



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, January 13, 2026
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Board Members in attendance:

Myron Stewart
Leticia Acosta
George Sutherland
Vera Smith-Winfree
Orlando Lawrence
Sonserae Cicero
Dr. Kerwin Low

Faculty & Staff:

Dr. Troy Monroe
Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall
Sheryl Deloso
Sharron Solomon-McCarthy
Anthony DiGennaro
Principal Bobby Gibson, Jr.
Principal Kashay Green
Ana Marcil
Robert Howard
Nakita Crossley
Natalie Best
Shantal Campbell-Rousseau

OPENING

Mr. Myron Stewart, Vice Chair

The meeting is called to order by Vice Chair Stewart at 6:00 p.m., he welcomes the parents and students for their attendance, and he notes that this is the first meeting of 2026.

- Welcome/Public Comments

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Mr. Myron Stewart, Vice Chair

- Opening Remarks; a video was shown representing the halfway mark of the school year.

Jumoke Academy will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability including, but not limited to, blindness, (unless such disability, even with reasonable accommodation, prevents the applicant from being able to perform the work involved), or in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut. Further, Jumoke Academy will not retaliate against or condone retaliation against any person or group of persons who oppose actions, treatment or conduct that they believe to be discriminatory.



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CEO/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

PART A

- December Scholar of the month Recognition
 - Darren Lawrence - TED-JAH – Recognized by Dean DiGennaro
 - Aidyn Turton - JAH-SMaRT – Recognized by Principal Green
 - Jilani Harrington - JAH-HC – Recognized by Principal Gibson

Superintendent Monroe acknowledges the scholar of the month and presents them with their certificates and gift bags; he also encourages the scholars to continue their pursuit of excellence in all things.

- Special Staff Recognition PTC Participant
 - Shantae Campbell-Rousseau – Recognized by Superintendent Monroe

Superintendent Monroe elects to highlight staff recognition. In 2022, the district competed for a grant from the Yass Prize Foundation, with Chief Academic Officer Gordon-Hall and Superintendent Monroe seeking funding, which we used to create a Pathways to Teacher Certification program. This program supports staff members, many of whom were academic assistants or individuals who were unable to complete their teaching credentials but were interested in becoming teachers. During the pandemic, these staff members played a critical role in supporting students, maintaining instruction, and sustaining academic progress despite widespread staffing challenges. Their dedication inspired the creation of this program. Since 2022, two cohorts have participated, and this evening we are proud to recognize the first graduate of the inaugural cohort.

A certificate recognizing exceptional dedication to academic and professional excellence was presented, signed by Chief Academic Officer Gordon-Hall and Superintendent Monroe. Appreciation was expressed for the recipient's commitment to promoting Jumoke Academy and for her work with scholars, including her contributions at the Harvard Conservatory. She was also presented with a special Jumoke Academy Excellence pin, commissioned several years ago, and encouraged to wear it with pride.

Superintendent Monroe confirms that this concludes part A of the Superintendent's report.

A motion to adjourn at 6:12 pm was called by vice chair Myron Stewart, board member Vera Smith-Winfree moved, no objections and all were in favor. The meeting was called back to order at 6:21 p.m.

PART B

- District Updates;
 - Corrective Action Plan Goals Review: The district revisited the corrective action plan in response to a question from Vice Chair Stewart regarding target areas. The district remains under a three-year corrective action plan that began in 2023 and will be reviewed by the State Department of Education in 2026. Focus areas include improving student achievement in English language arts and mathematics, reducing chronic absenteeism, and achieving 100% teacher certification compliance.

