



JUMOKE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In-person Session

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

“Loving Scholars, Nurturing Minds, Empowering Futures”

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 - 6:00 pm

Meeting ID: 884 8825 6781

Passcode: 3rAaAZ

Minutes

Board Members Present:

James Michel, Board Chair

Myron Stewart, Treasurer/Community Representative

Vera Smith-Winfree, Community Representative

George Sutherland, Community Representative

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

Janelle Lester, Community Representative

Sam Gray, Community Representative

Board Members Absent: Damien Pittola, Thomas Smith and Suzette Debeatham-Brown

The Jumoke Academy Board of Directors meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:02 pm by Board Chair Michel. There were no public comments.

i. OPENING

Welcome & Public Comments

Board Chair Michel welcomed all staff and guests to the meeting. This is the final meeting of the board for the 2023-24 academic year and the board will reconvene in September for the Board Retreat.

II. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Opening Remarks - Welcome New Board Member Sam Gray, President/CEO BGCH

Board Chair Michel welcomed Mr. Sam Gray, Jr., the newest member of the board who was unanimously voted to the board at the May meeting. Board member Gray is the president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Hartford. Board Chair Michel further stated that he looks forward to Mr. Gray's contributions to the board.

III. CEO/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PART A

1. May - Scholar of the Month Recognition

- Chenalt Brown, JAH-TED

The Board Chair invited the CEO/Superintendent to continue with the scholar of the month recognition. The CEO/Superintendent invited Chenalt Brown and his family to the front for the presentation. Thelma Ellis Dickerson's scholar of the month is presented by Principal Johnson. Chenalt meets and exceeds expectations and is a role model for his peers.

- Michael Gation, JAH-SMaRT

Jumoke Honors SMaRT scholar of the month was presented by Principal Green. Michael is a 7th grader who has shown a lot of growth.

- Aden Brown, JAH-HC

Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory scholar of the month was presented by Principal Jacobi. Aden is respectful to all staff and takes responsibility for his actions.

The CEO/Superintendent presented certificates, gift bags, literature and gift cards to all scholars and congratulated them for their hard work and pursuit of excellence in all things. He further encouraged Aden, a soon to be graduate, to return to the Academy to share his high school experience.

The CEO/Superintendent invited the Board Chair to the front and acknowledged his 10 years of service to the Academy, the board and the community. He thanked him for his work throughout the years in dealing with some of the challenges and accomplishments. He further stated that he appreciated the work he did over the years in supporting his leadership. Based on board bylaws members of the board are limited to 10 years of service in their capacity. Board Chair Michel has agreed to support the Academy until another Board Chair is elected.

Board Chair Michel responded that it was an honor to serve the Academy. He further stated that the first 5 years were very difficult, but the Academy is still here and thriving as an alternative education option for the students in the Greater Hartford area. He spoke highly of the teachers who stayed with the Academy during the hard times despite the challenges. He acknowledged the work of the leadership team and administrators. He further stated that the board appreciates the work that is being done.

The CEO/Superintendent stated that board member Smith has also served 10 years as a member of the board but was unable to attend the meeting due to a schedule conflict. Board member Smith will be acknowledged at another time.

PART B

- District Updates

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

- District Report

- Business Office

- Continuation of Work

The work within the Business/Finance department is ongoing given the recent changes in staffing. Sheryl Deloso, Accountant and Leslie Rosemond, Accounting Analyst will continue the work to close out the academic year. The work being completed includes various reports due to the State and meeting end-of-year deadlines.

- Interim SFO Update

Communication was shared with the board regarding an Interim School Finance Officer. The Board Chair, Vice Chair and CEO/Superintendent met with Twin Lakes Consulting firm and in their role, they provide support to Connecticut schools and non-profit organizations with a specific focus on Business Management and Human Resources. The Academy is currently working with Twin Lakes in that capacity. The firm has a model which uses talents and skills with 095 certification within the company to provide assistance in specific focus areas including EFS reporting, auditing, budget, end of year closeout, ESSER Title Grants and Human Resources. The Academy entered into an agreement with Twin Lakes and have started the recruitment work for the Chief Financial Officer opening. By the end of this week the revised job description will be completed and posted. The goal is to have the individual on board by early August.

The CEO/Superintendent asked if there were any questions. Board member Lester expressed concerns that the timeline is aggressive for such a prominent role. She believes that the Academy should spend adequate time on selecting the right candidate for the position.

