In attendance: Geoffrey Canada, Ken Langone, Mitch Kurz, Aisha Tomlinson, Stanley Druckenmiller, Alfonso Wyatt (via phone), Hope Williams, Kathleen Fernald, Sheryl Ragland, Achil Petit, Marquitta Speller, Shakira Petit, Edward Landry, Anne Williams-Isom, Mindy Miller, Marlene Fox, Debbie Gonzalez, Tracey Costello, George Khaldun, Betina Jean-Louis, Kate Shoemaker, Conrad Pinnock, Shana Brodnax, Margo Wright, Lauren Scopaz, Tiffany Fountain, Sharleen Morris, Jenny Lai, Brian McClendon

Promise Academy II Elementary

At 7:50 am, Ms. Sheryl Ragland reported her average attendance for the month was 90%. She noted the average of her school’s attendance was affected by health issues; a few students were hospitalized this month.

In collaboration with Promise Academy II Upper Elementary, a music and art show was held at the school. Students performed and displayed their art to their family and friends.

In the kindergarten class, 90.4% of students are on or above grade level. Moreover, 71% of the kindergarten class is two or more levels above grade level in reading. In first grade, 91.1% of students are on or above grade level and 53.8% students are above grade level. 90.5% of the second graders are at or above grade level and 35.8% are above grade level.

There are some students that are in danger of retention. For these students, Ms. Ragland has created a modified summer program that includes small group instruction. The Promise Academy II Elementary summer program also includes book clubs that encourage students to read non-fiction literature.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, Ms. Ragland is working with Teachers College to plan her teachers’ professional development. Two of her teacher’s assistants will be moving into teaching positions.

Promise Academy II Upper Elementary

Ms. Kathleen Fernald reported attendance continues to be satisfactory and very high on testing days. Attendance was at 99% and 98% on the days of the State test.

Ms. Fernald noted that 16 out of 225 students are in need of extra support in reading. Many of these students have IEPs and have not been a student in her school for very long. A number of these struggling students, who were admitted into the school because their sibling was already a student at Promise Academy II Upper Elementary, will be provided extra support.
Ms. Fernald recognized her 6th grade class for their academic achievement. The entire class is on or above grade level. Ms. Fernald attributes this success to the additional instruction provided to 22 students who needed the most support.

During the month of August, Promise Academy II Upper Elementary will be open to students. Some students will be in intensive reading courses while others will work on projects or attending summer programs including Camp Four Winds, Netop Summer Camp, and the Choate Rosemary Hall Math/Science Institute for Girls.

Ms. Fernald has all her teachers in place for the upcoming school year and is continuing to develop her current staff. Both Mr. Davidson Joseph, a social studies teacher, and Ms. Shelley Bauer, a music teacher, are attending professional development programs this summer.

Financials

Ms. Tracey Costello reports that Promise Academy II spending has been consistent throughout the year. She expects that Promise Academy II will come in under budget.

Mr. Canada’s Closing Remarks

Mr. Canada noted that the changes in the common core standards will have a large impact on the entire country. In order to best meet the needs of all the students, efforts to support students must begin early on in a child’s life. Mr. Canada has been working with Ms. Betina Jean-Louis to research predictors of success and different methods of identifying and supporting students that need intervention in kindergarten and first grade.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 am.