



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, June 13, 2023 - 6:01 - 7:21 pm

Meeting ID: 895 3662 5938

Passcode: rf10rd

Board Members Present:

James Michel, Board Chair

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

George Sutherland, Community Representative

Myron Stewart, Community Representative Treasurer

Damien Pittola, Community Representative

Thomas Smith, Community Representative Secretary

Staff Present: Dr. Troy Monroe, Arnel Hines, Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Joleen Fernandez, Derek Fagan, Kashay Green, Heather Jacobi, Latoya Johnson, Summer Myles and Tanisha Whitter.

Guest Present: MArk Hopper, Amaya Campbell and family.

I. OPENING

Welcome & Public Comments

The Jumoke Academy Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by the Board Chair. The Board Chair thanked everyone for attending another session of the board meeting.

There were no public comments.

II. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Opening Remarks

The Board Chair stated that under the Jumoke Academy contract the Executive Director will undergo an annual performance review. This will take place on Monday June 26th at 10:00 am with board members Myron Stewart and Damien Pittola and others from the Jumoke Academy Community.

The Board Chair then turned the meeting over to the Executive Director for the scholar of the month presentation. The Executive Director greeted all in attendance.



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III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT PART A

- April - Scholar of the Month Recognition

Amaya Campbell, JAH-TED

Dean Myles presented the scholar of the month for Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy Elementary School. Amaya is on point in her classes, she is respectful, responsible and ready to learn at all times. She is a role model for other scholars and embodies excellence.

Jadon Johnson, JAH-SMaRT

Principal Green presented the scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT. Jadon has shown tremendous growth. He is persistent and consistently models the appropriate behavior for his peers. He is very hardworking and encourages his peers to model positive attitudes. We are very proud of Jadon's accomplishments.

Hannah Harding, JAH-HC

Principal Jacobi presented for Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory. Hannah is described as mature beyond her years and is concerned about global issues.

The Board Chair encouraged the scholars to keep up the good work.

The Executive Director shared that there have been a series of promotional ceremonies to close out the school year. Mr Stewart attended the 8th grade promotion ceremony and stated that it was a great program. Mrs. Acosta added that it was great to see the scholars showing emotion as they moved up another grade level. The Executive Director thanked the principals, deans and staff for their work in making these events successful.

PART B

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

1. District Updates

- Board Retreat

The Jumoke Academy Board retreat has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 30th. Ms. Whitter will reach out to each board member to check whether or not there is a conflict.

- Photovoice Project

Scholars participated in a project focused on action research. The scholars were asked to identify an issue within their community, take photographs to highlight that issue and present their findings to the larger group as an action research. The scholars focused on safety issues and concerns. The program ran for 5 weeks and scholars were asked to present their findings to the Jumoke Academy community on June 6th. The attendees included faculty and staff, parents and several members of the fire department. The scholars did an outstanding job. At the end of the program each



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scholar received a 35 mm camera and families received a fire extinguisher for their home. Scholars learned a lot from the experience and what it means to put their voice to something impactful.

- JAH-HC Arts Showcase

Jumoke Academy at the Hartford Conservatory hosted an Arts Showcase as part of their end of year activity. Scholars shared visuals, artwork, musical presentation and theater. The goal of the Academy is to grow the art program.

- Strategic Roadmap

We are in the process of revising our three year Strategic Roadmap. We received lots of feedback from the end of year close out meeting. Update will be shared with the board at a later date.

- District Improvement Plan

The Jumoke Academy District Improvement Plan will focus on achievement & development. This is currently being worked on.

- Annual Charter School Conference

District leaders will attend the Annual Charter School Conference June 18-21. We hope to add updates as an agenda item for the board retreat.

PART C

- Academic Department
 - Curriculum & Instruction Update
 - 2023 Summer Learning

The Jumoke Summer Academy is scheduled to take place from July 10th through to 27th and is academic based. We currently have 75 scholars committed to attend the program. We can accommodate a total of 80 participants.

The STEM program at Goodwin will take place from July 10th through to 28th and can accommodate 30 participants. A total of 36 scholars have already signed up, and we now have a waitlist. The program focuses on next generation STEM programming which includes manufacturing, healthcare & enrichment programs done by our staff.

This summer we will offer Drumline for 16 scholars. The program will run for two hours each day. We currently have 9 registered participants. The program will continue into the fall.

Jumoke Academy summer learning packets have been extended to our pre-k scholars this year. Packets have been sent home with scholars across all grade levels.



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- Hartford Athletic STEM & Soccer Education Day

Jumoke Academy scholars participated in Hartford Athletic STEM and Soccer Education Day at Trinity Stadium. Three of our scholars displayed their invention convention project prior to the start of the game. This is year two of this event and Jumoke Academy's first year participating. Our scholars were excited to attend this event and they represented Jumoke Academy well.

The question was asked if there is a fee for the summer program? \$25 is the contribution for Drumline and the Goodwin program is \$30, Jumoke Academy summer camp is still free to all scholars. The Goodwin program went up an additional 30%. We potentially have an opportunity with another partner, and will share at a later date.

Mr. Stewart asked if we find that some families are not attending due to cost. He offered to provide support and Ms. Lester agreed to donate to the program to support the families who cannot afford the cost.

- Human Resources Department Update

Mrs. Joleen Fernandez, Human Resources Manager

- Vacancies
- Interviews
- Action Plan

The Human Resources information was sent to the board as part of the board meeting packet. The Board Chair stated that the past year has been rough for the education system across the nation. He then asked if the department has solutions to resolve the staff shortage for the next few years.

