



---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

1

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

### In Person Session

“25 Years Strong...Keep on Keeping On.”

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022- 6:05 - 7:16 pm**

**999 Asylum Avenue  
5th Floor Conference Room**

**Meeting ID: 831 8570 3675**

**Passcode: cXy2J3**

Board members present:

Myron Stewart, Community Representative Treasurer

James Michel, Board Chair

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

Damien Pittola, Community Representative

Thomas Smith, Community Representative Secretary

Statt Present: Dr. Troy Monroe, Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Linda Parsons, Pamela Barry, Heather Jacobi, Leslie Rosemond, Heidi Strom, Latoya Johnson, Kashay Green, Arnel Hines, Joleen Fernandez, Sharron Solomon-McCarthy, Tanisha Whitter.

Guests: Shamilah and family

### **I. OPENING**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by the Board Chair

### **Welcome & Public Comments**

There were no public comments

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **II. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS**

#### **New members of the board**

**a. George Sutherland**

**b. Lashonda Charles**

The Board Chair introduced two new members of the board, George Sutherland and Lashonda Charles who were both unable to attend the meeting due to schedule conflicts.



---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

2

## III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT PART A

### November - Scholar of the Month Recognition

#### **Caelina Fedee, JAH-TED**

The scholar of the month recognition began with Caelina, Principal Johnson made the presentation for this scholar.

Caelina was recommended by the 2nd grade team. She is respectful and responsible and ready to learn at all times.

The Executive Director congratulated Caelina and her family as outstanding recipient of scholar of the month. Caelina will receive a gift bag provided by the board.

#### **Shamiyah Daley, JAH-SMaRT**

Dean Barry made the presentation for Shamiyah. She is described as a wonderful scholar, who goes above and beyond. A perfect role model. She constantly puts forward her best effort. Shamiyah stays after class to get assistance with Math and is a great representation of the Jumoke way.

The Executive Director stated that Shamiyah will receive a certification of appreciation for her hard work.

#### **Jillian Ventura, JAH-HC**

Principal Jacobi made the presentation for Jillian. She is respectful, responsible and ready to learn. Jillian leads by example and follows the direction of the staff. Congratulations to Jillian who is a great representation of Jumoke Academy.

The Board Chair congratulated all three scholars for making Jumoke proud and their parents for supporting the scholars educational success. He wished all the scholars well.

## PART B

### District Updates

**Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director**

#### 1. District Report

##### ○ YASS Prize Award Update

The Executive Director is very excited about the YASS Prize competition. The district applied for the YASS prize under the leadership of our Academic Director Dr.

Gordon-Hall. Our focus was growing our own teachers from the ranks of the Academic Assistants. The STOP principles created by the YASS Prize competition requires the participants to compete against several organizations in the education field in a dynamic effort that positively disrupts the education system. The STOP principles are built on the foundation of sustainable, transformational, outstanding and permissionless initiative. Jumoke Academy is one of 32 semi finalists for this competition. We made our three minute pitch and the \$1 million winner will be announced on December 14th. We will communicate the outcome to the board.

The Executive Director shared the three minute pitch made toward the \$1 million prize.



---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

3

The Board Chair asked what is the next step.

The Executive Director responded that the check for the \$200,000 previously earned from the YASS Prize is in the mail.

The Academy will pursue this venture for our Academic Assistants to pursue a higher education.

Mr. Smith stated that it was a very good presentation. Mrs. Acosta wished the Academy all the best.

The Board Chair stated that despite whatever happens tomorrow we have already won. The Academy pursuing the YASS Prize initiative is an acknowledgement that we are doing the work and YASS Prize has recognized that effort. We have faculty and staff in our community who are doing well for our scholars.

## **PART C**

### **Curriculum & Instruction Updates**

- **Academic Department Update**

**Dr. Gordon-Hall, Academic Director**

Updates from the curriculum and instruction department were shared by Dr. Gordon-Hall. The state recently released the Next Generation Accountability System results for 2021-2022. We have seen where our scores are being impacted negatively by previous Jumoke scholars at the high school level associated with Jumoke Academy through our memorandum of understanding. Jumoke is attached to those high school scholars that have brought down our scores. When we review the data without the high school scores we are performing better than our host district.

We are also being impacted by the lower score in Arts for 9th-10th grade but those students are not at Jumoke as foretated.

The Math Academic growth for Jumoke Academy is 56.6%, our host district score was 53.6% and CREC is 46.7%. Jumoke Academy outperformed both in Math.

