



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, December 10, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 870 5566 1655

Passcode: 9QRGd2

Agenda

Board Members Present in-person

Sam Gray, Board Chair

George Sutherland, Community Representative

Myron Stewart, Community Representative

Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative

Vera Smith-Winfree, Community Representative

Board Members Present online:

Janelle Lester

Suzette Debeatham-Brown

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

Guests Present: Scholar of the month and family.

OPENING

- Welcome/Public Comments

The Jumoke Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Board Chair Gray. Board Chair Gray welcomed everyone present to the meeting. He acknowledged Mr. Sutherland's work in securing the gift of \$7,500 through a private donor.

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BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

- Opening Remarks
 - Holiday Wishes

Board Chair Gray thanked members of the board and faculty/staff for their commitment to the academy. He further acknowledged the impact of the work being done in the community. He encouraged everyone to pause and reflect on the work of the people who continue to nurture and educate our scholars. He emphasized the power of unity which fosters relationship building which equates to scholars feeling loved and getting the support they need.

He asked everyone to look ahead with determination as we position for greater achievement.

Board Chair Gray charged the Board of Directors to show gratitude to staff; recognition or simply showing up for them goes a long way. He encouraged the board to lead by example in the same commitment to excellence that is asked of the Jumoke team.

He further stated that as we approach the end of year and the joyful holiday season we must continue to work together as we build a brighter future for our scholars.

- Committee Assignments

Board Chair Gray had a robust conversation with each member of the board. This will lead to further governance and growing the board. The CEO/Superintendent asked for confirmation on the committees that the board will represent. Board Chair Gray stated that the committees will include Finance, CEO Evaluation, Governance & Policy and Development & Marketing

- Growing the Board

This will be a continuous effort.

CEO/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

PART A

- November Scholar of the month Recognition
 - Genesis Daley, TED-JAH

Dean DiGennaro presented the scholar of the month award for Thelma Ellis Dickerson's Jumoke Academy Elementary. Genesis joined the Academy in PreK. She has been a model scholar, who lights up the room when she walks in. She tries at every assignment and is a safety patrol member and is a great representation of the 3R's.

- Emmanuel Harding, JAH-SMaRT

Principal Green presented SMaRT scholar of the month 5th grader Emmanuel. He has consistently performed well. During SMaRT's awards ceremony he crossed the stage multiple times. He works to support his peers and is a model for other scholars.

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- Adrianna Ferguson, JAH-HC

Principal Gibson presented the scholar of the month award for Jumoke Academy Honors at the Hartford Conservatory. Adrianna is dedicated to learning; she comes to class prepared with her binder. She is very focused on academic success. She stops in at the principal's office daily.

The CEO/Superintendent presented gift bags to all scholars and encouraged them to continue to strive for excellence in all things. Board Chair Gray congratulated the scholars and parents for their hard work and commitment to excellence.

Board Chair Gray asked for a motion for the adjournment of the meeting. Board Member Sutherland made a motion, and this was seconded by Board Member Acosta and all members of the board confirmed at 6:13 p.m. for scholar and family transition. The meeting was called back to order at 6:17 pm.

PART B

- District Updates
 - District Report
 - Heritage Gala

The Jumoke Academy Heritage Gala is scheduled for Friday, March 28th at 7 p.m. at The Russell in downtown Hartford. This signature event will be held in recognition of scholars, staff and our community. The cost of each ticket is \$95 which will increase to \$135 after December 16th. The Academy will need to sell 209 tickets to break-even and anything earned after that is profit. Board Member Stewart asked for the cost per couple. The cost is \$250 per couple.

Board Member Smith-Winfrey asked what ticket price was used to determine ticket cost. The Finance Director stated that historical data from the previous galas was used. Board Member Smith-Winfrey asked for current ticket sales. The Finance Director stated that one gold sponsorship was sold as well as several tickets. Additionally, two advertisement pages sold.

