



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In-person Session

999 Asylum Avenue, 5th Floor Conference Room, Hartford, CT 06105

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

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 6:00 pm

Meeting ID:825 3441 3430

Passcode: k7gt1K

Board Members Present:

George Sutherland, Community Representative

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

Myron Stewart, Vice Chair, Community Representative Treasurer

James Michelle, Board Chair

Thomas Smith, Community Representative, Secretary

Damien Pittola, Community Representative (Zoom)

Staff Present: Dr. Troy Monroe, Arnel Hines, Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Sharron Solomon-McCarthy, Heidi Strom, Kashay Green, Pamela Barry (Zoom), Latoya Johnson, Heather Jacobi, Joleen Fernandez (Zoom) and Tanisha Whitter.

Guest Present: Kayden Brown and family, Ewurama Obuobi and family, Naja Duroche and family.

The board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm on April 18, 2023 by Mr. James Michel, the Board Chair.

I. OPENING

Welcome & Public Comments

The Board Chair welcomed everyone present at the meeting.

As a public comment Mr. Sutherland stated that his brother, who is a member of the Masonic Lodge, has committed to donating books to Jumoke Academy Elementary School under the program Books for Babies. Over the years books have been given to several elementary schools in the community. Jumoke Academy has been selected as this year's recipient of the \$1,000 donation. Mr. Sutherland has advised his brother to keep the gift donation within one institution and is hoping that this will be a yearly award to Jumoke Academy.

The Executive Director thanked Mr. Sutherland and his brother Ross Sutherland and assured him that Jumoke Academy will support this venture in any way possible. A letter will be sent to The Excelsior Lodge.

The Board Chair also thanked Mr. Sutherland for his support.



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II. Re-Evaluation of Central Office Professional Roles - James Michel

The Board Chair spoke with Mr. Pittola last week regarding re-evaluating Central Office professional roles. The goal is to adjust certain roles to make them aligned with industry standards. Mr. Pittola has been tasked with reviewing job titles and comparing them with the current marketplace. He has been working as Head of Human Resources for several years. As a Human Resource Executive, he will work directly with our Human Resources department to provide guidance and plan to have recommendations by the June board meeting with changes effective July 1, 2023.

III. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

No additional comments were made.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT PART A

The Executive Director welcomed everyone present and advised that the meeting will move to the scholar of the month agenda.

- **March - Scholar of the Month Recognition**

Kayden Brown, JAH-TED

Principal Johnson presented for Kayden Brown. Kayden is described as a 4th grade leader. She is diligent, courteous & self-disciplined. Her behavior is described as impeccable. Kayden is curious about learning and has an excellent character.

Ewurama Obuobi, JAH-SMaRT

Dean Barry presented for Ewurama Obuobi. She consistently attends after school programs including STEM Logo Club and Smarter Balance Academy. She competed in the 2022-2023 Jumoke Academy Spelling Bee competition and was the top member of her team. She works hard and tries her best and always does a phenomenal job.

Najah Duroche, JAH-HC

Principal Jacobi presented for Najah Duroche. She is dedicated, curious and hard-working. She brings a positive attitude to class and is respected by her peers and appreciated by her teachers.

The Executive Director congratulated all 3 scholars selected for the month of March and encouraged them to continue to work hard in their pursuit of excellence in all things. He also thanked their families for their commitment and support of the scholars and Jumoke Academy community. Each scholar will be given a swag bag with a certificate, gift card, literature and other items.



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- **District Spelling Bee Winners Recognition**
 - **1st Place**

Omarian Hendricks, JAH-SMaRT

The Executive Director congratulated Omarian Hendricks who won the Jumoke Academy 2022-2023 Spelling Bee Competition. He spoke about the competitive nature of the scholar and congratulated Omarian for a job well done. Omarian was given one additional gift in addition to the trophy and gift card that he received on the night of the spelling bee competition.

