
Mr. Kenneth Langone called the meeting to order at 7:45 am and requested a motion to approve the September Board meeting minutes; the motion was unanimously upheld.

**Promise Academy II Lower Elementary**

Ms. Sheryl Ragland reported that, with the support of family workers, student attendance and timeliness has improved. The average attendance for the month of September was 94%. Ms. Ragland predicts that attendance will continue to progress.

The teachers of Promise Academy II Lower Elementary had a strong start to the school year. All the teachers are benefiting from a lot of internal support. Additionally, Teachers College is continuing to provide professional development for teachers.

Ms. Ragland also noted that her parents are highly engaged in their children’s education and have inquired about different ways to support their children in math and reading.

Additionally, Promise Academy II Lower Elementary is continuing to use data to drive their instruction. By September, Ms. Ragland had enough information on the students to create intervention groups and plan enrichment program. The enrichment program includes music and sign language courses.

Ms. Ragland also highlighted the professional development of her staff. She now has teaching assistants who are certified to teach. As the teaching assistants continue to develop professionally, Ms. Ragland hopes to increase the number of internal promotional hires.

Character education continues to play a significant role at Promise Academy II Lower Elementary. Each month the students focus on a new core value.
Promise Academy II Upper Elementary

Ms. Kathleen Fernald noted that the average attendance for the month of September was 95%. Additionally, five new students have been enrolled into the school. These students were taken from the waitlist. Some of these students transferred from Harlem Success Academy and KIPP Charter School.

Promise Academy II Upper Elementary is now home to its first Grade 7. Ms. Fernald and her staff are developing a middle school program that includes an advisory class. Thus far, the students have picked their own advisors and the advisory class meets twice a week. These advisories give students and teachers a chance to develop relationships outside of the classroom. Students also attend a club once a week during the school day; club options include: student council, guitar and journalism classes. Ms. Fernald also highlighted that Mr. Corey Williams of the Denver Nuggets visited Promise Academy II this month.

Ms Fernald noted that a couple of other resources that have been made available to parents and students. Parents have attended sessions to learn more about the New York State Exam. Also, the Bridging the Gap afterschool tutoring program began recently.

Ms. Fernald reported that there is one Grade 3 teacher that has been replaced. Although the candidate came with good recommendations, it was clear early on that the teacher was not a good fit for the school. A certified teaching assistant has taken the role.

Ms. Fernald then introduced Promise Academy II students to present their summer camp experiences.

Justin Huger and Theo Douglass presented on their experiences at Camp Netop. They recalled great memories of fishing, canoeing, kayaking and meeting new friends. Then Mohammed Sanogo and Matthew Fernando shared their experiences at Camp Four Winds: Westward Ho. Both students enjoyed traveling, horseback riding and the experience of meeting other people from different backgrounds. Lanisha Smith also shared her experiences at the Math and Science Institute for Girls; she enjoyed experiencing life outside of New York City and she particularly liked meeting people from around the world.

Mr. Tyler Sanders, a Promise Academy II science teacher, then introduced Ashley Allen and Naya Bullen, two of the thirty students that attended space camp. The students highlighted the experience of sitting in the Gravity Chair simulator and feeling a sense of weightless. Lastly, Tennille Mack and Sierra Carter presented their experiences singing, dancing, and playing tennis at Camp Broaderway.

All the students noted that their summer experiences gave them the confidence to achieve anything.
Financials

Ms. Tracey Costello reported that Promise Academy II continues to run under budget.

Mr. Canada’s Closing Statement

Mr. Geoffrey Canada made note of the dismal high school graduation rates in New York City. Mr. Canada believes that the college readiness standard is an increasingly important measure for all the success of a school. Promise Academy will continue to use the college readiness standard as a guide for continual growth and improvement.

Mr. Canada then highlighted the work of the Safety Knights, a group of Harlem Children Zone employees that help protect students as they walk to and from school. As the Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy continues to employ various strategies to protect students, Mr. Canada is considering the use of cameras around the Harlem Children’s Zone campuses as a preventative measure.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 am.