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# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

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## REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

### In Person Session

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

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023 - 6:00 - 6:53 pm**

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

**Meeting ID: 844 6214 7064**

**Passcode: mp3v9B**

#### Board Present:

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

James Michel, Board Chair

Myron Stewart, Community Representative Treasurer

George Sutherland, Community Representative

Janelle Lester, Community Representative

Staff Present: Dr. Troy Monroe, Arnel Hines, Sharron Solomon-McCarthy, Joleen Fernandez, Kashay Green, Heather Jacobi, Latoya Johnson, Keith Simpson, Sheila Osborn, Summer Miles and Tanisha Whitter

Guest Present: Denika Jarrette and family, Breton Nininahawwe and family, Deshanique Griffiths and family

### **I. OPENING**

#### **Welcome & Public Comments**

There were no public comments

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

#### **Opening Remarks**

The Board Chair welcomed everyone and wished everyone a happy new year. He also thanked the staff for the work they are doing. He welcomed and thanked Mr. George Sutherland for being our newest member of the board.

### **III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **PART A**

#### **December - Scholar of the Month Recognition**

#### ***Denika Jarrette, JAH-TED***

The December scholar of the month for Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy Elementary was presented by Principal Johnson. Denika is described as a dedicated scholar. She helps other scholars & stays on task, and is a great contributor to the learning environment.



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The Executive Director congratulated Denika & her family and presented a certificate and gift bag to her for her hard work.

### ***Deshanique Griffiths, JAH-SMaRT***

The December scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy at the Hartford Conservatory was presented by Principal Green. Deshanique is described as an amazing scholar, who is always on task. She is hard working, dedicated and focused. The Executive Director congratulated Deshanique and her family for a job well done.

### ***Breton Nininahazwe, JAH-HC***

The December scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT was presented by Principal Jacobi. Breton consistently exhibits the 3 R's. He is respected by his peers & teachers alike. He has blossomed into a scholar who advocates for himself and others. The Executive Director congratulated Breton on his achievement and presented a certificate and gift bag to him.

The Board Chair congratulated all the scholars stating that they are living up to Jumoke Academy standards.

## **PART B**

### **District Updates**

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

The Executive Director announced that Jumoke Academy has been accredited by NAEYC for 5 additional years. He then congratulated and thanked the leadership team, faculty and staff who worked together to accomplish this.

The Board Chair congratulated Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy Elementary faculty and staff for receiving the NAEYC accreditation.

## **1. District Report**

### **○ Grow Our Own Partnership**

Jumoke Academy's "Grow Our Own" partnership meeting is scheduled with Capital Community College and Central Connecticut State University on Thursday, 1/12 to continue planning and implementation.

We are in the process of finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding, identifying staff and working on a timeline for the start of the program. We are expecting the \$200,000 YASS Prize by mid January.

### **○ Attendance Trends**

We are facing challenging times across the State. Scholars are absent due to illnesses including COVI-19. We are also experiencing faculty/staff absences due to health challenges and life situations. In comparing the data after the holiday break to the same time last year we are seeing a 50% increase in staff absences.

### **○ Health & Wellness**

We are working with our Insurance Brokers to provide some support. There are different types of mental health screenings available to our staff. A three day rotation



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program is also available. The Employee Assistance program is not only available to our staff but also available to our families. The Human Resources office is in the process of formalizing this information and will provide an update to the board.

The Board Chair stated that he has had a number of conversations with Dr. Monroe. The health crisis has had effects on the entire United States. As we come out of COVID-19 other issues and illnesses are being realized which include mental health. He applauds the fact that we have a plan in place to provide some support.

The question was asked, whether or not the health & wellness fairs will be open to our families.

The Executive Director stated that it will be opened to our staff initially and we will look at expanding support for scholars. The initial plan is to impact Faculty/staff to minimize absences.

Mr. Sutherland asked, "How do we get this information out to the parents?"

The Executive Director responded that EAP is specifically for faculty and staff and not for the greater community. Any information to be shared with families will be done through ParentSquare and updated flyers for the health programs available. We are still currently in the planning stage.

We will have a scheduled Flu Clinic on 1/24 which will be pushed out to our parents via ParentSquare.

Mrs. Acosta asked if we will have a clinic for COVID-19 Boosters.

The Student Support Services Director stated that she will inquire and inform.

The Board Chair asked, "What are we doing to ensure the continuity of education?"

The Executive Director responded that each school has a plan of action. We are depending on school based support. Building Leaders are in the classroom and all hands are on deck to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning in the absence of faculty and staff.

- **Safe Return to In-person Instruction**

We are required by the State to update and post the updates for our Safe Return to in-person Instruction to our website. We have met that requirement and the document is posted. Building leaders and families were asked to provide input as well.

- **District Communications**

We are scheduled to release our Jumoke Journal on Monday electronically followed by our draft report. This will be shared with the board for input.



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## **PART C**

### **Curriculum & Instruction**

- **Academic Achievement Presentation**

**Mrs. Heather Jacobi, Principal - JAH-HC**

The Executive Director introduced Mrs. Heather Jacobi, Principal at Jumoke Academy at the Hartford Conservatory to present Academic Achievement for Hartford Conservatory.

