



# JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

**Mission:** To prepare children to successfully compete in the global marketplace despite the social and economic challenges they may presently face. The academy is dedicated to rigorous academic and social standards achieved by holding high expectations for all students during challenging instruction.

**“Loving Scholars, Nurturing Minds, and Empowering Futures”**

## **Regular Board Meeting**

**Jumoke Academy Central Office - 999 Asylum Ave., Suite 200, Hartford**

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 835 5493 2133**

**Passcode: 8zZGhW**

## **Minutes**

### **Board Members Present In-person:**

Sam Gray, Board Chair  
Vera Smith-Winfrey, Community Representative  
George Sutherland, Community Representative  
Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

**Board Members Present online:** Suzette Debeatham-Brown, Community Representative

### **Board Members Absent:**

Janelle Lester, Community Representative  
Myron Stewart, Community Representative

Staff Present: Dr. Troy Monroe, Dr. Gordon-Hall, Sheryl Deloso, Sharron Solomon-McCarthy, Ana Marcil, Lawrence Jeune, Leslie Rosemond, Kashay Green, Dr. Heather Jacobi, Latoya Johnson and Tanisha Whitter.

**Guest Present:** Scholars of the month and families.

## **OPENING**

- Welcome/Public Comments

The Jumoke Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board Chair Gray.

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There were no public comments. Board Chair Gray welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS**

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

- Opening Remarks
  - Board Retreat, CABE Leadership

Board Chair Gray thanked members of the board and the leadership team for attending the retreat, with guidance of CABE leadership. He spoke about the training and discussed strategic oversight and supporting the CEO and the Academy's leadership. Board Chair Gray expressed his enthusiasm to be part of the board of Directors for Jumoke Academy and stated that he looks forward to working with everyone to continue to drive the Academy towards excellence. He reflected on a successful board retreat and how the event deepened the understanding of board governance, strengthened teamwork and reaffirmed our dedication to the Academy's mission.

- Board Member Expectations

Another great outcome from the board retreat was the development of board the member expectation statement. This focuses on accountability, transparency and collaboration. Board Chair Gray encouraged all members of the board to review the expectations regularly and become familiar with its content.

- Committee Appointments

Board Chair Gray stated that the discussion on appointment of board committees will take place soon. Appointments are not just for formality but an oversight of the Academy from finance, curriculum to facilities management. Board members are asked to provide feedback. The Board Chair will convene an evaluation committee to support this venture.

- CEO Performance Goals SY25

Board Chair Gray shared a draft of the CEO performance goals for the 2025 academic year. These goals focused on key areas such as Curriculum and Instruction development, human resources, facilities management, stakeholder engagement. It is important to note that the CEO/Superintendent's leadership is central to the success of the Academy. A special committee of the board will review these goals.

## **CEO/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

### **PART A**

- September Scholar of the month Recognition

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- Lawayne Stone, JAH-TED

The CEO/Superintendent welcomed everyone present to the board meeting. Principal Johnson presented the scholar of the month for Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy. Lawayne consistently meets expectations, he is actively engaged in his own learning and is described as kind and helpful, and a role model for his classmates.

- Messi Mathurin, JAH-SMaRT

Principal Green presented the scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT. Messi shows enthusiasm for his school work, he is mature and is a positive voice for his peers.

- Kamar Collins, JAH-HC

Principal Jacobi presented the scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy at the Hartford Conservatory. Kamar has a positive attitude and shows a deep understanding of the 3R's. The team is Very excited to see him grow. The CEO/Superintendent congratulated the families and scholars and encouraged scholars to continue to pursue excellence in all things.

Board Chair Gray asked for a brief pause to allow families to transition from the meeting after which the meeting continued at 6:15 pm.

### **PART B**

- District Updates
  - District Report
    - School Opening Update

The CEO/Superintendent reported that the Academy had a very successful school opening. The Leadership team was very prepared. Photographs were shared via Social Media. Scholars have settled in for the start of the school year. The Academy also had a successful Back to School BBQ hosted at the elementary school for all three campuses. Scholars and parents had the opportunity to meet the teachers.