Physical Education and ART access for high school scholars are impacting our overall score. We will delve deeper into researching this and have discussions with the State.

Some areas of performance we have no control over unfortunately.

The Board Chair stated that we need to tell the Jumoke story.

The Executive Director added that we are working with our Communications Manager to tell that story.

- **Academic Achievement Presentation**

**Ms. Kashay Green**

**Principal - JAH-SMaRT**

Principal Green introduced herself and shared the Academic achievements for Jumoke Academy to address learning loss.

**Curriculum and Instruction** - structured learning is in place from the start of the day to the end.

TRI coaching sessions with the principals have provided needed support.

The Board Chair asked for specifications on what TRI is.



---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

4

Principal Green stated that The Rensselaerville Institute provides coaching for our principals and teachers to support the teaching and learning environment. As administrators the faculty are in the classroom daily providing feedback assisting teachers with making adjustments where needed. District walkthroughs are opportunities for teachers to get feedback and support in teaching to enhance scholars' learning.

## **Algebra Pilot Program**

With our new Algebra pilot program offering, scholars are experiencing hands-on learning with Dr. Gordon-Hall, our Academic Director.

## **World Language**

With World Language we made modifications for the second trimester. This program consists of 26 scholars supported by an Academic Assistant. The program is being taught online and the Academic Assistant provides classroom support.

## **Amazon Future Engineers**

We are building our programming with Amazon Future Engineers this include Computer Science and other engineering experiences.

Scholars have access throughout the week.

Through our STEM program we have built and maintained great partnerships with Amazon Future Engineers, Pratt and Whitney, Lego League and UCONN.

Lego league through STARBASE provides interactive learning for our scholars four times weekly after school. Our scholars will have the opportunity to participate in Statewide competitions.

## **UCONN Partnership**

Our 7-8th grade scholars are working with UCONN performing laboratory experiments. This includes dissecting chicken wings.

These experiences are planned every month. UCONN added another session in April which will focus on Chemistry.

## **Pratt & Whitney Partnership**

Families and scholars are engaged through our partnership with Pratt and Whitney. We had five different representatives from different STEM fields attend our **STEM night** and engage our scholars and parents in science learning.

We saw a high turnout of parents. Our goal is to schedule STEM nights monthly or bimonthly. We have a STEM potluck family event which will focus on the Science of the snowflake. The learning outcome is the dynamics of the speed that the snowflakes fall. The Board Chair asked that those event dates be shared with the board.

At SMaRT we also employ targeted & flexible intervention groups -  
A sample of overall data for reading is displayed.



---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

5

**i-READY** - also provides instructional pieces for scholars to work on. This is an opportunity for next steps and resources for teachers to utilize and provide additional instruction.

**Math Accelerator** - focus on Math and scholar performance on the benchmark assessment allows for additional instruction.

Data is used to direct groups to support learning.

Teams meet to discuss the data to provide additional instructional support.

Content is reviewed across the board.

The Board Chair asked, how do we assess the performance of the collaborative team?

Principal Green stated that agendas are created, follow ups are integral and the work speaks for itself. The small groups are a reflection of the planning. Oversight is done by building principals and TRI coaches . TRI also has benchmark goals for the teachers.

### **Scholar goal setting with Data Analysis:**

- Scholars now have access to the data
- Scholars are engaging in scholar led conferences
- They set goals and share their data and work with their parents
- Colors provide benchmark as to where scholars should be in the future
- iREADY sample for reading.
  - Scholars see how they are performing
- The data translates into goal setting sheets.
- Scholars are able to self assess
- Administrators then ask questions of scholars as to why they did not perform well and instructions on ways to improve are discussed.
- We have winter assessments this coming week.
  - Information has been shared with parents.

The Board Chair thanked Principal Green for the presentation stating that it is data driven and shows a corporate approach.

The Board chair asked, what are the top three reasons scholars don't perform well. He added that building leaders should have an honest discussion as to why some scholars are not doing well.

Principal Green stated that the school climate is important. She added that there is heavy focus on Social and Emotional Learning(SEL). Additional schoolwide lessons and resources including social lessons on how to self regulate. Lunch groups are also helpful in a social atmosphere. The school also implements an open door policy.

The Board Chair asked how often does this occur?

Principal Green stated that they are taking place daily, and includes the Social Worker following up with families after counseling sessions with scholars.