The Human Resources Manager stated that job openings are posted on a weekly basis on our web platforms. We revamp postings to be more inviting to potential candidates making them more beneficial to the Academy. This includes a why join Jumoke page. A 48 hour job guarantee/response rate has also been implemented. This has significantly cut down on lag time and will be key in securing qualified candidates.

The Board Chair stated that it is difficult to recruit in education and hospitality. People are looking to work for a company where they feel valued and there is connectivity. Jumoke Academy has a great story to tell and we must continue to tell that story effectively.

The Executive Director shared that we hired a young lady this week who shared that she found a job which aligned with her vision.

Mr. Pittola asked if we were eligible to participate in the State retirement plan. Jumoke Academy contributes to TRB for certified teachers. The Executive Director stated that research will be conducted to garner additional information in response to his question.



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IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- i. Approval of May Minutes
- ii. April Financial Statement

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

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

- i. Van Updates

The logos have been printed on one of the vans and it is parked on the side of the building for anyone who wishes to see it. The company which handled the project did a fantastic job. They were efficient and responsive to our needs. The 2018 Black Ford will be taken next Monday for rendering. The work with Dattco will likely take approximately one week. We are also working with New Country Motors on the sprinter van.

The Board Chair thanked the Finance Director and his team for the work they have done in ensuring this comes to fruition.

- ii. 2023-2024 Budget

Budget has been reviewed. Net change is approximately \$65,000. Reduced expenses for next year by making some purchases in the current fiscal year.

The Board Chair asked if the Finance Committee had any questions.

Mr Sutherland asked why the food service fee is so low?

The Finance Director responded that we have a contract with Hartford Public Schools to provide free breakfast & lunch for all scholars. The city of Hartford is a title district and as a result all scholars who attend a Hartford Public School are given free breakfast and lunch. Meals are packaged warm.

The question was asked whether or not we can do more to get additional scholars into our summer program. Ms. Lester asked if it's possible to include in the budget a cost coverage for the summer program so that scholars may attend free.

The Finance Director stated that we charge a nominal fee but we can look into possibly providing the program free of cost.

The Executive Director added that families are charged a nominal fee to ensure that scholars attend regularly as they are more vested once they have to pay towards the program.



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The Board Chair asked if there were additional questions. None were asked. The Board Chair requested a motion to approve the 2023-24 Budget as presented. The motion was made by Ms. Lester and seconded by Mr. Sutherland. There were no abstentions and the vote carried unanimously.

VI. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. 325 Blue Hills Avenue Proposed Scope of Work Crosskey Architect, Mark Hopper

The 225 Blue Hills Avenue project was presented by Mr. Mark Hopper. He stated that the consultants have been working on the drawings. Crosskey Architect submitted the drawings to Downes Construction who manages the contracts. He stated that 60% of the budget went to trade. Unfortunately, the construction market is still very volatile. There seems to be a fluctuation between material cost and deliveries. The War in Ukraine has also influenced the cost. There is a longer procurement time and larger projects are consuming supplies. Delivery time is 52 weeks. There is also a lack of electrical switch gears.

Downes Construction completed their projections. The numbers were reviewed with Downes Construction and they had discussion of ways to deliver and still get the job done with quality and fidelity. Cost of the project is a bit higher than the grant amount of \$290,000.

a. Current Floor Plan

The goal is to focus on the must do items – First floor must be made handicap accessible. The back porch must be rebuilt to make it level with the first floor.

Larger meeting space – adding a movable partition, these come in all shapes and sizes, wanted to maintain a high quality that blocks sound adequately. We will need to add steel beams and columns to support the structure which added quite a bit of cost just for the movable partitions. Swapping a handicap lift with the handicap ramp will lower the cost; reducing the amount of wood construction and putting in a mechanical lift instead.

The Board Chair asked what are we giving up to make this happen? Mr. Hopper stated that from a functionality viewpoint Jumoke is giving up nothing.

The Board Chair asked operationally what is the maintenance cost of the lift? Mr. Hopper stated that he will ask the manufacturer and report back. He does not expect the lift to get a lot of use. The lift is specifically designed for the harsh New England weather.



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The structure is a pressure treated wood deck. Railings were PVC element, high quality, low maintenance.

End result – Mr. Hopper stated that he will send a copy of the project budget to Dr. Monroe and Mr. Hines to share with the board.

The below are the must do items which consist of five categories – roof repair. \$29,000. Lift \$23,000. The building has no heating and no electrical services currently. First floor bathroom will be made handicap accessible - \$89,000 and the chimney removal. These are hard construction costs. There are other costs that will be added, such as project contingencies, permit fees which are soft costs.

The Board Chair reiterated that the grant is \$290,000.

The Finance Director stated that under ARP ESSER we could mitigate cost through reallocation of budgeted funds which will need to get approval from the ARP ESSER grant. The question is asked if the \$600,000 includes contingencies. Mr. Hopper said contingency will be about 10% of the total cost.

The Board Chair asked if there is a high probability that we will get the request for the additional funds to be moved and used for this project approved. Mr. Stewart asked that the Finance Director investigate the repurposing of the ARP ESSER grant funds immediately, make the adjustments and bring it to the board. The Board Chair requested a special board meeting over the summer to vote on the completion of this project.

The Board Chair asked how long is the construction project?

Mr. Hopper stated that Downes Construction will have a better response and can factor in procuring materials. Continuous construction projects are the most effective use of funding.

Downes Construction will rebid the project and get a formal contract number to the sub-committee and then to the board.

The Board Chair asked if there were additional questions from the board, none were asked. He requested a status update within the next two weeks.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no Executive Session.

VIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

There were no items for future agenda due to the summer break.



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IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair requested a motion for the adjournment of the board meeting. Mrs. Acosta moved for the adjournment and this was seconded by Mr. Smith. The vote carried unanimously at 7:21 pm..