



# 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, November 12, 2024

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

**Meeting ID: 818 2186 0154**

**Passcode: 0FPNkc**

## **Agenda**

### **Board Members Present in-person**

George Sutherland, Community Representative

Myron Stewart, Community Representative

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

Sam Gray, Board Chair

Vera Smith-Winfree, Community Representative

### **Board Members Present online:**

Janelle Lester

Suzette Debeatham-Brown

**Staff Present:** Dr. Troy Monroe, Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Sharron Solomon-McCarthy, Sheryl Deloso, Ana Marcil, Lawrence Jeune, Leslie Rosemond, Bobby Gibson, Jr., Kashay Green, Latoya Johnson, Summer Myles, and Tanisha Whitter.

Guests Present: Scholar of the month and family.

### **OPENING**

- Welcome/Public Comments

There were no public comments.

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The Jumoke Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board Chair Gray. Board Chair Gray acknowledged a donation to the Academy through board member Sutherland. A private entrepreneur donated \$5,000 to the Academy last year and has committed to \$7,500 in donation this year to be used to provide support to scholars for uniforms, field trip experiences and transportation. The check will be dropped off tomorrow. Board Chair Gray asked that a thank you letter be sent and added that a photo opportunity would be great for marketing purposes. Mr. Sutherland asked that an email be sent to the donor with an itemized receipt. The CEO/Superintendent thanked Mr. Sutherland for his support of the Academy and the donor for his generous financial support.

Board Chair Gray welcomed members of the board, families and staff to another scheduled board meeting and thanked faculty and staff for the work they do for our scholars on a daily basis.

## **BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS**

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

- Opening Remarks
  - Hartford Conservatory Principal Transition

Board Chair Gray thanked Dr. Jacobi for her dedicated service to the Academy.

Board Chair Gray thanked Mrs. Debeatham-Brown for attending the welcome gathering for new principal Bobby Gibson, Jr. He stated that her presence made the event feel special and her engagement as a member of the board is appreciated.

- Welcome Principal Bobby Gibson Jr.

Board Chair Gray welcomed Mr. Bobby Gibson as the new principal at Jumoke Academy at the Hartford Conservatory. He stated that Principal Gibson's expertise and management skills should have a positive impact on the campus community. He thanked everyone for their continued support and commitment to the Academy. He then turned the meeting over the CEO/Superintendent to share his report.

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

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

### **PART A**

The CEO/Superintendent welcomed everyone to the board meeting and invited campus leadership for T.E.D. to present their scholar of the month.

- October Scholar of the month Recognition
  - Vanya Harding, TED-JAH

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Dean Myles presented the scholar of the month award for Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy. Vanya is described as a role model for other scholars. She is a great representation of the Academy. She is Intrinsically motivated, very involved in her class and exemplifies the 3R's.

- Saimi Forbes, JAH-SMaRT

Jumoke Academy honors SMaRT scholar of the month Saimi was presented by Principal Green. Saimi, an 8th grader at SMaRT is an amazing artist. She is described as creative in her thinking. She has a strong adaptability to working with other scholars and Interacts well with her peers.

- Tatiana Treleven, JAH-HC

The scholar of the month for Jumoke Academy at the Hartford Conservatory is presented by Principal Gibson and Mrs. Solomon-McCarthy. Principal Gibson congratulated Tatiana for being selected as the October scholar of the month. Tatiana takes great pride in her work and has adjusted to 5th grade.

The CEO/Superintendent congratulated all three scholars for their outstanding work ethic and presented the scholar of the month certificates and gift bags. He encouraged all three scholars to continue their pursuit of excellence in all things.

Board Chair Gray congratulated the scholars and their families and invited them to stay for the entire meeting if they wish. At 6:16 pm the meeting was adjourned for scholars and families to transition from the meeting. The Jumoke Board of Directors meeting reconvened at 6:17 pm.

### **PART B**

- District Updates
  - District Report
    - District Safety Plan Update

District Safety plan, the CEO/Superintendent shared that the Academy completed and submitted the safety plan which was due to the state on November 4th. A copy of the document will be sent to Board Chair Gray for review and signature. The plan includes district safety protocol and telephone numbers for all emergency contacts. The Academy received all clear for fire inspections under Mr. Jeune's leadership. The Academy currently holds the appropriate occupancy certificates.

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- Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Update

The Academy is under CAP as a result of our last charter renewal. Several members of the leadership team will have a meeting with the CT State Department of Education (CSDE) board on Wednesday, November 14th to present the CAP evaluation report to the state accountability committee at the state office. The role of this committee is to provide technical assistance for the Academy. Data sets submitted to the state will be shared with members of the board at a later date after the initial meeting with the CSDE board.