JAPA leadership - The Jumoke Academy Parent Association (JAPA) took a major hit during and post pandemic. JAPA has now added new leadership to include Vice President, Sherry-Gay McEnnis, Treasurer, Jessica Salmon, Secretary, Faith Carter along with the president Asha Hargrove-Duroche. The team is looking forward to doing some great work, they had a couple meetings and are poised to continue supporting the Academy.

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For the 2024-25 academic year we will maintain the theme, “Loving Scholars, Nurturing Minds and Empowering Futures.” We have approximately 600 returning scholars and approximately 100 faculty/staff. The Academy continues to operate under its 3-year strategic roadmap and 5-year district improvement plan; this information was shared with the board during the retreat.

The Academy has rolled out the first phase of the Jumoke App to Administrators, the second phase will include rollout to families and other stakeholders. Members of the board are encouraged to download the App to view and browse its capabilities which include announcements, Powerschool, direct access to our school's website, etc. Members of the board will be able to access the App on their Apple or Android phone and will be able to receive alerts. Once fully operable the App will provide all news, announcements and Powerschool information. Additional updates will be provided at the next board meeting.

- CAP Update (District Overview)

The Academy's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) focuses on academic improvement, ELA and Math, Chronic absenteeism and certification compliance. The Academy met the state's expectations and deadlines for submission of the Corrective Action Plan. The leadership team has a follow up meeting them this Friday. The team will meet with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on a monthly basis to review data submissions and receive feedback.

- Crisis Management Plan/Safety Protocols

The completion of the district Crisis Management and Safety Protocols are mandated by the state. This is being managed by Mr. Jeune our Grants and Operations Manager who has been working with the building leadership team for completion. The Academy has been in communication with community personnel such as the Fire Marshal's office and law enforcements to ensure that all protocols are in order. Every campus will have an up to date crisis management protocol to ensure that the Academy is responsive in a crisis situation. The final due date is November 1st; and the academy will be in compliance.

- 325 Renovation Project

The 325 renovation project is at 52% completion. HVAC, plumbing and electrical wiring has been completed and new stairs, decking and sliding added. We will have 3 conference rooms available for community engagement and professional development. The anticipated completion date is by the end of November but all work must be completed by the end of

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December at the latest. This is a grant funded project that all allocated funds must be used for that purpose. Board member Smith-Winfree asked whether ample parking will be available for activities at this location. The CEO/Superintendent stated that parking will be available on adjacent streets depending on the number of people and the type of event. Additional parking will be available for overflow at TED as needed. Board member Sutherland further inquired about the completion date. The CEO/Superintendent reiterated that all work should be completed by the end of November. The board will be informed and a ribbon cutting event will likely take place. Board member Smith-Winfree asked if security services will be provided.

The Grants and Operations Manager stated that during the property walkthrough with our security vendor consideration has been made to add additional cameras. An alarm system will be set up and the IT team completed a walkthrough with the electrical company. He further added that no hardwiring will be necessary and additional cameras can be added after the renovation is completed. Mr. Gray asked that leadership follow up with our legal counsel regarding the crisis and safety management plan before the document is sent to the board.

### **PART C**

Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

- Academic Update
  - Theme: Leveling the Playing Field for Scholars' Success

A summary of items being worked on was shared with the board in the packet that includes data sets that showed disparity in Black and Brown children's success rate. The Academy continues to focus our attention on our school theme, "Loving Scholars, Nurturing Minds and Empowering Futures" which is a clear indicator on leveling the playing field for scholars to succeed which is our theme for the first trimester. At the Academy our scholars are being offered advanced courses such as Algebra and World Language. Historically the expectations for Black and Brown children have been less than their White counterparts and the use of AVID as a systematic approach is being used to increase rigor for our scholars.

