Minutes of the Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II Charter School
Board Meeting
September 27, 2010
125 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10035


Mr. Kenneth Langone called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. A motion to approve the minutes was not called due to an insufficient number of board members in attendance. Staff will seek approval subsequent to meeting.

Promise Academy II Elementary

Ms. Sheryl Ragland reported a smooth transition with students and parents as she moved into her new role as principal of the Promise Academy II Lower Elementary. Ms. Ragland stated that she will continue to work with family workers to maintain attendance percentages above 95%. She also reported an increased literacy block, which will provide two hours of reading time for students. Teachers and staff have identified 15 students who will receive intervention support three times a week and one period after school. The goal is to have all second graders at or above reading level by the time they transition into the upper school for the third grade.

Mr. Kenneth Langone commented that teachers and administrators must remain focused on the 5% of students who have poor attendance, as we cannot educate students who do not come to school. Mr. Langone strongly encouraged principals to concentrate on students who are habitually absent.

Promise Academy II Upper Elementary

Ms. Kathleen Fernald thanked the board for their support of her Fulbright program in India and requested time to share what she learned about their school system. She also commented that Ms. Ragland was in charge in her absence over the summer which helped Ms. Ragland establish herself as a school leader, easing her transition into her new role as principal.

As principal of the upper school, Ms. Fernald is focusing her efforts on the fifth and sixth graders to have created greater opportunities for them to have more choices and independence. There are 12 students who are taking both sixth and seventh grade math this year. Next year another cohort will take both seventh and eighth grade math. By the eighth grade, half of the current sixth grade class will be ready for integrated mathematics. Fifth graders who either need help or a greater challenge will be pulled out of class for targeted instruction.
Ms. Fernald and her team have identified 124 students school-wide to receive targeted instruction. The Teacher’s College workshops have helped establish the reading level needed to earn a level three or four on the New York State English Language Arts exam. Students who have been identified with the IOWA assessment test as scoring a level three will also receive interventions throughout the year.

Ms. Fernald continues to work closely with the after-school program to ensure continuity of interventions and overall instruction.

Ms. Fernald also reported on a new strategy to reinforce attendance; students will not be allowed on school trips if they are excessively late or absent.

Financials

A motion to approve the budget was not called due to an insufficient number of board members. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 am.