There are 4 levels of sponsorship: platinum for \$5,000, gold for \$3000, silver for \$2000 and bronze for \$1,000.

There are board members working behind the scenes to support and assist with planning and sponsorship purchase for the gala. The Ask letter and Sponsor Levels will be shared with the entire board. Members of the board may personalize the Ask Letter as needed.

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Board Member Stewart asked if the gala information will be shared with previous board members. The CEO/Superintendent confirmed that the information will be shared with past members of the board.

Board Chair Gray asked that each member of the board give verbal pledges. The CEO/Superintendent stated that we have two additional people who will sponsor. Board Chair Gray stated that for everyone who makes a verbal pledge we must follow up in writing. He further asked if additional board members may attend the gala committee meeting. The CEO/Superintendent asked members of the board to reach out via email if they would like to join the meeting. The price for each advertisement is shared with members of the board. We can exceed last year's sale on advertising space in the gala booklet.

Members of the board can help by securing advertisements, sponsoring a table, selling tickets, attending the gala and promoting the event. Board Member Sutherland asked if social media marketing is being used to promote the gala. The CEO/Superintendent stated that a template will be given to members of the board to share within their network.

Board Member Smith-Winfree stated that she will reach out to each board member within the next 7 days to ascertain how much they will pledge. Board Chair Gray pledged \$1,000 at the bronze level.

■ Enrollment Campaign

The CEO/Superintendent stated that the Academy will continue with the ongoing enrollment process, which starts in February. The application portal is open, and families can register throughout the year. The website is automatically geared towards enrollment, the street team campaign is still active, the Academy is being promoted through word of mouth, building tours and school visits will also continue this year. We have had huge success with our social media campaign, NBC feature spot will be resurrected for this academic year. These are streamed across multiple platforms. We plan to be strategic about our enrollment process as we seek to address the gap.

The board can support this initiative through the development. Additionally, experiences with small groups can take place at home by bringing in alumni to share their Jumoke experience with prospective families.

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Board Chair Gray asked that an update on the enrollment pulse be provided in a future board meeting. The CEO/Superintendent stated that we are a little under 600 though historically we have been over 700. We need to do a better job of retaining scholars that are leaving.

Board Member Sutherland asked if families share their reasons for leaving.

The Student Support Services Director stated that families shared that they want more sports activities, some want closer bus transportation to where they live, and many are leaving the state. The CEO/Superintendent stated that this data will be shared at a future board meeting.

- D.C. Education Summit
 - Impact of New Administration

Board Chair Gray stated that he is concerned about what the education system looks like under the new administration. The CEO/Superintendent attended the education summit: The Power of Innovation and was in the presence of policy makers. There were lots of discussions about how we need to brace ourselves. There were several republican governors who were present, but they could not answer those questions directly related to the pending change in the education climate.

The CEO/Superintendent stated that this will have a major impact on choice schools and charter schools. The resounding message for the policy makers was how their decision will impact charter schools. There are indicators that the new administration will push for AI use in schools. The question is are we prepared to work with scholars with AI technology. We must better prepare our scholars to foster that work. One of our goals as a district is pushing Next Frontier Industries. Our goal is to bring more of those experiences to our scholars.

- CAP Update

Corrective Action Plan (CAP) - the leadership team met with the CSDE board of education to discuss the academy's CAP plan. On December 20th we will need to submit another update of the plan. The state requires very detailed information. The plan includes Math, ELA, Chronic Absenteeism and Certification Compliance.

Board Chair Gray asked if there were any concerns. The CEO/Superintendent stated that the state goals for improvements are extremely high and detailed. Board Chair Gray asked that the Academy maintain transparency for the board.

PART C

Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

- Academic Update

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Theme: Leveling the Playing Field for Scholars' Success

■ Filling the Teachers' Toolbox

The tools to be provided to teachers to fill their toolboxes have been an important aspect of ensuring scholar success. There are four areas for supporting teachers' success; these include Instructional resources in all core classes along with pacing guides. A lesson plan template is provided for teachers. Teachers are not traditional educators, meaning they may have another degree but are non-certified in the area they are endorsed to teach. The use of AVI systems helps with keeping rigor. All classrooms are equipped with smartboards. Social workers have groups that they work with. The way in which teachers set up classrooms is important to ensure scholars are learning.

