



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 Minutes

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

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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

Meeting ID: 827 5268 3226

Passcode: 0ltccf

Minutes

Board Members Present in-person

George Sutherland, Community Representative

Myron Stewart, Community Representative

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

Virtual:

Sam Gray, Board Chair

Vera Smith-Winfree, Fundraising/Community Representative

Janelle Lester, Finance Sub-committee/Community Representative

Staff Present: Dr. Troy Monroe, Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall (Zoom), Sharron Solomon-McCarthy, Sheryl Deloso, Ana Marcil, Lawrence Jeune, Leslie Rosemond, Kashay Green, Bobby Gibson, Jr., Summer Myles, Natalie Best & Tanisha Whitter.

Guests Present: TED and SMaRT Scholars of the month and family.

OPENING

- Welcome/Public Comments

The Jumoke Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board Chair Gray. There were no public comments.

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Board Chair Gray welcomed everyone to the meeting. He is currently out of state and is in attendance virtually. He welcomed members of the board, parents, scholars and faculty/staff to the meeting.

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

- Opening Remarks

Board Chair Gray thanked the CEO/Superintendent's evaluation committee for their commitment to support the work of the Academy in their capacity. The team consists of Board Chair Gray, Board Member Sutherland and Board member Stewart who are in agreement to move forward. A copy of the CEO/Superintendent's performance goals for the 2024-25 school year will be shared with the committee. The evaluation will take place prior to the end of the school year.

CEO/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

PART A

- December Scholar of the month Recognition
 - Amana Walcott, TED-JAH

Dean Myles presented the scholar of the month for Thelma Ellis Dickerson Elementary. Scholar embodies 3'Rs, she is a role model for her peers, she inquires and asks questions, and goes above and beyond.

- Kamryn Washington, JAH-SMaRT

Principal Green presented the scholar of the month award for Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT. Kamryn is a 7th grader who started off in 5th grade very shy and did not speak much. She likes challenges and always wears a smile. Kamryn advocates for herself and puts her academics first. She follows through and looks out for others.

- Yeriel Burgos Rodriguez, JAH-HC

Principal Gibson presented the scholar of the month award for Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory. Yeriel is a 6th grader and the male scholar of the month this academic year. He comes to class prepared, uses appropriate language. Yeriel likes to fix things and always chooses to do the right thing. He also serves as the translator for his family.

The CEO/Superintendent presented the scholar of the month certificate and gift bags and encouraged scholars to continue their pursuit of excellence in all things. Board Chair Gray

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congratulated the scholars and their parents for a job well done. Board Chair Gray requested a motion for the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Board Member Smith-Winfrey and seconded by Board Member Debeatham-Brown. There were no oppositions or abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m for family transition. The Board of Directors meeting reconvened at 6:12 p.m.

PART B

- District Updates
 - Faculty Member Acknowledgement

Ms. Whitter has made the decision to leave the Academy. Ms. Natalie Best who is in training will serve as the new Executive Assistant to the CEO/Superintendent.

- New Board Member Interest

The CEO/Superintendent shared that work is taking place behind the scenes to grow the board. We are seeking community members with particular expertise who will be able to contribute to the board in areas that additional support is needed. There are two people who have expressed interest in joining the board. The resumes are being reviewed with legal counsel and the Board Chair. The resumes will be shared with the entire board prior to them coming on board.

- Heritage Gala

The Jumoke Academy 27th Anniversary Heritage Gala is scheduled to take place on March 28th at The Russell in downtown, hartford. We have an incredible committee working together and sponsorships are coming in. We currently have seven confirmed sponsorships with one pending. We received commitment for two platinum, one gold, three bronze, and one silver. Auction items are still needed, members of the board are asked to support this through donation and or share this information within their network. The gala link is shared with the board. All are asked to support by selling tickets, advertising space for our gala booklet and promoting the event. Our goal is to raise \$50,000, details of the amount of money raised to be shared during the Director of Finance report.

- Corrective Action Plan/Human Resources

The Corrective Action Plan work continues as we seek to get to 100 % certification. There are many ways certification occurs such as provisional, alternative, long term sub, which is how staff can be certified. All subject areas are shortage areas for teachers. In 2023-24 the Academy

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was at 90% compliance. Starting in 2024-25 we were at 71% compliance and to date we are at 88.6% compliance. We have made great progress with our efforts to achieve 100% certification with the help of our Human Resources Manager. It takes a lot of work behind the scenes ensuring that the state is responsive as there is a significant lag time at the state level to evaluate the documents sent. There are 6 other staff whose certification is in the process; if completed within this academic year we will be closer to achieving 100% and our goal is to maintain that percentage through to our next charter renewal. Board Member Stewart asked if these are renewals for certifications or original applications. The CEO/Superintendent stated that it is a mixture of both but most are initial certification.

