



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

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, May 9, 2023 - 6:00 pm

Meeting ID: 819 7666 0400

Passcode: n4A0FV

Board Members Present:

James Michel, Board Chair

Myron Stewart, Community Representative Treasurer

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

Damien Pittola, Community Representative

Thomas Smith, Community Representative Secretary

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

Guest Present: Emmanuel and family, Jaydin and family.

I. OPENING

Welcome & Public Comments

The board meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by the Board Chair. The board Chair thanked the board and all attendees for attending another session of the Board of Directors Meeting.

There were no public comments.

The Executive Director shared that our Human Resources Manager graduated from UCONN with her Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management. Congratulatory wishes were extended to Mrs. Joleen Fernandez on attaining her Master’s Degree..

The Board Chair reiterated congratulatory expressions to Mrs. Fernandez on her accomplishments.

II. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Opening Remarks

The Board Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting. He then moved the meeting to the Scholar of the month recognition.



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III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PART A

- April - Scholar of the Month Recognition

Emmanuel Harding, JAH-TED

Dean DiGennaro presented the scholar of the month for Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy Elementary School. Emmanuel shows his best effort and has a positive attitude.

He often shares kind words and has a great attitude towards others. The Executive Director encouraged Emmanuel to continue to work hard for excellence in all things.

Kayla Dunkley, JAH-SMaRT

Principal Green presented the scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT. Kayla is described as a true example of the Jumoke Way. She takes advantage of the Jumoke Spanish pilot, and is very involved in the learning environment. The Executive Director encouraged Kayla to keep up the good work and to strive for excellence in all things.

Jaydin Hyde, JAH-HC

Principal Jacobi presented for Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory. Jaydin made exponential progress and emerged as a leader in the classroom. The Executive Director encouraged Jaydin to keep up the good work, and to continue to excel in all areas..

The Board Chair encouraged families to continue to support scholars in their efforts to achieve their best and the scholars were encouraged to continue to work hard.

PART B

- District Updates Dr. Troy A. Monroe, Executive Director

1. District Report

- 26th Anniversary Gala

Our 26th Anniversary Gala is Scheduled for Saturday, October 7th from 7:00- 11:00 pm at Elizabeth Park Pond House. Faculty/Staff will assist with the planning. The Pond House is a picturesque all inclusive venue.

- Staff Appreciation Week

Teacher appreciation week is recognized at Jumoke Academy as all staff appreciation week. District sponsored lunch will be provided tomorrow afternoon and building leaders will have different scheduled activities within each school. Faculty/Staff are reminded that their commitment and the work they do for our scholars and community is appreciated.



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- Faculty/Staff Recruitment

Several members of our faculty/staff participated in a recruitment fair at CCSU. Jumoke Academy was well represented. The display included our new logo, brochures, table swags and giveaways. The Executive Director thanked the principals for attending the recruitment fair. Another recruitment team will go out this Thursday. The staff recruitment efforts include on the spot Interviews for candidates identified as a possible fit for Jumoke Academy.

- Grade Level Promotion Ceremonies

- Kindergarten - June 8, 2023 at SMaRT - 9:30 - 10:30 am

Kindergarten promotion ceremony will take place at Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Elementary School in the gym. Members of the board are encouraged to attend.

- 4th Grade - June 8, 2023 at SMaRT - 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Our 4th grade promotion ceremony will take place at Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT.

- 8th Grade - June 12, 2023 - 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Our 8th grade promotion ceremony will take place at Goodwin University. Ms. Whitter is asked to send all information to board members and confirm attendees.

PART C

- Academic Department

- Horizons at Ethel Walker School Program

Mrs. Latoya Johnson, Principal

As a follow-up to the board request from the last meeting Principal Johnson was tasked with providing a detailed report on Jumoke Academy's experience with Horizon's at Ethel Walker. Principal Johnson shared information on the summer opportunities. The program is a combination of enrichment & learning activities building social skills. This is an all girls program. A video which provided a synopsis of the program was shared. The program started in 1967. There are 6 goals of the program and includes instilling a joy of learning in scholars.

The summer program began in 2015 with the first cohort of girls and 5 of those 7 girls who matriculated through the program were from Jumoke Academy. This first group of scholars started in 1st grade. The organization now has 130 girls. It is a 6 weeks long summer program with scholars of different learning needs.

