



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

1

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Zoom Only Session

“HONORING THE PAST. PREPARING THE FUTURE.”

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 - 6:11 pm

Meeting ID: 860 3319 0084 - Passcode: G0amD9

Board Members present:

James Michel, Board Chair

Yolanda McDonald-Wesley, Community Representative

Keisha Bailey-Acevedo, Parent Representative

Thomas Smith, Community Representative Secretary

Janelle Lester, Community Representative

Attendees: Dr. Monroe, Mr. Hines, Mrs. Damaschi, Principal Reid, Dr. Gordon-Hall, Mr. Fagan, Mrs. Fernandez, Dean Bynoe, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. McCarthy, Dean Green, Principal Johnson, Mrs. Osborn, Ms. Whitter, Dante and family.

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm.

I. OPENING

There were no public comments.

II. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Opening Remarks

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that this is the first year that the Federal Government will recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday and the state will formally celebrate Juneteenth as a holiday in 2023. This means that from next year forward, we will recognize the third Monday in June as an official holiday for schools. Dr. Monroe is asked to revisit this with his team and return to the board with recommendations.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

2

The Board Chair noted that our Memorandum of Understanding with Achievement First ends on June 30, 2022. The board will vote tonight to add this item to the agenda.

Board Member Recognition

Mrs. Acevedo and Mrs. Wesley are both departing from the board. Their official last day on the board is effective today, June 14, 2022. Their children are 8th grade graduates of Jumoke this year. Both have been on the board for 3 years. Mrs. Acevedo served as JAPA president and both have been longtime supporters of Jumoke Academy. The Board Chair thanked them for their service to Jumoke and entrusting us to educating their scholars and wished them all the best.

8th Grade Promotion Exercise

Our 8th grade promotion exercise is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 2:00 pm. All board members are encouraged to attend.

Executive Director Annual Performance Review

The Executive Director's annual review will take place on Monday, June 20, 2022. This concludes the Board Chair's opening remarks.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PART A

May - Scholar of the Month Recognition

Dante Adams, JA-TED
Jamarie McIntosh, JAH-SMaRT
Hannah Harding, JAH-HC

The Executive Director continued with the scholar of the month recognition. Principal Johnson presented for Dante Adams. The Executive Director congratulated Dante and his family for his hard work and encouraged him to continue on this path to success.

Dr. Gordon-Hall presented for Jamarie McIntosh. Principal Reid presented for Hannah Harding. All three scholars will be given a token from the Board of Directors for their hard work and commitment to excellence.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

3

PART B

District Updates

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director

Photovoice Update

Jumoke Academy has collaborated with Community Health Center to launch the Photovoice initiative that was shared with the board in the last meeting. We have had to scale down the total number of participants due to the reduction in funding. More information to come at a later date.

Jumoke Academy and CT Relay Partnership

The Jumoke Academy and CT Relay partnership is well on its way, a follow-up meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2022. We received a commitment of \$12,000 per participant. We have confirmation that 50% of the cost will be funded.

25th Anniversary Gala Planning Update

The Jumoke Academy 25th anniversary Gala will take place on Saturday, September 17 from 5:30-9:30 pm at The Artists Collective. Our theme is Silver Soiree. The night's events will include a cocktail hour, silent auction, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. All members of the board are asked to support this major fundraiser and share within their network.

Appointment of JAH-SMaRT Principal - Kashay Green

The Executive Director shared the appointment of Dean Green as Principal of SMaRT effective July 1, 2022. She has been with Jumoke since 2017 in varying capacities which include teacher, dean and now her current role as principal. She also has a Bachelor's degree in education, a Master's degree in Special Education and a 6th year certificate in education leadership. Her commitment to Jumoke is genuine and she is very capable of serving in this capacity.

Principal Green stated that she is happy to be a part of the team.

The Board Chair congratulated Principal Green in her new role and wished her well. He expressed sincere appreciation for the work Principal Green has done so far at Jumoke and stated that he is happy that she is ready for the challenge in her new role.

Playground Update - Derek Fagan, Facilities Supervisor

A review of the aging playground at TED saw the necessity to provide well needed repairs. The decision was made to use existing equipment to minimize cost. The playground will be expanded and made ADA accessible. Funding for this project is made possible through ARP ESSER. The new playground will consist of a rubber matting base which replaces the mulch used in the past.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

4

The board Chair thanked Mr. Fagan for sharing information on the work being done on the playground.

The Executive Director reminded the Board Chair that we would need to add the Achievement First Memorandum of Understanding to the Board Meeting Agenda. The Board Chair requested that the board be given a synopsis of the MOU. The Executive Director stated that Jumoke has a contract with Achievement First in which our scholars moving to high school are guaranteed a spot at Achievement First if they desire to continue high school there. This MOU allows Achievement First to receive \$11,000 in state funding, while Jumoke receives \$250 per scholar. The contract expires on June 30, 2022 and we were just informed of that yesterday. The Board Chair expressed concern regarding this item citing the fact that Jumoke has not benefited from this venture in the past. The Executive Director requested that this item be approved for one year and reviewed for the future.

The Board Chair asked members of the board for a motion to add this item to the agenda and vote for a renewal of the contract for one year. Mr. Smith moved to approve and this was seconded by Mrs. Acevedo. The motion was carried unanimously. The Memorandum of Understanding between Jumoke Academy and Achievement First has been extended for one year.

PART C

Academic Department Updates

- Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Gordon-Hall, Academic Director

CT Invention Convention Jumoke Academy Winners

The Academic Director shared that our scholars did very well in the Connecticut Invention Convention. Our very own Annalise Smellings from HC won first place and received the top National Prize. Xavier Eaddy also won the Connecticut First Place Prize and Ka'Moni received the award for Outstanding Entry Prize. Other Jumoke participants included Forbes and Hardy.

