



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

1

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Zoom Only Session
“25 Years Strong...Keep on Keeping On.”
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 - 6:01 - 6:38 pm

Meeting ID: 891 3335 6728
Passcode: 9yqP2J

Board Members Present:

George Sutherland, Community Representative
Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative
Damien Pittola, Community Representative
Thomas Smith, Community Representative, Secretary
Myron Stewart, Vice Chair, Community Representative Treasurer
Janelle Lester, Community Representative
James Michelle, Board Chair

Staff Present: Dr. Troy Monroe, Arnel Hines, Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Joleen Fernandez, Sharron Solomon-McCarthy, Heidi Strom, Kashay Green, Summer Myles, Keith Simpson, Latoya Johnson and Tanisha Whitter.

The board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm on March 14, 2023 by Mr. Stewart the Vice Chair.

I. OPENING
Welcome & Public Comments

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that those traveling would be safe due to the weather conditions.

II. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS
Opening Remarks

The Vice Chair expressed appreciation for everyone's support and the work that is being done to ensure the success of Jumoke scholars.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
PART A

- **February - Scholar of the Month Recognition**

Abigail Hamilton, JAH-TED

Dean Myles presented the scholar of the month for Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Elementary. Abigail is described as respectful and having a gentle spirit, and creates beautiful drawings.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

2

The Executive Director congratulated Abigail for her hard work and thanked Dean Myles for presenting the scholar of the month.

Okemos Lewis, JAH-SMaRT

Principal Green presented for the scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy Honors SmaRT. Okemos has grown socially throughout the years. He is more than ready to take on high school and has been participating in Algebra I.

The Executive Director congratulated Okemos for his outstanding work.

Justin Garcia, JAH-HC

Dean Simpson presented for Jumoke Academy Hartford Conservatory. Justin is responsible for completing his work and is always ready to learn. He was able to achieve learning targets.

The Executive Director congratulated Justin for his hard work and encouraged the families of all three scholars to continue as excellent role models for other scholars. All three scholars will be presented with a gift certificate and gift bag with additional gifts.

The Vice Chair thanked the faculty for the work they do for our scholars, and congratulated the scholars for a job well done.

The Executive Director and Academic Director both participated in a Podcast sponsored by Academica. This is a Global network that focuses on news and innovations surrounding the community and charter schools. The team talked about our work and mission at Jumoke academy as well as our recently awarded YASS Prize to support our “Grow Our Own Pathways to Teacher Certification.” The Podcast will be aired on Apr 14, 2023 and will be shared with the board.

PART B

- **District Updates**

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director

- 1. **District Report**

- **PCLB Update**

PCLB visit took place on March 7th, there was high level class engagement as we toured the schools. The PCLB foundation has resources available to support renovation and property acquisition if owned by the city. We will have a conversation with the building sub-committee to discuss further.

The Board Chair asked if a deadline was given to us. At this time a deadline has not been given but we have recently toured privately owned properties. PCLB will not support a privately owned property however.

- **CHC PhotoVoice Project**

The PhotoVoice grant that we applied for last year was approved. This program will consist of a six week action research to be completed by our middle school scholars. Scholars will be equipped with cameras that they will use to take photographs and use



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

3

their research to foster policy changes and create a final exhibition. Guests from Community Health Center, Inc. will attend our March Monthly Minutes with Monroe to share additional information with our community. We are very excited about this event.

- **Summer Programming**



Our summer program at Goodwin University is scheduled for July 10th through to Jul 28, 2023 . This is for our rising 5th graders to rising 8th graders. The themes include aerospace, AR/VR manufacturing and healthcare. Scholars will be exposed to Scientists of color. Our work with Goodwin will also help to ensure scholars have exposure to historically black colleges and universities.

The Board Chair asked if artificial intelligence will be covered during the Goodwin summer academy.

The Executive Director stated that the manufacturing curriculum will have close similarities to this field. Our goal is to ensure that our scholars are exposed to Next Frontier Industries throughout the entire school year.

- **Friendship Kids Camp**

We will have a collaboration with Friendship Kids Camp as a summer program option for our scholars as well.

- **Horizons Program at Ethel Walker School**

We are also partnering with the Horizons Program at Ethel Walker School. Our goal is to keep our scholars engaged during the long summer months. This program is for female scholars from elementary through to 8th grade. Our academic department will also continue to make summer packets in Google docs. available to our scholars for literacy and math development.

PART C

- **District Staffing Update**

Mrs. Joleen Fernandez,

Human Resources Manager

Mrs. Fernandez stated that her presentation is part two of the last board meeting presentation. She thanked Mr. Pittola for meeting with the team to discuss improving our presence on Indeed Platform. Moving forward we are posting positions that need to be filled immediately. The Human Resources office will be more diligent in refreshing job pages weekly to keep those priority postings on the top of the page. Another goal is to implement stipend/incentives for shortage areas such as Math, Science, and Special Education teachers.

The Board Chair expressed his deepest appreciation to Mr. Pitolla who he stated reached out to him asking how he might provide support and leverage for the Human Resources department.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

4

Mr. Pitolla thanked Mr. Michel for his kind words and the Finance Director and Human Resources Manager for being great partners in battling the nationwide staffing shortages.

- **Academic Department Updates**

Dr. Marie-Gordon Hall,

Academic Director

- **Spring Testing**

Proctor training with building leaders has been scheduled. Testing window for our scholars is April 24 - May 12, 2023 . After testing is completed we will see results within 10 days.

- **District Spelling Bee**

Each school has identified three top spellers who will move forward to the district wide spelling Bee on Wednesday, March 22nd at 5:30 pm.

- **State Mandated Literacy Resources**

The State has mandated all school districts to choose their reading curriculum materials by Jul 1, 2023 . We have selected three resources that we will choose our course from.

- **Hartford Athletics STEM Education Day**

Jumoke Academy has been invited to participate in the Hartford Athletics STEM Education Day on May 23, 2023 from 9:30-1:00 pm in Hartford at Trinity Health Stadium formerly known as Dillon Stadium. 80 scholars will attend this event. The first portion of the event will focus on STEM projects. Three of our scholars will showcase their project. Staff and parents will be in attendance.

Our partnership with Amazon Future Engineers will continue at JAH-SMaRT.

Ms. Lester congratulated the team on continuing the work with Amazon Future Engineers. She then asked Dr. Gordon-Hall what she thought about the material chosen by the State, whether or not it is better for our scholars?

Dr. Gordon-Hall stated that the science of reading lends itself to the change that was necessary and this will be great for scholars.



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

5

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- i. Approval of February Minutes**
- ii. January Financial Statement**

The Board Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was made by Mrs. Acosta, seconded by Mr. Stewart and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- i. EFS Update 2020-2021**

2020-2021 EFS correction has been completed, submitted and certified in all systems.

- ii. Audit Update**

A Special board meeting will be held prior to the submission of the audit on 3/31. Daily updates will be provided to the Finance Committee on the status. The Finance Director thanked the Business Office team and the Finance sub-committee for their input and guidance. The team has learned a lot which will be useful for reporting.

VI. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Sub-Committee reports.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive session.

VIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

The below items will remain on the agenda for another board meeting.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair requested a motion for the adjournment of the meeting. Mrs. Acosta made a motion to adjourn and this was seconded by Ms.Lester, the motion carried unanimously at 6:38 pm.