	94%



Promise Academy I **FY 2025 February YTD Budget vs. Actual**

		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Fav/(Unfav)</u>	<u>Full Year Budget</u>
Enrollment @ Feb 28	(a)	1,161	1,146	(15)	1,161
DOE and other gov't funding		\$ 16.9	\$ 16.9	\$ -	\$ 25.3
Expenses:					
Salaries		10.2	10.7	(0.5)	15.7
Benefits		3.2	2.9	0.3	4.8
OTPS		2.7	2.7	(0.0)	4.1
Total Expenses	(b)	16.1	16.3	(0.2)	24.6
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	-
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	-
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(a) Enrollment as of Apr 1: 1,144

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