The Board Chair congratulated all the scholars, faculty and staff who worked to get the scholars to the competition and subsequently received such an exciting outcome.

2022 Summer Learning

We have scheduled summer learning for our scholars. We have prioritized learning modules to ensure that our scholars remain engaged during the long summer months.

Focus areas include reading and math review activities and online resources. This will assist scholars in their transition to the next grade level.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

5

Curricula Initiatives Updates

Algebra I will be offered to 11 eighth grade scholars as a new curricula offering for our scholars from both middle schools.

We are also in the early stages of launching an accelerated science course for 8th grade as well. Scholars will complete an 8th grade thesis, this would include a 20 page manuscript that details a specific topic. We have identified 14 scholars from both middle schools who have met the criteria to participate in this course.

World Language

We have identified a candidate for our World Language Program Coordinator. The candidate will go through the second round interview process with our Executive Director.

The Board Chair asked where we are in the hiring process for being fully staffed across the academy. The Executive Director stated we have made significant progress in the hiring process, but still has a long way to go. The shortage in teachers and the competitive nature of the market has created a challenge to find qualified candidates to fill these positions.

Mr. Smith stated that two weeks ago the Hartford Courant released a news article about Hartford Public School offering end of year and returning bonuses in an effort to retain staff.

Spring 2022 Academic Achievement Update

We received our preliminary Spring 2022 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and Next Generations Science Standards (NGSS) scores. In addition, our scholars participated in the Spring NWEA assessment. A summary of the results is included in the PowerPoint for the Board Meeting and several areas highlighted by the Academic Director.

Overall we have seen an increase in the number of scholars scoring at level three and above. We have had quite a few successes for Mathematics where scholars moved from 31 to 82. In ELA scholars moved up from 72 in Spring of 2021 to 82 Spring of 2022.

Ms. Lester asked, if level three is the required passing score at the state level?

Dr. Gordon-Hall stated that level 3 is proficient or performing at standard, while level 4 is above standard.

The Board Chair asked, how do we measure up to the state requirement?

The Academic Director responded that she will review the benchmark scores to see how we compare to other districts.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

6

Ms. Lester asked, how do these numbers compare to pre-pandemic, have we seen improvement today in comparison to 2019?

The Academic Director responded that the state requires a 92% participation rate in testing, Jumoke is at a 97% participation rate.

In NWEA/Map Mathematics testing we had 58 kindergarten scholars tested and 40% met their projected growth in fall to winter of 2022 and in spring 61 tested and 82% met their growth.

The Board Chair asked, how do we define growth?

Dr. Gordon-Hall responded that NWEA defines the projected growth for each scholar based on the diagnostic performance in the fall and where they should score by the spring assessment in comparison to others in their grade level nationally.

The Board Chair congratulated the entire district and asked that additional information is shared with the board this fall. This should include what ascertains our successes and identify and share what has been done to gain that success.

The Board Chair asked when we should expect the final results from testing?

The Academic Director responded that this should be ready by mid-July.

The Board Chair also stated that he would like updates to be available at the Board Retreat.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of May Minutes
2. March Financial Statements

The Board Chair requested a motion to approve the May board meeting minutes and the March Financial Statements. A motion was made by Mrs. Acevedo, seconded by Mrs. McDonald-Wesley and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Education Financial System Report Update

Mr. Arnel Hines, Finance Director

The Finance Director stated that all school districts financial reports have been moved to a new system and we had an accuracy issue with the system. The state advised us that information that we input into the system and information our auditors input are showing some discrepancies. Mr. Twest, the state representative, will work with the auditors and our Finance Department to



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

7

identify the discrepancy which was based on a timing issue. The Finance Department will follow up with the Board to ensure there is transparency.

The Board Chair asked that more detail is shared with the board concerning this issue. The details should include what occurred? How did it happen? How is it being addressed and what mitigation strategies are in place to avoid a recurrence?

The Finance Director stated that he will reach out to the Board Chair and Treasurer to set up a meeting to discuss the matter in detail.

Ms. Lester asked, if this is a high level issue?

The Finance Director responded that the Educational Financial System (EFS) is set up under categories entered by the district. We submit drawdowns, but do not report until after we receive the funds. We draw down the funds, but until we receive the funding we do not input the drawdown.

Ms. Lester asked if this is a monthly filing?

The Finance Director responded that it can be, but is dependent on when we receive the funds.

Document Destruction/Retention (Requires board approval)

We have documents that have built up over the years that we are hoping to destroy. We have a draft document that we hope the board will review and approve to move forward with destroying these documents.

The Board Chair responded that the board cannot vote and approve an incomplete document.

Ms. Lester asked what is our current protocol for destroying sensitive electronic files? She then asked is the list exhaustive of all records to be destroyed?

The Board Chair stated that documents should be kept for a minimum of 7 years. He asked that the Executive Director add this item to the agenda for the board retreat to provide follow-up information.

The board retreat is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2022 the time and location is to be determined.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

8

April Financial Statement/EOY Projection

We have a balanced budget. We have an increase in total revenue. SPED expenses are projected higher, all SPED expenses will be billed to the districts that the scholars live in. We would like the board to approve the April Financial projection.

The Board Chair asked if the April Financial Statement went before the Finance Sub-committee for review?

The Finance Director stated that he will set up a meeting as soon as possible.

The Board Chair stated that the board will only vote on the April Financial Statements after the Finance Sub-committee has met and approved the report.

V. SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no sub-committee reports.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no executive sessions.

VII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Curriculum and Instruction Updates will be shared at the next Board of Directors meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair asked for a motion to end the meeting, Mr. Smith moved for the adjournment of the board meeting and this was seconded by Mrs. Acevedo, the motion was carried unanimously at 7:37 pm.