PART C

Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

- Academic Update

Theme: Leveling the Playing Field for Scholars' Success

- Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy Elementary School Presentation
Latoya Johnson, Principal

The Chief Academic Officer shared the Academy's midyear progress towards meeting academic achievement. In addition, the Corrective Action Plan, we are required to complete a trimester benchmark assessment monitoring report. As a district we are putting actions in place to show that we are meeting our goals based on the criteria for the monitoring document. We have benchmark goals for each grade level, for each campus and districtwide and reflect on work completed during the previous trimester and make adjustments if goals are not met.

Winter testing is taking place now; each campus has prepared. In the testing period, each school has testing plans in place to support scholars' success and help us to meet our goals. A biweekly meeting takes place with our principals to discuss where we are academically and what we need to do to reach our goals. We are reviewing data to see which scholars need additional support and focusing on areas that need improvement. After testing is complete the principals will do a comparison data from Fall to Winter which will be presented at the next board meeting. The data being collected will utilize the NWEA comparison chart that can be used to predict how scholars will perform on Smarter Balanced assessments.

Board Chair Gray stated that he looks forward to the presentation at the next board meeting.

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CONSENT AGENDA

- December Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- November 2024 Financial Statements
- Investment Proposal

Board Chair Gray requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Board Member Smith-Winfree moved and this was seconded by Board Member Lester. There was no opposition or abstentions and the motion was carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

- Audit Update

The Director of Finance reported that a recommendation was made by the audit firm to file an extension for the audit. The audit report should be completed by January 17th.

- 2424-25 Budget Update

We currently have 553 scholars enrolled in comparison to the 650 budgeted. Our total revenue is at 47%, expenditures at 38.2%. We received the state of Connecticut per pupil funding at the end of December, we received the first in July, the second in September and are expecting another in March. Board Chair Sutherland asked if the payment is split into quarters, The Finance Director stated that it is split in three quarters. The Director of Finance shared a chart of the 2024-25 financial budget. Our largest expenditure is still education at 40% followed by school-based administration at 24%. Salaries and wages comprise 50% of the budget.

- 6-Month Financial Health Check

After completing a 6-month financial health check the indicators are that the Academy is financially healthy. The operating margin for the 6-months shows a 9% surplus. Debt service is very liquid which means that we can pay our long term obligations even after paying our operating expenses. In terms of cash on hand, we have a strong liquidity position, which is typical for 60-90 days while we are well over that threshold. Primary reserve ratio is at .82 or 9 months reserve even after paying our long-term debt. Our viability ratio indicates liquidity of our financials.

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State operations are currently at 67%, this means that we rely heavily on state funding. Any major changes at the state level will affect us; this means that we must acquire additional funding from other sources. Board Chair Sutherland asked if there is a benchmark for the minimum indicator that we are in a good place. The Director of Finance stated that 6-9 months is the benchmark.

The Academy is moving forward with investing some money with Liberty Bank which will yield the most interest, this will bring in an estimated earnings of up to 3 months. Benefits are it is low risk, insured up to \$250,000, with a fixed interest rate, CD's are unaffected by market fluctuations and we have an opportunity for reinvestment. Board Member Stewart asked if the \$250,000 at 4.25% is over a three month period, The Finance Director stated that this is the annual percentage rate.

- 325 Renovations Update

The 325 Blue is Avenue project is at 95% completion. There were a few hiccups that caused this delay. The Business/Finance Office has received the balance to be paid, all required billings have been submitted to the state and reimbursed to the Academy. The Director of Finance asked the Grants and Operations Manager to share additional updates on the renovation. He stated that the goal for completion was January 13th but there was a delay. The side moldings had air pockets and they are being filled. The leadership team will do a walkthrough on Thursday.

- Gala Sponsorship - Ticket Sales

We are currently at 40% of our goal, with \$19,000 plus total sales so far. There were 59 tickets sold and sponsorships were purchased from all levels. Board Chair Gray thanked the Director of Finance and her team for the work that is being done in the Business/Finance Department. He stated that the board appreciated the 6-month health check. A key take away from this report is that members of the board should do their part to help us meet our goal of \$50,000.

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no building sub-committee report.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Enrollment Pulse
- Enrollment Retention Data

The CEO/Superintendent stated that he would like to know which board committee will work with the district on enrollment campaigns. Board member Smith-Winfrey requested an update on where we are with reaching out to specific Divine Nine organizations. CEO/Superintendent stated that four individuals from Kappa Alpha Psi have purchased tickets and will attend. Board Member Smith-Winfrey asked that this communication to the Divine Nine goes out prior to the end of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair requested a motion for the adjournment of the meeting, Board Member Debeatham-Brown motioned and this was seconded by Board Member Stewart, there were no abstentions or oppositions and the motion carried unanimously. The Jumoke Board of Directors Meeting concluded at 6:50 pm.

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