---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

6

## **Attendance Incentives**

Student surveys have been implemented with Social Emotional Learning feedback. Scholars are asked questions on how the district can support them. Monthly certificates go home to scholars who have a 97% rate of attendance? Scholars with excellent attendance are also being recognized. Scholars are highlighted on the community board where all scholars can view this information.

**Teacher support** - teachers are given coaching cycles and feedback. Staff Social and Emotional Learning includes weight loss competition which focuses on self development. Planning, coaching and feedback are taking place regularly.

**Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions (PBIS)** - focus on positives for scholars.

**JAH Bucks** are earned for positive behaviors when those behaviors are reinforced. Teachers track interaction as they praise scholars. Incentives are created by scholars during surveys.

## **Family Engagement**

Student-Led Conferences will include work with scholars' portfolios. Progress report conferences for parents will take place prior to report cards going out. We will also have one to one or small group meetings with teachers and parents. The Board Chair expressed appreciation for the work that the teachers are doing in the classrooms. He emphasized that It is hard work and it is a difficult job which is underpaid. In other countries teachers are held in high regard. The Board Chair stated that the district appreciates the work that teachers do for our scholars. It is a huge responsibility on the part of teachers. Teachers are at the core of the life of the scholar and the work they do is priceless. The board is also looking forward to winter and spring assessment.

The Board Chair also used that opportunity to congratulate Principal Jacobi on her position and officially welcomed her in this capacity as principal at HC.

## **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **i. Approval of November Minutes**

The Board Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Stewart and this was seconded by Mrs. Acosta and Mr Pittola the vote carried unanimously.



---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

7

## **V. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Mr. Arnel Hines, Finance Director**

### **i. New Finance Staff**

The Finance Director stated that the Business Office now has a full Finance team - The Accounting Analyst, Ms. Leslie Rosemond joined us at the beginning of August and Ms. Heidi Strom joined us on December 12th.

Copies of their resume were also shared with the members of the board in the board meeting packet.

Mrs. Acosta and the Board Chair welcomed them to the team on behalf of the board.

### **VI. Audit Update**

The Business Office is in communication with the auditors on the timeline of the audits and will report back to the board.

The Board Chair asked when the financial audit would be completed.

The Finance Director responded that he will follow up with both senior and junior auditors. He added that there is no extension on the EFS audit. The single audit allows for an extension. He further stated that he will know more when he speaks to the auditor tomorrow.

The Board Chair asked why the auditors are starting so late. The Finance Director stated that the Finance sub-committee is meeting regularly, and he is not sure why the auditors did not reach out sooner to begin the audit.

### **VII. EFS Status (Education Financial System)**

The EFS was certified after the State reached out

The Board Chair asked for clarification on what EFS is. The Finance Director stated that the Education Financial System(EFS) is the online tool used by the State to report financial data. We are required to report this information into segments in the EFS system. The State audits our expenditures for different grants and title funds received. 2021-2022 has been completed and there were 4-5 questions sent to us by the State which will be answered tomorrow.

The Board Chair asked if there was a follow-up to the 2020-2021 report?

The Finance Director stated that we have to submit additional data to the auditors to complete their revision.

He added that we had undeliverables due to discrepancy in the State audit.

The Board Chair asked what caused the discrepancy that made the auditor's report not align with the EFS.

The Board Chair requested that the Business Office find out what occurred causing the discrepancy.

The Finance Director confirmed that there may be a financial impact. Jumoke Academy could be fined a minimum penalty of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$10,000. We have been keeping the State aware of our status.





---

# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

---

8

We are required to provide a second set of explanations to the State after the corrections are received.

The Board Chair asked whether we would owe money.

The Executive Director stated that the State will look at our response to make a determination.

The Board Chair reiterated that any discrepancy in our financial statements is a major concern because of our previous track record. He is very concerned about this exposure and added that this issue must be addressed in a timely manner.

The Board Chair also suggested that we possibly create a small committee of the board to work through this issue and find a resolution.

## **VIII. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- i. **There were no Sub-committee report**

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- i. **There were no Executive session**

## **X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

The below items will remain on the agenda for future board meetings

- i. **Curriculum and Instruction Update**
- ii. **Principal Academic Achievement Presentations**
- iii. **Social and Emotional Learning(SEL)**

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Chair requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Stewart motioned for the adjournment of the Board of Directors Meeting and this was seconded by Mrs. Acosta. The vote carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm