Minutes of the Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy I Charter School
Board Meeting
November 18, 2010
125 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10035

In attendance: Geoffrey Canada, Stan Druckenmiller, Ken Langone, Mitch Kurz, Arlene Gibson via telephone, O’Donna Hue Osborne, Hope Williams, Aisha Tomilson, Kathleen Fernald, Sheryl Ragland, Dennis McKesey, Tonya White, Marquitta Speller, Shakira Petit, Anne Williams-Isom, Mindy Miller, Marlene Fox, Debbie Gonzalez, Tracey Costello, George Khaldun, Betina Jean-Louis, Katie Shoemaker, Conrad Pimmock, Latasha Johnson-Morgan, Lauren Scopaz, Margo Wright, Michelle Germaine, Bessie Wilkerson, Jennifer Klein, Brian McClendon, Shana Brodnax, Tiffany Fountain, Sharleen Morris, Jodi-Ann Burey.

Mr. Kenneth Langone called the meeting to order at 7:00 am and requested a motion to approve the October board meeting minutes; the motion was unanimously upheld.

**Promise Academy I Elementary**

Ms. Tonya White reported that teachers and staff have been preparing the third grade students for their upcoming three day state exam. To increase students’ reading comprehension, the scheduled reading block is continuing and will support the newly implemented McGraw Hill reading program called “Treasures.” In this program, each adult works with five or six students to re-teach, review and reassess standards when students return from holiday recess. Saturday Academy has been mandated for 70 students to help improve their reading comprehension skills.

Ms. White detailed the school-wide study on the Harlem Renaissance. Ms. White also reported on the technology integration grant from Fordham University that supports schools bringing technology and science together in the classroom. Promise Academy I Elementary received cameras, probes and other equipment as part of this grant.

On Election Day, the entire Promise Academy I Elementary staff travelled together to see *Waiting for Superman*, a documentary feature film detailing various issues in public education. After watching the film, the staff discussed their work at Promise Academy and reported that they were excited and proud to be a part of the Harlem Children’s Zone mission.

**Promise Academy I Upper Elementary/Middle School**

Mr. Dennis McKesey reported that with a recorded 96% monthly attendance rate, student attendance is going very well.

Mr. McKesey also reported on the newly implemented assessment tool used to track student academic performance. Students are assessed weekly on mathematics and English and Language Arts (ELA); monthly assessments are cumulative. Mr. Langone and Mr. Stan Druckenmiller commented on the need to address deficiencies with teachers. Mr. Canada added that teacher failure also signifies an administrative failure for not following up with the teachers they supervise.

**Promise Academy I High School**

Ms. Marquitta Speller reported that teachers and staff have been preparing for the English comprehension exam to determine what additional academic support the students need. Eight out of the 63 students who did not perform well on the multiple choice questions are now receiving
targeted instruction. Essay data is not yet available. Forty students have been targeted for Saturday Academy to receive one-on-one and small group instruction in addition to peer mentoring sessions. Students who have individualized education programs (IEP) review special skills in the resource room daily.

Ms. Speller introduced Ms. Laura Rohner who works in conjunction with the Guidance Office on college preparatory advising. Ms. Rohner detailed the 100% success college preparatory program where students received SAT preparatory sessions from The Princeton Review. With this and other programs, Promise Academy I high school students are becoming more acclimated to the college admissions process.

**Financials**

Ms. Tracey Costello reported that Promise Academy I continues to run under budget having expensed 29% thus far.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00am.