Minutes of The Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II Charter School
Board Meeting
May 25th, 2011
35 East 125th Street, New York, NY 10035

In attendance: Geoffrey Canada, Ken Langone, Mitch Kurz, Aisha Tomlinson, Stanley Druckenmiller, Arlene Gibson, Denise Nash-Fuller, Dorlin Reyes, Madeline White, Alfonso Wyatt, Kathleen Fernald, Sheryl Ragland, Dennis Mckesey, Tonya White, Marquitta Speller, Shakira Petit, Anne Williams-Isom, Mindy Miller, Marlene Fox, Debbie Gonzalez, Tracey Costello, George Kaldun, Betina Jean-Louis, Kate Shoemaker, Conrad Pinnock, Latasha Johnson-Morgan, Lauren Scopaz, Tiffany Fountain, Sharleen Morris, Jenny Lai

Mr. Kenneth Langone called the meeting to order at 7:55 am and requested a motion to approve the May Board meeting minutes; the motion was unanimously upheld.

Promise Academy II Elementary

Ms. Shelly Bauer began the Promise Academy II Elementary update with a keyboard performance by Ja’nae Simmons and a viola performance by Malachi Myre.

After the performances, Ms. Ragland reported that attendance averaged about 95%. She also noted that Grades 1 and 2 have made tremendous growth according to the Independent Reading Level, IRL data.

For the upcoming year, Ms. Ragland is looking to hire two new first grade teachers. One of her current first grade teachers is going to transition into a new role and the other is not returning. Ms. Ragland is looking for a teacher that can teach gifted and talented students so that she can develop a cohort of advanced students. Ms. Ragland is also looking for a math coach and four additional teaching assistants.

The summer schedule has been modified so that teachers can participate in professional development sessions from 1-4pm. The students will do more project-based learning using an interdisciplinary approach.

Promise Academy II Upper Elementary

Ms. Fernald noted that attendance was consistent this month.

Promise Academy II Upper Elementary has focused on test taking skills. They have sought out rigorous test taking materials to help students improve their critical thinking skills. Ms. Fernald felt that the New York State Exam was fair and noted that her students were most comfortable with the math portion of the test.
In an effort to develop a rigorous academic program, class changes were made this month. Grade 5 is now divided into three sections; previously, it was divided into two. This additional class allowed a select group of students to advance their studies in math. Also, Ms. Fernald has identified twenty 5th grade students, thus far, who will be taking 6th and 7th grade math. Furthermore, Ms. Fernald has continued 4th grade Saturday science test prep program to prepare students for their state test in June.

For the upcoming year, Ms. Fernald has found two math teachers and Mr. Joseph will transition from teaching Grade 4 to Grade 6 and 7 Social Studies.

Financials

Ms. Tracey Costello reported that Promise Academy II is 4% under budget. The Department of Education allocation has increased thus the revenue has increased over $245,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 a.m.