The Academy continues its work of ensuring that we are aware of where our scholars are academically and to determine this, baseline testing has been completed. The Chief Academic Officer did a high level overview of NWEA testing 2021 data - the blue reflects Fall data, scholars are trending upwards in Math but we are seeking to gain greater ground. The data is a reflection of scholars average RIT scores in K-12, we would love to see that score closer

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to 200. The second chart reflects scholars ELA scores which are closer to 200. NWEA is the diagnostic tests being used.

For the first time since last year lower grade scholars are being tested through AMIRA. This is a screener for scholars in grades K-3. The data shows that 26% of our scholars are on track for their grade level. Our Reading Interventionist is supporting scholars who fall in the 1-25 percentile to address the deficit.

Board member Smith-Winfrey asked what is the reason for the low performance for some scholars. The Chief Academic Officer stated that summer slide due to lack of learning and the newness of this test is a major factor additionally we see this issue with scholars that are new to the district as well.

Each year the state puts out a NEXT Generation Accountability report that reflects how scholars perform on Smarter Balance. The report given in 2022 is used to build the data to reflect how our scholars measure against other districts such as CREC.

This data sheet is a great marketing tool and great talking point to share with families as it reflects the Academy's competitive nature as we continue to outperform our host district in ELA and Math.

The Academy has a high needs population which refers to all scholars with an IEP. The gap between all scholars including our high needs is less than 0.2% in comparison to the state which has a much larger gap. This shows that all our scholars are learning.

The Academy has a very diverse staff which is 56.8% in comparison to 11.7% at the State level. Additionally the Academy was cited in an article written by Brown University as number three for state for proficiency for Black students. The 2023-24 scores are very similar but are not yet public information and will be updated once clearance is given.

Board Chair Gray asked if the 2023-24 data will be shared with the board once it's available. The Chief Academic Officer confirmed.

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Board member Smith-Winfree asked if the information will be shared at parents/teachers meetings.

The CEO/Superintendent stated that the plan is to have this information readily available as a snapshot of the Academy's progress. The information has been shared with all principals who in turn are required to share it with their staff to ensure that the work we do is reiterated with families on a regular basis. This is great data that must be shared which speaks to the power of relationships across our community.

Board member Smith-Winfree suggested that the document be added to our website as well.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board Chair requested a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Board member Smith-Winfree moved and this was seconded by board member Sutherland. There were no discussions, nor abstentions or oppositions and the motion carried unanimously.

- June Minutes
- August Special Board Meeting Minutes
- September Special Board Meeting/Retreat Minutes
- April, May & June Financial Statements

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT**

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

- EFS Audit Update

The EFS Audit was placed on hold pending the correction of our EFS reporting. This was submitted but due to correction that had to be made to the original data it has to be resubmitted.

- 2023-24 Audit Status

When the state did their own audit there were errors found including expenditures being charged to the wrong code. This will be uploaded tomorrow to the state portal, if there are no errors, then we will move on to the 2023-24 EFS audit report.

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- 2022-23 EFS Correction

The auditing firm has been to the office several times and the Finance team provided several documents inclusive of the general ledger, bank reconciliation, bank expenditures, etc.

Mr. Sutherland asked what grace period was given in regards to making corrections. The Director of Finance stated that no deadline was given by the state for the corrections, but the portal for submission was opened for a limited timeframe.

Board Chair Gray asked if the auditing firm typically set a meeting to discuss preliminary findings. The CEO/Superintendent confirmed. Board Chair Gray asked that the Finance Sub-committee be part of the discussion of the preliminary findings prior to the information being made public.

The Director of Finance introduced the remainder of the Finance team, Lawrence Jeune, Grants and Operations Manager and Leslie Rosemond, Accounting Analyst.

### **BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

- None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- None

### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

- School Goals & Alignment
- Teacher Leadership Evaluation

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Chair requested a motion for the adjournment of the Jumoke Board of Directors Meeting, board member Acosta moved and this was seconded by board member Debeatham-Brown, there were no abstentions or oppositions and The motion carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 6:42 pm.

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