Minutes of the Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II Charter School
Board Meeting
January 26th, 2011
35 East 125th Street, New York, NY 10035

In attendance: Geoffrey Canada, Stan Druckenmiller, 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 Pinnock, Latasha Johnson-Morgan, Lauren Scopaz, Margo Wright, Michelle Germaine, Bessie Wilkerson, Brian McClendon, Shana Brodnax, Tiffany Fountain, Sharleen Morris, Jenny Lai

Promise Academy II Elementary

Ms. Ragland reported that attendance has improved largely due to the work of the school social worker. The 17 students Ms. Ragland reported as being chronically late have been on time more consistently.

Over 175 parents attended the Winter Concert and 100 families out of 274 showed up to Family Game Night.

In the beginning of the year twenty-six 2nd graders were enrolled in an intervention program. Currently, eleven of the students are 2 reading levels above the current benchmark. The intervention services for those students are now decreasing and students who are at grade level will be participating in the intervention program to promote their accelerated achievement as well.

Promise Academy II Upper Elementary

Ms. Fernald reported that attendance goals have been met this month. To encourage good attendance on December 23rd, she held an Honors Assembly for students. On that day, academic and social awards were given to students.

Ms. Fernald noted that her students are participating in band, orchestra and choir. The Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard continue to work the Promise Academy II Upper Elementary School. Additionally, the Science Fair is scheduled for February and students are busy preparing their presentations.

Currently, 121 students are enrolled in intervention during the day and 60 are enrolled in after school tutoring. Ms. Fernald is working very closely with the after-school tutors, who are strong this year.

Ms. Fernald started multiple basketball leagues and many students of all grades have signed up. Their participation in the basketball league is contingent on their Saturday School and after school tutoring attendance. All Promise Academy II Upper Elementary School teachers are tutoring after school test prep two days a week for 1 hour each day.

The current Grade 5 students are scoring at the highest percentage level in the school. There will be an additional 1.5 hours of ELA instruction during the day to prepare struggling Grade 6 students for the State Exam. This schedule change enables the school to group students more homogeneously in Science so
that students who excel can move at a faster pace. Some students have also entered the Intel Science Contest.

Financials

Ms. Costello reported that Promise Academy II is running 7% under budget. Although a few lines are running over budget, there is no cause for concern.

Mr. Canada ended by noting the difficult times that parents and students are facing due to increased violence. These issues are further exacerbated by the tough economic climate and will only worsen as the recession continues. He reaffirms that the Harlem Children's Zone will continue to work with every single child no matter how difficult the situation. Mr. Canada and the Board recognized and expressed gratitude to the intervention staff. The Board also thanked the staff for all their hard work and dedication to the mission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.