Last summer just under 7,000 students were served. The target audience is pre-k through 8th grade serving students in Hartford. If seats are available the program is opened up to scholars who live outside the neighborhood. All scholars take swimming lessons. They offer trips to local farms, bakeries and scholars are provided with lots of unique experiences.

The Board Chair asked if there had been conversation with families and students who have been through the program? Principal Johnson responded that no formal interviews



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have taken place but through informal conversations families have shared the success of the program. In addition, assessments are given through the program. The reading assessment shows scholars' reading levels have improved. Families and scholars look forward to the program each year.

The Executive Director shared that Jumoke leaders have visited the program over the years and participated in the events to collect data during the program.

The Board Chair stated that it is important to gather data from both scholars and families on their experience with the program to ensure that scholars are getting the right exposure.

Principal Johnson added that we have had multiple staff who have worked with the program and one of our scholars now works with Horizons.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- i. Approval of 2023-2024 Academic Calendar
- ii. Approval of April Minutes
- iii. March 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 Mr. Pittola.

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

- i. 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

The budget has been revised, it is a balanced budget. The Finance Sub-committee met and reviewed the budget. It is compared to the previous year's budget. The goal is to maximize classrooms for this budget year with an increase in enrollment. There are no risks associated with the budget.

Mr. Pittola asked if there is a movement on marketing and communication to improve enrollment?

The Finance Director responded that \$15,000 has been added to this year's budget for promotional materials and swag branding for recruitment.

The Board Chair asked what is the current enrollment?

The Finance Director stated as of October 1st we had 624 scholars enrolled.

The Executive Director added that there are plans to increase class sizes across the district.

The Board Chair asked how potential parents know that we have smaller class sizes in comparison to other districts?

The Executive Director responded that we hosted a kindergarten orientation on Saturday, May 20th at the elementary school. Our marketing initiative also includes



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going into the community and parents have requested building tours. We have engaged with 224 Ecospace to speak with parents while their children are in dance rehearsals. Promotion also includes placement of yard signs. Any member of the board who resides in greater Hartford County is welcome to request a Yard Sign to support our marketing efforts.

In years past we have canvassed the neighborhood issuing flyers and sharing with the community information about Jumoke Academy.

The Board Chair added that it is impressive that 80% of the budget is dedicated to student learning.

ii. Project Plan

The Finance Department prepared a Project plan based on the audit done by Walter O'Connell & Pace. This document includes Annual audit review, policies and procedure, and cross training and documentation. Proper controls are being implemented. The Finance Director is putting an aggressive plan to put this in place by June 2024. This will close the gap where documentation does not exist.

Drawdown of grants, will be done quarterly or monthly as dollars materialized. By the end of each fiscal year all drawdowns will be completed.

Account receivables will write off items that have been sitting for years. Hartford Public Schools(HPS) outstanding SPED payments are being addressed and attempts have been made to recoup the money owed to Jumoke.

The Board Chair asked if there were questions from the board, no additional questions were asked. The Board Chair commended the team on the work with the auditors. The Finance Director thanked the Business office team for the work they continue to do to support the department. The Executive Director also congratulated the Finance team in completing and passing the audit.

The Board Chair requested updates on the two vans that were purchased and the status of the property on Blue Hills Avenue for the next board meeting.

VI. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Sub-Committee reports.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

i. Discussion of documents protected by attorney client privilege

At 6:45 pm the Board of Directors meeting went into Executive Session. All faculty/staff were dismissed from the meeting. The Board of Directors meeting resumed at 7:20 pm after the close of Executive Session.



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VIII. SENIOR LEADERSHIP

a. Realignment Discussion - possible vote

The Board Chair advised the Teacher Representative to acknowledge her abstention from the vote for the realignment of the senior leadership team. The Board Chair then requested a motion for the vote. Mr. Pittola made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Smith. Mrs. Acosta abstained from the vote and the remainder of the board voted to support the motion. The senior leadership team realignment will take place effective July 1, 2023. Any adjustment to the 2023-2024 budget will be made to reflect any necessary changes and the budget will be brought back to the June board meeting.

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

i. Curriculum and Instruction Update

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair requested a motion for the adjournment of the board meeting. Mr. Pittola moved for the adjournment and this was seconded by Mrs. Acosta. The motion carried unanimously at 7:22 pm..