

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

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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

The following board members, constituting a quorum, and Jumoke Academy Staff were in attendance:

Board members:

Myron Stewart, Vice Chair/Treasurer/Community Representative
Dr. Kerwin Low, Community Representative
Vera Smith-Winfrey, Community Representative, Fundraising
George Sutherland, Community Representative
Leticia Acosta, Teacher Representative
Sonserae Cicero, Community Representative
Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Community Representative
Janelle Lester (Zoom), Community Representative/Finance Sub-Committee

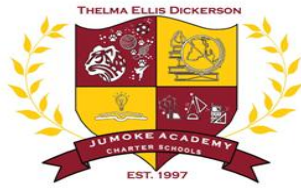
Superintendent Troy A. Monroe
Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall
Sheryl Deloso
Sharron Solomon-McCarthy
Lawrence Jeune
Tanisha Lewis
Latoya Johnson
Kashay Green
Anthony DiGennaro
Natalie Best
Sheila Osborn (Zoom)

OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Stewart who was facilitating the board meeting in Board Chair Gray's absence. There were no public comments.

Vice Chair Stewart welcomed members of the board, parents, scholars and faculty/staff to the meeting.

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BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Mr. Myron Steward, Vice Chair

- Opening Remarks

Vice Chair Gray recognized Mrs. Lewis for her three years of dedicated service. Superintendent Monroe also expressed gratitude on behalf of himself and the district, thanking her for her commitment and contributions. Mrs. Lewis has set a new standard of excellence, always striving for the best for the academy and its scholars, staff, and supporters. In appreciation, Superintendent Monroe presented her with flowers and a recognition plaque.

- Welcome New Board Members

The board welcomes our two new board members, Dr. Kerwin Low & Sonserae Cicero.

- 2025 McLeod Society Fellowship

Superintendent Monroe updated the board as he was inducted into the 2025 McLeod Society Fellowship. The McLeod Society, named after Mary McLeod Bethune, honors her legacy in founding Bethune-Cookman University and advocating for quality education for African American students. Supported by Black Minds Matter, The McLeod Society identifies and supports Black school founders and leaders while promoting School Choice and advocacy for Black and Brown children. Superintendent Monroe is honored to have applied, interviewed, and been accepted. Congratulations to Superintendent Monroe!

CEO/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

PART A

- December Scholar of the month Recognition

- Cristin Mitchell, TED-JAH

Mr. DiGenna presented the Scholar of the Month Cristen Mitchell. He stated that even as a first year Pre-K student Cristen has exemplified everything, we want out of a Jumoke Scholar. Her teacher speaks of her being able to model not only how to walk in the halls but also how to work at play stations, being a good friend and helping everyone out. She is constantly a model in every area in the school which translates over to her academic work where she has mastered all her alphabet, all her numbers 1 through 20 and writing her name independently, she is an outstanding version of what we want all scholars to exemplify at Jumoke Academy.

- Brooke Johnson, JAH-SMaRT

Principal Green presented the Scholar of the Month Brooke Johnson, for Jumoke Academy Honors SMaRT. Brooke is very humble; she is the epitome of what we look for in a JAH-Smart scholar. She excels academically and is an active member of the student council and drumline, her mother is parent support. This is a scholar and family who give everything.

- Lianthone Walcott, JAH-HC

Lianthone Walcott was unable to attend the board meeting, we will make sure she gets her proper recognition, certificate and gift bag.

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

The meeting was recessed at 6:12 p.m. to allow scholars and parents to transition from the room and resumed at 6:17 p.m.

PART B

- District Updates
 - Board Recruitment
 - Parent interest - Orlando Lawrence

Mr. Orlando Lawrence, a long-time Jumoke Academy Parent, has expressed interest in serving as a parent liaison to the board. He has 24 years of IT experience, currently works as an IT Audit Manager, and holds an MBS in Finance, MS, and MBS in Management & Business Technology with several certifications. His expertise in IT would be valuable to the board. The Governance Committee will review his application more thoroughly.

Vice Chair Steward asked if Mr. Lawrence's resume was shared with new board members. Superintendent Monroe confirmed it was emailed and included in their packet.

- Jumoke Academy Board of Trustees Profile

Superintendent Monroe thanked the board for reviewing the profile and providing feedback. Chairman Gray has previously assigned board members to the Governance Committee, which will refine these recommendations before finalizing the document.

Key takeaways include the following:

- Increase alumni engagement to support fundraising, mentorship, and college/career connections.
- Include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to better track student progress and school effectiveness.
- Establish a board giving threshold with a matching contribution from outside donors.
- Clarify the Governance Committee's role and set clear expectations.

No questions or concerns were raised

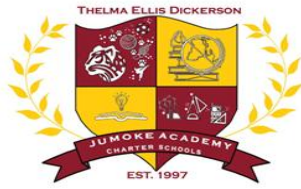
- Enrollment Season Updates
 - 4th to 5th Grade Middle School Tours

4th-grade students recently visited 5th grade campuses to explore Hartford Conservatory and the SMaRT campus, helping them and their parents make an informed decision about middle school

- Marketing Efforts/Commercial

Our commercial was on during Super Bowl Weekend and ran on Telemundo, it continues airing on NBC affiliates through May.

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- Outreach to Community Based Agencies

A small team is canvassing local organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club, Women's League, and other community agencies. These grassroots efforts continue to promote Jumoke Academy and attract new families.

- Gala Support

Superintendent Monroe thanked the board for their ongoing support and encouraged additional contributions. We continue to receive additional auction items.

- Clarification of February 14, 2025, Office for Civil Rights' Dear Colleague Letter - State of CT

The Office for Civil Rights issued a "Dear Colleague Letter" clarifying state guidelines on DEI programming and federal funding.

Key Points include:

- Federal Funds cannot be revoked without due process, including hearings.
- Schools are not required to eliminate DEI programs within 14 days, as some initially thought.
- Schools must avoid Title VI violations, which prohibit preferential treatment based on DEI measures.

Superintendent Monroe assured us we are compliant with all guidelines and states that legal counsel will be consulted as needed.

- 2025 McLeod Society Fellowship Update & SXSW EDU Panel

During his fellowship, Superintendent Monroe learned about the Educational Choice for Children's Act, which aims to create a federal scholarship tax credit for donors supporting independent and charter schools. The goal is to make funding more accessible to micro, independent, and charter schools through Scholarship Growth Organizations (SGOs, including Schools Choice). Superintendent Monroe also participated in a panel discussion at SXSW EDU titled "Why Former Public School Teachers Are Leaving to Launch Schools." He shared insights as a leader in a predominantly Black and Brown charter school, offering perspective on School Choice, Leadership Challenges, and best practices for aspiring school founders.

PART C

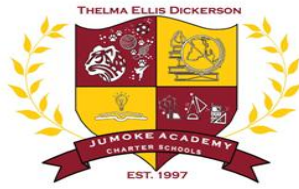
- Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

Theme: Leveling the Playing Field for Scholars' Success

- State Competition Spelling Bee - A scholar participated in the State Spelling Bee and tied for 28th place statewide.
- Mother/Daughter Brunch – In honor of Women's History Month, the district hosted a Mother/Daughter Brunch with activities and refreshments
- Black History Month Activities – Several Black History Month activities took place, including a poetry and rap competition. Scholars submitted a 3-minute video featuring at least five notable

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African Americans and their impact on society. The top three entries were shown at the meeting.

- Competition Prizes & Gala Presentation – Board members pooled resources to increase prize amounts:
 - 1st Place: \$300
 - 2nd Place: \$200
 - 3rd Place: \$100

Vice Chair Stewart suggested showcasing the videos at the Gala and using them for recruitment. Chief Academic Officer Gordon-Hall will send the voting link; all votes must be submitted by Sunday at midnight.

- Bobby Gibson, Jr., Principal – Principal Gibson was unable to present due to an unexpected commitment. He will be rescheduled for the April board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- February Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - Motion passed to accept minutes from the February meeting; Board Member Smith-Winfrey moved, Board Member Sutherland seconded, no opposition.
 - Vice Chair Stewart asked if Board Member Lester was on the Zoom to vote, she responded with yes.
- January 2025 Financial Statements
 - Motion passed to accept the January Financial Statements; Board Member Smith Winfree moved, Board Member Debeathen-Brown seconded, all in favor, no opposition.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

- Annual Audit Update and results – Finance Committee Meeting on March 5th was attended by Vice Chair Stewart and Board Member Lester
 - Revised 2022-23 Audit – A single audit was required because of expenditures exceeding \$750k, additional audit procedures were completed.
 - Modified opinion received.
 - No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified.
 - No non-compliance issues with financial statements.
 - Overall, a clean audit.
- Financial/Budget Update; summary of Federal Awards Audit
 - Finding 1 (NO.2023-001): Material weakness in Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

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- Finding 2 (NO.2023-002): Significant deficiency in Reporting & Annual Audit Submission.
- Criteria, causes, effects, and management's response were read to the board.

Discussion & Clarifications:

Vice Chair Stewart questioned why this issue wasn't identified earlier.

Superintendent Monroe clarified that the audit firm is responsible for identifying and submitting the audit.

The Director of Finance stated the single audit wasn't done earlier because reported expenditure was initially below \$750k.

Audits must be completed within 9 months, the due date was March 31, 2024, conditions were not submitted on time.

The Director of Finance stated that the corrections have been made; FY 22-23 is officially closed; all reports were submitted to CSDE and FY 23-24 is also completed.

Vice Chair Stewart asked if everything is now clear.

The Director of Finance responded that yes, no outstanding issues with CSDE

Director of Finance Report: 24-25 Financial Update:

- Revenues 68% received of budget
- expenditures 58% of the budget spent
- 53.6% of education instruction spent
- School-Base Administration 64.6% spent

A comparison chart showed contrasting revenue and expenditures for 23-24 vs 24-25. The differences include federal grants, explanations for discrepancies in 24-25 and Special Education billing: in 24-25, monthly billing was done instead of end of the year like in previous years.

The next comparison chart was shown analyzing expenditure comparisons from 23-24 vs 24-25.

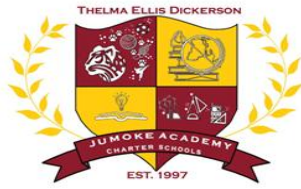
Instructional Service Improvements increased in 24-25.

Plant services/operations maintenance was lower this year as we had fewer repairs

Facilities Acquisition/Construction increased due to 325 Blue Hills construction.

- 325 Renovations Project Update
 - 100% complete.
 - Certificate of occupancy issued.
 - All paperwork has been cleared up with contractors.
 - We will have a Ribbon cutting scheduled for some time in April.
- Gala Sponsorship/Ticket Sales
 - Ticket sales initially were at 54%, now at 69%, we are close to the goal.

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Vice Chair Stewart asked about outstanding finances from other districts (a question from the last meeting).

The Director of Finance responded that we're planning to involve Attorney Chinni to help collect funds.

Vice Chair Stewart asked if everything is current now.

Superintendent Monroe responded "Yes, everything is up to date."

Director of Finance included that we are Billed up to January, and all districts have paid.

No further questions or concerns

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

- None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Proposed budget SY 2025-2026
- Proposed SY 2025-2026 Academic Calendar
- Summer Programming

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Board Member DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Teacher Representative Acosta; meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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