In Trimester 1 scholars were accessing individualized pathways facilitated by their homeroom teachers.

There has been a change in the schedule which now includes team time with teachers for flex day and TSS - multi tiered student support. This allows time for faculty to meet and look at scholars on an individual basis and provide support.

Data teams are posted in the hallway where scholars can easily see their progress.

Teachers are meeting in grade level teams to review anecdotal data.

A Classroom Data Wall has been created for scholars to track data in their classrooms.

Intervention - In a situation where a Core subject teacher is out, the Academy switches to a two teacher model in a combined class setting. iReady allows interventions every week. This combines split sixth grade and seventh grade. In doing so the focus is on differentiation and diverse learners.

The question is asked, "How many classes are involved?"

Principal Jacobi responded that this includes two sixth grades, two seventh and one eight grade.

We had a total of 39 scholars signed up for conferences and 35 attended. Scholars brought their data and shared with families. The Student Council hosts Spirit Week. Dean Simpson has been providing additional behavioral support, Professional Development for staff and SRBI meetings focused on scholars' behavior.

Buddy rooms are being utilized to address scholar behaviors. Scholars are moved to another classroom rather than to the principal's office.

Incentives for scholars include attendance celebration in which announcements are made and scholars are acknowledged.

Meetings will be set up with parents to provide support to Tier II scholars.

We are currently working on developing a survey for parents to understand general barriers to attendance.



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District Math Coach - Algebra I is taught by Mr. Goodbine.

Unique opportunity to use aeroponics tables - food production and cooking the meal. Different learning techniques are used during classroom instruction to keep scholars engaged this includes scholars making roller coasters from paper and use of marbles.

We also have scheduled STARBASE field trips giving scholars the opportunity for interacting learning through STEM experiences.

Arts program - we are currently developing a partnership with the Arts Council. The goal is to get our scholars into different programs which include a Ballet teacher to engage scholars. We are also in the process of planning a Spring music event - orchestra.

We have moved our 5th grade classes to a self contained learning space where small grouping is taking place.

Special programming - new virtual Spanish teacher.

High school transition meetings - private schools have visited and shared information about their schools and our eighth grade scholars have an opportunity to apply.

The Board Chair asked for the names of the schools that have participated. Principal Jacobi responded that Loomis Chaffee, Kingswood Oxford, Rosemary Choate and Suffield Academy were some of the schools that visited.

Principal Jacobi has been holding coaching sessions with teachers on Mondays. This includes practice skills with the teachers and actionable feedback. Support gaps in classrooms are added for future coaching sessions.

The Board Chair asked if there were questions from the board - none were asked.

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- i. Approval of December Minutes**
- ii. October Financial Statement**

The Board Chair requested a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, the Motion was made by Mr. Stewart and seconded by Mrs. Acosta. The vote was carried unanimously.



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## **V. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT      Mr. Arnel Hines, Finance Director**

### **i. October Financial Statement**

The October Financial Statement was skipped as it was voted on and approved in the Consent Agenda.

### **ii. EFS Update 2021-2022**

Audit report was completed by January 3, 2023 and we avoided penalties.

### **iii. Van Purchase Update**

The Business Office received a standard email that the van order has not gone into production. The 2022 model will no longer be built. We will place a new order for the 2023 model. We received an email from the Sales Manager. We will use the same specs to reach out to other dealers. We can cancel the order with no issues having the dealer refund the deposit of \$1000.

The Board Chair asked, "Why would we continue with this dealership after having no success with moving forward with a purchase?"

Mr. Stewart stated that the lack of availability for vans is a nationwide issue and not limited to that one dealer.

He suggested that Jumoke Academy stay with an American Model vehicle and encouraged the Business Office to work with General Motors.

The expectation is that by August they stopped making all current year's models.

The Executive Director stated that there has been ongoing communication with the dealer and going forward we will be moving in another direction.

Ms. Lester asked, "Why would we go with an American vehicle as opposed to selecting the best vehicle at the right price?"

Mr. Stewart stated that it is important to keep business within the United States.

The Board Chair stated that it is okay to recommend a local company but we should not limit ourselves.

### **iv. Audit Update**

Auditors filed for extension. The new date is January 31, 2023. The Finance Director thanked the Finance team for the work they did to get the team up to speed, and the work and dedication they put into completing the Audit report by working late hours and during the holidays.

Ms. Lester commended the team for working during the holidays.

She added that, as it relates to the van purchase; the key takeaway is we should not have to work to get a purchase, the dealer works for us and they should work for the sale.



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## **VI. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- i. There were no Sub-Committee reports

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- i. There were no Executive session

## **VIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

- i. **Curriculum and Instruction Update**
- ii. **Social and Emotional Learning(SEL)**

Curriculum and Instructional update and Social and Emotional Learning(SEL) will remain on this list for a future agenda.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Chair requested a motion for the adjournment of the meeting Mr. Stewart made a Motion and this was seconded by Mrs. Acosta, the Motion carried unanimously at 6:53 pm