Board Chair Michel stated that during their meeting with Twin Lakes there was evidence of extensive experience as a consulting firm and believe that their network and skillset will allow adequate time for the vetting process, search and selection of the right candidate. The CEO/Superintendent added that the founder of Twin Lakes has 20 years of experience in traditional and charter school affairs. He is affiliated with CASBO and has connections with retirees in the field of education and has a vetting process that has been proven effective.

Board member Winfree-Smith asked where the candidates would be selected from. CEO/Superintendent stated that the opening will be advertised on Indeed, CT Reap and other platforms.

- PCLB Foundation Update

The Academy received a \$550,000 grant from the PCLB foundation. This grant has been helpful in supporting our operating costs. Board Chair Michel asked what the money will be used for. CEO/Superintendent stated that it will cover costs associated with staffing, professional development, summer programming and general operating costs.

- Planning for 2024-25 Academic Year

The Academy's senior leadership and extended leadership team will meet at the end of the academic year to review and address methodologies to keep, stop or change, achievements and goals for the 2024-25 new year. The Academy's Corrective Action Plan has been requested from the State since its completion in April. We received feedback yesterday. The Academy's Corrective Action Plan included improvements in academic achievement, certification, attendance and addressing chronic absenteeism. The leadership team will spend time on data reviews and how that data influences plans for the 2024-25 academic year.

- Marketing Update

The Academy continues its marketing campaign which includes a feature spot on NBC CT30 highlighting the elementary school. Another marketing video will be aired tomorrow, and this information will be shared with the board. The CEO/Superintendent asked if there were any questions, none were asked.

PART C

- Curriculum & Instruction Update

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, CAO

- Summer Program Planning

The Academy exceeded enrollment expectations for the summer program. We had planned for 80 scholars at our Summer Academy at T.E.D. and 25 for the Goodwin STEM Academy. We had 102 scholars registered for our Summer Academy and 39 scholars registered for the Goodwin STEM Academy with a waitlist. We have seen a high enrollment for K1 classes which resulted in two separate classes.

- Academic Planning

Planning for the new year. ELA implementation Guides will be created by faculty. Typically the professional development calendar would have been ready, but the State has plans to change the evaluation for next year. The Academy will focus on professional development geared towards teachers' goals.

Board Chair Michel asked if there were any questions or comments. Board member Stewart asked if the Academy still uses the model from last year in which goals are set for the number of scholars in the program and are we okay with exceeding the goals for the summer program. The Chief Academic Officer responded with a definitive yes.

Board Chair Michel asked the Chief Academic Officer to provide an overview of the Goodwin summer program for newer members of the board. The Chief Academic Officer stated that scholars are learning about the manufacturing industry, STEM careers, speakers and presenters from STEM fields will be invited to engage with scholars, additionally, scholars will participate in field trips which include an overnight trip to New York for the air show. This is an all-day program running Monday through Friday and breakfast and lunch is provided. The CEO/Superintendent added that the program this summer includes exposing scholars to aerospace giving our scholars opportunities to see themselves in Next Frontier Industries.

Board member Smith-Winfree asked if the overnight field trip has been fully funded and is it free for all scholars. The CEO/Superintendent confirmed that the Academy received financial resources from outside networks which include a \$5,000 commitment and there is no out of pocket cost to families of scholars participating in the program.

Board Chair Michel added that the New England Air Museum is having weeklong programs that are very affordable and would be great exposure for our scholars and this could provide added content to the field of aerospace.

The Board Chair asked if there were additional questions for the Chief Academic Officer, none were asked.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- i. May Meeting Minutes
- ii. Special Board Meeting Minutes
- ii. Accounting Policies & Procedures Manual (APPM)

Board Chair Michel requested a motion for the approval of the items on the consent agenda. Board member Stewart moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, and this was seconded by Board member Acosta. There were no abstentions or oppositions, and the motion was carried unanimously.

V. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

- i. N/A

VI. SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

- i. N/A

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- i. N/A

VIII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- i. Teacher Leadership Evaluation Model
- ii. 2024 Gala

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Michel requested a motion for the adjournment of the board meeting. The motion was made by board member Sutherland and seconded by board member Acosta. There were no abstention or oppositions, and the motion was carried unanimously. The Board Chair wished the faculty a very restful summer. The Jumoke Academy Board of Directors meeting concluded at 6:39 pm on June 11, 2024.