The Academy currently has 4 teachers working towards certification. Additionally, we have a consultant who will be working with teachers to support their professional development. The professional development is to ensure teachers are equipped with the necessary resources to effectively execute classroom learning.

District leaders provide walkthroughs and feedback to teachers to support areas of improvement. Building leaders also do their own walkthroughs to evaluate teachers' performance and in doing so increase scholar learning outcome.

Board Member Lester asked what feedback we receive from the school.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that there's a lot of data. Board Member Lester asked if suggestions can be given to the teachers as to what are the best materials to use.

The Chief Academic Officer confirmed that a lot of materials are provided to teachers which includes state recommendations.

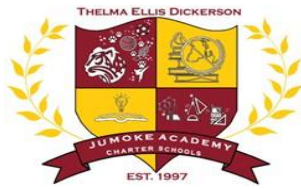
Board Member Acosta added that she was part of the curriculum planning committee and recognized that the pacing guide helps to support teachers' success with lesson planning and execution.

CONSENT AGENDA

- November Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- September & October 2024 Financial Statements

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

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

- Audit Update

2022-23 and 2023-24 single audit is being worked on and the deadline for completion is January 25th. The Finance Office is responsive to requests for Information and files from the auditors.

- 2024-25 Financial/Budget Update

The breakdown of expenditures is shared with members of the board.

E-rate federal funded service program has reimbursed the Academy for telecommunication costs.

- Investment & Credit Expansion Proposal

The Business/Finance Office opened a community credit card which gives us 1% reward earnings and with a yield of up to \$500 monthly.

The Business/Finance Office is waiting for a proposal to move operating income to investment.

The Academy has an outstanding 5-year term mortgage with Bank of America which could possibly be transferred to Liberty Bank. If the decision is made to transfer this mortgage it would be for 10-year and result in a decrease in interest rate by 0.04% along with a savings of just under \$20,000. At this time it's best to stay with Bank of America. Liberty bank will increase our cash flow but result in a longer payment plan, while Bank of America, if paid off in 5 years, would result in a 47% reduction in interest rate.

Board Chair Gray asked if the Academy had a competitive bidding process. Board Chair Gray asked that this goes through an extensive bidding process with at least 3 different companies.

The CEO/Superintendent confirmed that the Academy has a competitive bidding process.

Board Member Stewart stated that he is concerned about the \$300,000 plus additional interest.

The Director of Finance shared the comparison of investment opportunities.

The CEO/Superintendent stated that this stems from recommendations given by the auditing firm. Webster Bank has a potential earning of \$10,000 at a 4% interest rate and Liberty bank has a potential earning of just over \$10,000 at 4.25% interest rate. Board Member Stewart stated that it could result in \$20,000 earnings guaranteed for 5 months.

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He also stated that the 4.25% at 3-months with Liberty Bank is competitive.

Board Member Lester asked that the Academy investigate the Capital One high yield savings account as an option.

- 325 Renovations Update

The renovation project is 74% completed. As of today the estimated date for completion is 12/27.2024. Photos of the renovation project are shared with the board. The Academy has scheduled weekly walkthroughs for the leadership team.

Board Members Stewart and Lester applauded the efforts of the current Business/Finance team and acknowledged that there has been a vast improvement in the workflow and completion.

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

- There was no building sub-committee report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- There was no executive session.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- School Goals & Alignment
- Teacher Leadership Evaluation

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Gray requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, a motion was made by Board Member Debeatham-Brown and seconded by Board Member Stewart, there were no abstentions or oppositions, and the vote carried unanimously. The Jumoke Academy Board of Directors Meeting concluded at 7:17 pm.

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