Harlem Children's Zone
Promise Academy II®

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Veroniqua 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
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
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 *(LaKiesha George)*
   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
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
245 West 129th Street

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Lisa McNear, DeniLee Peroza, Candice Ashby, Shannon Benson, LaRen Bierria, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Celines Castro, Veroniqua Delva, LaKiesha George, Natasha Gutierriez, Jenn Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, John Macapagal, Katherine Martinez, Liam McCarthy, Shannon Ortiz-Wong, Kelly Siddharta, Meredith Peckosh-Soffrin, Ralph Stefano, Sean Sullivan, Toya Stilley, and Tarik Ward.

Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM. The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes from November 20 and December 16.

CEO Report (Kwame Owusu-Kesse)

Chief Executive Officer Kwame Owusu-Kesse introduced HCZ's new General Counsel, Sean Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan began his career at a Washington, D.C.–based law firm representing nonprofit organizations. He later served as Vice President of Legal and Compliance at the United Way of New York City. Most recently, he served as General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency, the city's primary provider of pretrial services. Mr. Sullivan earned his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Mr. Sullivan's appointment completes the Executive Leadership Team and reflects the organization's continued ability to attract strong executive talent.

Senior leadership convened at the start of the new year to review organization-wide objectives and key results to assess progress, identify areas for adjustment, and recognize achievements.

Mr. Owusu-Kesse closed by underscoring the importance of staff well-being and encouraged leaders to prioritize physical, mental, and emotional health, while maintaining high performance standards.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Saskia Brown)

Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown reported that as of January 1, enrollment for HCZ Promise Academy I, is 1,145 and 968 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

HCZ Promise Academy hosted Superintendent's Day on January 2. Approximately 353 staff members from HCZ Promise Academy I and II, After School and Athletics Programs, and Harlem Gems attended the event. The day included staff recognition awards and professional learning sessions facilitated with the Social Work team, Wealth Builds, and Healthy Harlem. Dr. Brown presented the Superintendent's Award to Principal Shannon

Ortiz-Wong. She also recognized the Safety, Facilities, IT, the planning committee, senior leadership, and the CEO for supporting the event.

HCZ Promise Academy Charter Schools are engaged in the Quarter 2 Helping Young People Early (HYPE) intervention period. The Teaching and Learning team and School leaders have adjusted schedules to incorporate targeted interventions and increase exposure to computer-based testing to prepare scholars for upcoming assessments.

HCZ Promise Academy II Elementary School (LaKiesha George)

Principal LaKiesha George reported the Elementary School's attendance was 89% for December.

In December, the Elementary School held parent-teacher conferences, with 128 families participating in person. The Elementary School continues to strengthen family engagement and school community.

The Elementary School implemented an incentive program with HCZ Promise Academy I Elementary School to support participation in the HeyTutor program. Incentives include raffles, Positive Behaviors & Intervention Support-based rewards, recognition during announcements, school store opportunities, and certificates. Approximately 130 scholars are currently enrolled in the HeyTutor program.

The Elementary School welcomed a new special education teacher to support its instructional program.

The Elementary School held Spirit Week prior to the holiday break and conducted staff appreciation activities.

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 concluded its formal observation cycle and i-Ready assessment, using its data to inform the coaching cycle and refine intervention programming.

The Middle School held parent-teacher conferences, with 155 parent meetings conducted.

Middle School leadership developed a structured, tiered incentive program for scholars designed to increase attendance, engagement, and academic growth during Academic Hour, Saturday Academy, and the HeyTutor program. HeyTutor instructors are currently serving 65 scholars, and school leaders anticipated growth in attendance in the second half of the school year. The Middle School’s Student Council offered input on the incentive prize selections. The Administrative Team monitors attendance and participation through tracking systems, reviews data on a bi-weekly basis, and evaluates data every five weeks to adjust the program.

The Middle School launched a Junior Varsity Girls Basketball team and Cheerleading Squad.

The Middle School held staff and scholar appreciation activities prior to the holiday break, including themed staff recognition and card exchanges between staff and scholars to promote positive school culture.

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

Principal Shannon Ortiz-Wong reported the High School's attendance was 89% for December.

High School seniors continued the college application process, with 100% of scholars completing the Gold Build Scholarship application. Scholars have received college acceptances from Temple University, Howard University, University of Hartford, and SUNY Cobleskill's Educational Opportunity Program, among others.

Seven senior scholars are enrolled in a college-level mathematics course at City College and earned grades of B+ or higher. An additional 24 scholars are preparing to enroll in college-level coursework at City College, Hunter College, and Baruch College. Courses include business administration, physics, and astronomy. Through the High School's College Now partnership, scholars can earn six to twelve college credits prior to graduation.

Five Investment Club scholars visited Deloitte headquarters through a Wealth Builds partnership, gaining exposure to financial services careers and professional environments.

On January 2, staff participated in Superintendent's Day professional development learning sessions.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

Chief Financial Officer Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy II's preliminary November 30 enrollment is 972, which is 55 unfavorable versus the budget. The School's revenue through November is $0.5M unfavorable at $9.8M. Expenses are $0.1M favorable, at $9.4M. HCZ has not made a contribution through five months of FY26.

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy II
January 2026 Attendance Report

	HCZ PAII Elementary School			HCZ PAII Middle School			HCZ PAII High School		
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present
1/5	33	506	93%	19	260	93%	25	198	87%
1/6	38	505	92%	15	258	94%	9	198	95%
1/7	30	505	94%	13	258	95%	12	198	94%
1/8	34	505	93%	15	258	94%	17	198	91%
1/9	51	505	90%	14	258	95%	20	198	90%
1/12	24	505	95%	15	258	94%	13	198	93%
1/13	21	504	96%	7	258	97%	14	198	93%
1/14	26	504	95%	16	258	94%	11	198	94%
1/15	21	504	96%	7	258	97%	14	198	93%
1/16	57	504	89%	11	258	96%	14	198	93%
1/20	49	504	90%	23	258	91%	4	198	98%
1/21	76	502	85%	21	258	92%	3	198	98%
1/22	28	502	94%	17	258	93%	10	198	95%
1/23	42	502	92%	25	258	90%	1	198	99%
1/26	8	502	98%	9	258	97%	1	198	99%
1/27	75	502	85%	34	258	87%	26	198	87%
1/28	175	502	65%	56	258	78%	17	198	91%
1/29	44	502	91%	16	258	94%	21	198	89%
1/30	75	502	85%	25	258	90%	26	198	87%
Average	**48**	**504**	**91%**	**19**	**258**	**93%**	**14**	**198**	**93%**

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FY 2026 December YTD Budget vs. Actual

		Revised Budget	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Revised Full Year Budget	Approved Full Year Budget
Enrollment @ Dec 31	(a)	960	966	6	960	1,027
DOE and other gov't funding		$ 11.8	$ 11.7	$ (0.1)	$ 23.5	$ 24.8
Expenses:						
Salaries		8.2	7.8	0.5	18.1	16.3
Benefits		2.1	1.8	0.3	4.2	4.4
OTPS		1.7	1.5	0.3	3.4	3.9
Total Expenses	(b)	12.1	11.1	1.0	25.7	24.6
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	2.2	-
Contribution Components:						
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	2.2	-
per student (whole $)		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,324	$ -

(a) Enrollment as of Feb 1: 958

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