- JA Edlio App

Members of the board should have received an email prompting you to set up your Jumoke App. The App is branded and can be downloaded from the Apple Store. Board members will have access to navigate the App and view school news, enrollment processes and school campus information. Additionally, quick links include Social Media, events and Parent/Guardian HUB. All members of the board are asked to check their junk email folder for this communication. Board member Smith-Winfrey stated that she did not receive a copy and was advised that she would be sent another copy by the Communications Manager.

## **PART C**

Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

- Academic Update

Theme: Leveling the Playing Field for Scholars' Success

- JAH-SMaRT Middle School Presentation Kashay Green, Principal

Dr. Gordon-Hall presented to the board Principal Green who is asked to share Academic updates which align with the theme, leveling the playing field for scholars' success from Jumoke Academy SMaRT. Principal Green stated that she has been intentional in working with faculty and staff to ensure that all are aware of what the district goals are and have aligned everything they do to those goals. The benchmark assessment is NWEA which focuses on Math, Reading and Science and is administered to scholars in 5-8 grade. The data shows that scholars performing at the 50th percentile or higher are meeting achievement for their grade level. There are variables which indicate some scholars are performing below that percentage and others are performing at 60% or higher. Those at the 60th percentile or higher perform well in state testing.

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The Reading average is at the 29th percentile mark, scholars are performing at the 25th percentile in Math and 35th percentile in Science. If scholars are successful in Science it is expected that they will perform well in Math. The goal is to get those scholars up to the 50th percentile mark. Target scholars are being given more support to push them closer to the 50th percentile. Proficient scholars at 50 percentile or above are also being supported. There are 60 scholars that are target scholars in ELA & 55 in Math out of 146 scholars at SMaRT.

Progress learning directly aligns with NWEA data which directly aligns with practice learning to meet benchmarks.

Additionally SMaRT has provided incentives to scholars to support regular attendance. Since the start of the school year there were only 4 days where they fell below 95%. Dress down days are popular, and every 10 days that 95% of scholars are in school they earn a dress down day. During early release attendance drops as families keep their scholars at home. To address this issue when there is 95% attendance on an early release day, then next early release day scholars earn a dress down day. With the incentives there is a significant improvement in attendance.

Achievement via individual Determination(AVID) is being utilized within our district to support individual learning outcomes. Scholars are learning independently and are using strategies to support their own learning. Binders are used to track scholars' work and their goals. Scholars rate their characteristics of what it takes to be a good learner which takes into consideration being respectful, responsible and ready to learn at all times. There are weekly goals that are strategically built into the main goal. There is a morning advisory block incorporated into the teacher's daily schedule. Teachers are doing binder checks during this time block and weekly grade checks are also taking place.

World Language which is part of the district improvement plan is being offered to all scholars in grades 5-8 this year twice weekly. During Spanish blocks teachers have a professional planning session where teachers goals are being reviewed and discussed to ensure alignment with the district goals.

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Advance Math, over the last two years the Academy started off with 8 scholars. This year 5th graders are doing Advanced Math, 7th graders are taking Pre-Algebra classes and 8th graders are taking Algebra I. Currently there are 55 scholars taking advanced Math.

The Student Council has been incorporated and an election took place on election day. We currently have 13 council members who worked closely with the 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher. The president and vice president are at the 8th grade level and 5th through 7th consist of the remaining council members. A presentation was given to the entire school prior to the election, prerequisites had to be met and scholars went through an application process. Scholars had the opportunity to promote themselves through campaigning and scholars also presented a speech before their peers prior to the mock election.

STEM and NEXT Frontier industries is aligned with the Academy's district goal and is one of the fastest growing industries. Technological industries are underrepresented by children of color. SMaRT is promoting NEXT Frontier Industries through activities such as Fall door decorating competition. Fintech, Aerospace, Cybersecurity and others are some of the focus in fields in NEXT Frontier Industries. The Academy continues to offer exploration opportunities in STEM activities which include 8th grade UCONN conference and 6th grade STEM career Fair at the CT Science Center. An illustration of the door decorations in Advanced Manufacturing was also shared with the board.

UConn Doctor's Academy will be offered as an after school program next month. Junior Achievement comes to the Academy for a yearly day of activities which consist of grade appropriate experiences which includes information on financial literacy. Junior Achievement has partnered with the Academy to pilot BizTown for 5-6 graders and Finance Park for 7-8 graders. These are lessons scholars are completing in which they are getting real life experiences such as credit building, etc. This is a full curriculum that will be available for use in the future.

