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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, March 18, 2026
at
245 West 129th Street
New York, NY

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. Superintendent's Updates (*Saskia Brown*)
- III. HCZ Promise Academy II Updates
 - i. Elementary School (*LaKiesha George*)
 - ii. Middle School (*Veroniqua Delva*)
 - iii. High School (*Shannon Ortiz-Wong*)
- IV. Financial Report (*Ralph Stefano*)

**Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) Promise Academy II Charter School
Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
245 West 129th Street**

Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Mitch Kurz, Stan Druckenmiller, Willie Mae Lewis, Lisa McNear, Candice Ashby, Shannon Benson, LaRen Bierria, Saskia Brown, Ari Browne, Amy Deal, Veroniqua Delva, LaKiesha George, Jenn Klein, Jazmine Lewis, Stephanie Lilavois, John Macapagal, Katherine Martinez, 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 January 14, 2026.

Superintendent's Update (Dr. Saskia Brown)

Superintendent Dr. Saskia Brown reported that as of February 1, enrollment for HCZ Promise Academy I is 1,136, and 958 for HCZ Promise Academy II.

Dr. Brown invited Assistant Principal of Promise Academy I High School Dr. Natasha Gutierrez, Literacy Coach Katherine Aguero, and K-5 Math Coach Shernice Johnson to briefly greet the Board. Dr. Brown and the Board thanked them for stepping in as lead teachers while continuing their primary roles and responsibilities.

Dr. Brown thanked Director of Compliance Candice Ashby and Director of Business Administration Ari Browne for the completion and submission of the Annual Comprehensive Review, a New York City Department of Education reporting requirement that includes school data and self-evaluations for the 2024-2025 school year. She also thanked Chief Financial Officer Ralph Stefano and the Finance Team for their contributions.

Leadership teams participated in a Data to Action Lab on January 30, reviewed Quarter 2 academic data, and developed action plans for the remainder of the calendar year. Dr. Brown thanked Mr. Canada for attending.

Dr. Brown, Deputy Superintendent Shannon Benson, and the Teaching and Learning Team conducted instructional walkthroughs during the week of February 2 and observed strong scholar engagement and teacher preparedness.

The Elementary and Middle Schools are preparing scholars for upcoming computer-based testing with mock tests scheduled in February and March.

The Schools continue to expand and monitor the HeyTutor program to ensure scholars receive additional academic support when needed. Dr. Brown recognized the schools for increasing scholar participation in the program.

HCZ Promise Academy II Elementary School (LaKiesha George)

Principal LaKiesha George reported the Elementary School's attendance was 91% for January.

On Superintendent's Day, the Elementary School staff engaged in professional development opportunities.

Participation in the HeyTutor program increased from 62% to 74% over the past month.

The Elementary School welcomed an Integrated Co-Teaching Learning Specialist for first grade.

The Elementary School hosted family meetings to review upcoming assessments and provide information about testing expectations.

Morning circles continue to strengthen school culture and scholar engagement.

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

Principal Dr. Veroniqua Delva reported the Middle School's attendance was 93% for January.

The Middle School onboarded five new Lead Teachers to strengthen instructional capacity.

The Middle School held an open house, where prospective families met school leaders and the After School Team and toured the building. Dr. Delva thanked Director of Operations Toya Stilley and Operations Manager Kameyia Van Allen for their supporting family engagement.

Scholars completed quarterly assessments with 97% attendance on testing days.

School leadership held a scholar town hall to review academic data and strengthen scholar performance.

School leadership led a professional development half-day where teachers collaborated, explored the next unit of instruction, and aligned on instructional strategies.

The Middle School hosted a concert night to strengthen family engagement and clarify academic expectations.

The Math Team led a professional development session where the teachers shared best practices to strengthen instruction.

Participation in the HeyTutor program increased significantly from 46% to 72% over the past month. School leaders drove the increase through individual scholar meetings, increased oversight during tutoring sessions, and stronger coordination with HCZ Promise Academy After School.

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

Principal Shannon Ortiz-Wong reported the High School's attendance was 93% for January.

The High School administered quarterly assessments. Scholars made significant gains in academic testing and Regents preparation.

Scholars attended the Metropolitan Opera's *Madame Butterfly* and visited the sports media company Overtime to learn about careers in the field.

Three Promise Academy High School scholars were accepted to Harvard's Pre-College Program.

Scholars received college acceptances from Penn State University, Michigan State University, and Howard University. One scholar also received admission to Northeastern University with an \$80,000 annual scholarship.

Financial Update (Ralph Stefano)

Chief Financial Officer Ralph Stefano reported that HCZ Promise Academy II's December 31 enrollment is 966, which is six favorable versus the budget. The School's revenue through December is \$0.1M unfavorable at \$11.7M. Expenses are \$1.0M favorable, at \$11.1M. HCZ has not made a contribution through six months of FY26.

Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II February 2026 Attendance Report

Date	HCZ PAII Elementary School			HCZ PAII Middle School			HCZ PAII High School		
	Number of Students		% of Students	Number of Students		% of Students	Number of Students		% of Students
	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present	Absent	Enrollment	Present
2/2	42	502	92%	14	257	95%	19	198	90%
2/3	34	501	93%	19	257	93%	14	198	93%
2/4	37	500	93%	23	257	91%	22	198	89%
2/5	41	500	92%	17	257	93%	20	198	90%
2/6	47	500	91%	24	257	91%	16	198	92%
2/9	66	500	87%	26	257	90%	19	198	90%
2/10	32	500	94%	19	257	93%	12	198	94%
2/11	39	500	92%	15	257	94%	17	198	91%
2/12	34	500	93%	23	257	91%	14	198	93%
2/13	54	500	89%	27	257	89%	12	198	94%
2/23	58	500	88%	16	257	94%	12	198	94%
2/24	123	498	75%	58	257	77%	51	198	74%
2/25	84	498	83%	32	257	88%	38	198	81%
2/26	22	498	96%	9	257	96%	19	198	90%
2/27	51	498	90%	16	257	94%	20	198	90%
Average	51	500	90%	23	257	91%	20	198	90%

Promise Academy II
FY 2026 January YTD Budget vs. Actual

		Revised Budget	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Revised Full Year Budget
Enrollment @ Jan 31	(a)	960	957	(3)	960
DOE and other gov't funding		\$ 13.7	\$ 13.7	\$ -	\$ 23.5
Expenses:					
Salaries		10.3	9.7	0.6	18.1
Benefits		2.5	2.4	0.1	4.2
OTPS		2.0	1.8	0.2	3.4
Total Expenses	(b)	14.8	13.9	0.9	25.7
Expenses in excess of public funding		-	-	-	2.2
Contribution Components:					
HCZ Contribution		-	-	-	2.2
per student (whole \$)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,324

(a) Enrollment as of Mar 1: 953

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