- **2nd Place**

Papa Yaw Obuobi, JAH-TED

The Executive Director also spoke highly of the 4th grader Papa Yaw Obuobi who battled against Omarian and won the second place trophy. He too was described as competitive and relentless. He too was also given another gift in addition to the trophy and gift card he received on the night of the competition.

PART B

- **District Updates** **Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director**
 - 1. District Report**
 - **YASS Prize Podcast**

The Executive Director participated in a podcast representing Jumoke Academy as an awardee of the YASS prize competition. The podcast is called the Charter Schools Superstars series. This consists of a larger group of Charter school leaders. The podcast, "Our Building Community Engagement series 144" recording will be shared with the Board of Directors. The discussion surrounds what we do as a charter school and best practices.

- **District Calendar**

The updated 2022-2023 district calendar has been shared with the board. The last day of school has been moved from June 9 to June 12. Our 8th grade promotion is scheduled for June 12th and members of the board are asked to support this event. The ceremony will take place in the late afternoon and the venue is still pending. The last board meeting for the school year is scheduled for June 13, 2023.

A copy of the 2023-2024 academic calendar has also been shared with the board. Convocation week is scheduled for August 21 to 25 and the first day of school is Tuesday August 29th. Last day of school is June 7th and the Juneteenth holiday has been added to the calendar for next year. We have 181 school days and 187 staff days per contract.



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Mr. Stewart asked if the Board Retreat location had been finalized. The Executive Director stated that the location is pending.

The Board Chair advised that we cancel the September board meeting and pick up in October. The Board Retreat will take place on September 9, 2023. The vote on this decision will take place at the May board meeting.

PART C

- **Academic Department**

Dr. Marie-Gordon Hall, Academic Director

- **Curriculum & Instruction Update**

The Academic Director highlighted that we will offer two summer experiences for scholars. The Goodwin Summer Academy will run from July 10-28 for rising 5-8 graders and the Jumoke Academy Summer Academy will run from July 10-27 for rising 1-8 graders with approximately 80 scholars. The program will include STEM Education, SEL work and iReady. Registration will go out to families this week.

The department is working on summer packets for Pre-K through 8th grade scholars as well.

The Board Chair asked what is the status of Jumoke Academy's relationship with Ethel Walker School and whether or not we are working with them during the summer. The Executive Director confirmed that we are engaged and involved with Horizons at The Ethel Walker School and the program will operate this summer.

The Board Chair asked that a more comprehensive report on our relationship and history with the organization be shared with the Board of Directors.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- i. Approval of March Minutes
- ii. Approval of the April Special Board Meeting Minutes
- iii. February Financial Statement

The Board Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Acosta and the motion carried unanimously. There was no abstention.



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VI. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Mr. Arnel Hines, Finance Director

i. June 2022 Final Financial Statement

The Finance Director shared his review of June's final financial statement. He stated that net revenue over expenses ties in with the audit report, referencing page 4-5.

The Finance Director suggested that the \$1 million or a portion of this amount be set up as a board-managed fund. This will be for board consideration as a board designated fund. The Board Chair asked that the setup of the funds be carefully thought through by the Finance Department. The Finance Director responded that Walter O'Connell will walk the board through the banking investment process.

The Board Chair congratulated the Finance Director and the entire Finance team on the work which has been done to date and the completion of the audit report.

ii. 2023/2024 Budget

The Finance Director thanked the Finance team for their continued work and support in completing the annual audit. He stated that there will be a budget to review at the May board meeting. He also stated that the team will have some announcements to share with the board within the next 3 months. In addition, he added that the team will address issues pointed out by Walter O'Connell during the Special Board Meeting and have a project plan to submit to the board at the May meeting.

VII. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Sub-Committee reports.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive session.

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair requested a motion for the adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Stewart made a motion to adjourn, and this was seconded by Mr. Sutherland, the motion carried unanimously at 6:33 pm.