Board Chair Gray acknowledged that it is a great partnership with Junior Achievement and once BizTown and Finance Park takes off it will be an amazing experience for scholars. He thanked Principal Green for a thorough and informative presentation.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- October Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- July & August 2024 Financial Statements

Board Chair Gray requested a motion for the approval of the consent agenda as presented, board member Smith-Winfree moved and this was seconded by board member Debeatham-Brown. There were no abstentions or oppositions and the motion carried unanimously.

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT**

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

The Director of Finance acknowledged members of the Finance team, Lawrence Jeune, Grants and Operations Manager and Leslie Rosemond, Accounting Analyst. The Finance Sub-committee met last week to review the Academy's finances.

- EFS Corrections 2022-2023

Changes were made to the expenditures and this was submitted on October 31st and is subject to auditing.

- EFS Correction 2021-2022

Additionally changes were made to the EFS classification of funding. This however is not subject to auditing and was submitted on October 31st.

- Audited Financial Statement 2023-2024

The Academy's audit review is ongoing. One key adjustment is the right off of uncollectible accounts over \$200,000. This did not affect our bottom line but affected net assets as it is an expense. The scheduled audit for the single audit deadline is January 25th.

- 325 Renovations Update

The renovation of the 325 Blue Hills Avenue property is 85% completed. There was an update on the contractor billing as the Academy was reimbursed for \$300,000 plus by the state and as such had no need to use money from our operating fund. The completion date for this project is December 12th due to some additional work needing to be done on the drywall. The outside stairs are completed and the lift has been installed.

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- Budget Update 2024-2025

We have 548 scholars enrolled compared to 650 budgeted. Revenue received to date is at 43% and expenditures to date is at 22%. The expenditures per figure shows our largest expenditure is educational and instructional expenses followed by school based administration, and planned services is third because of the construction project. The Director of Finance asked if there were any questions.

Board member Smith-Winfree asked for clarification as to what items were uncollectible. The Director of Finance stated that SPED billing accounts for the largest amount of collectibles during the pandemic. The Director of Finance stated that some of the Academy's SPED billing could not be recouped due to services being invoiced late for previous years. Board Chair Gray asked if this problem has been resolved. Board member Stewart stated that those bills cannot be collected. The Academy now completes a monthly billing which will prevent a recurrence.

Board Chair Gray thanked board members Stewart and Lester for their oversight of the Finance Sub-committee to ensure timely completion of financials.

The CEO/Superintendent acknowledged the work of the Director of Finance and Grants and Operations Manager for their hard work and knowledge of the construction scene which has been a great help in supporting the completion of the renovation project.

Board member Stewart expressed concerns for the Academy's current state due to lower enrollment numbers and asked that the Academy be mindful of its budget implications. The CEO/Superintendent expressed his concerns as well and added that all efforts are being made to address this issue. This will be added to the next board meeting as an agenda item where the leadership team provides information on how this is being addressed.

Board member Stewart spoke about Principal Green's presentation and how SMaRT is utilizing these programs. He further emphasized the importance of these programs being introduced to

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elementary school scholars. Board member Stewart suggested having a committee that provides support and seeks partnerships with different high schools to continue the progress of our scholars into certain areas of studies such as engineering. He further stated that he is willing to chair that committee.

The CEO/Superintendent stated that he agrees and supports a sub-committee to complete this work. Board Chair Gray added that having a committee working alongside the principals will be impactful. He further stated we must continue to use short marketing videos, testimonials and other vehicles to achieve these goals. The Academy must find creative ways to build scholar capacity.

## **BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

- There were no building sub-committee report.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- There were no executive session.

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

- School Goals & Alignment
- Teacher Leadership Evaluation

Board Chair Gray asked that an update on the enrollment campaign, CEO/Superintendent yearly goals, committee assignments and a gala update to be added to the agenda for the next board meeting. The financial goal for the gala is \$50,000 and the Board Chair stated that he is committed to supporting this goal. He also stated that he will participate in the gala committee meeting later in the year. He further stated that there are key elements that board members need to be part of. Additionally, Board Chair Gray asked members of the board to begin thinking about the new government administration plans to remove the board of education and instead provide families with stipends to send their children to private schools of their choice. He stated that the Academy must have a plan of action to address this concern.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Gray requested a motion for the adjournment of the meeting. Board member Sutherland moved for the adjournment and this was seconded by board member Smith Winfree. The Jumoke Academy Board of Directors meeting concluded at 7:02 pm.

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