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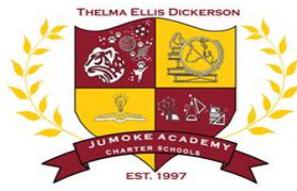


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- State-set performance targets were reviewed, noting that data collection was paused during the pandemic and resumed in 2021–2022. Despite pandemic disruptions, the state did not adjust expectations, resulting in increased and ambitious targets for ELA and math. District performance has remained relatively stable, while targets for 2025–2026 continue to rise in both subject areas. A question was raised regarding the targets and how charter schools fare relative to these targets. An action item was posed, we will inquire how the state sets the SS targets and report back to the board.
- Scholar Attendance Update – Director of Student Support Services, Mrs. Sharron Solomon-McCarthy presented an update on chronic absenteeism, emphasizing that improving ELA and math outcomes depends on scholars being present. The state defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more of the school year. Following pandemic-related increases, Jumoke Academy reduced chronic absenteeism from 36.5% in 2021–2022 to 20% last year, a 10.1% improvement, though still above the state target.
- Districtwide and school-based attendance teams continue to implement outreach, home visits, family communication, professional development, and tiered interventions. Efforts align with the state’s “School Is Better with You” initiative. The Student Support Services Director Mrs. McCarthy concluded that consistent attendance is critical to scholars’ academic progress, social-emotional development, and overall success.
- Human Resources Update – Human Resources Manager, Mrs. Ana Marcil
- An update was provided on staff certification data submitted to the State last month, emphasizing the importance of certified teaching staff and their impact on scholar achievement. As of October 2025, the district has 52 teaching staff, reflecting 100% certification coverage. Of this total, 50% hold full certification (initial or professional).
- The remaining certifications include long-term substitute authorizations (23%), charter school educator permits (6%), provisional certificates (4%), temporary emergency certificates (3%), and resident educator permits (2%). No DSAP permits are currently active, as renewals are pending completion of required Praxis exams. Approximately 12% of staff certifications remain in progress. The district continues to work closely with the State Bureau of Certification with the goal of achieving full compliance by the end of the school year.
- Gala Update: Superintendent Monroe shared that the upcoming gala will take place on March 28 at the Society Room in Hartford. Appreciation was extended to board members who pledged support at the previous meeting, including those who have already submitted contributions. Board members were encouraged to continue promoting the event within their networks.
- Several sponsorships have been secured, with additional sponsorship discussions currently underway. Updates will be shared at the next board meeting as commitments are finalized. Ticket sales remain a priority, and planning efforts continue to ensure a successful event. Financial projections and event metrics will be updated as new information becomes available.
- Board members were invited to share any questions or concerns related to the gala.
- Marketing/Engagement Updates

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- Holiday Music Video Collaboration
 - Superintendent Monroe provided an update on a unique opportunity previously shared with the Board involving select scholars who participated in a holiday music video collaboration with InHale Studios. The project evolved from a short music video into a full film short, and the producer invited Jumoke Academy to participate. The collaboration was viewed as both a marketing opportunity for the Academy and an experiential learning opportunity for scholars, particularly in understanding film production, entertainment careers, and performance.
 - The film short, which expanded to approximately 25–27 minutes, premiered for scholars last Friday and featured Jumoke Academy scholars alongside professional child actors and performers. Scholars had the opportunity to see themselves represented in the production, which was well received. The film short will be shared with Board members via email or messaging for viewing at their convenience, and a brief trailer was introduced as part of the presentation.

PART C

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

- Curriculum & Instruction

Theme: From Access to Achievement Empowering All Scholars for Excellence

- Academic Update: An academic update was provided by Chief Academic Office Gordon-Hall, noting that an academic newsletter had already been shared detailing current initiatives across the district. Tomorrow will be an early dismissal day to allow for a districtwide teacher planning session. Additionally, the upcoming MLK Brunch is scheduled for next Saturday. No further updates were reported.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was called to accept the Consent Agenda which reflects the December Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the November 2025 Financial Statements at 7:04, by Board Member Vera Smith-Winfrey, Board Member Sutherland seconded, all were in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

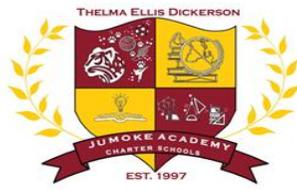
- December Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- November 2025 Financial Statements

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

- Audit & Compliance:
 - An update was provided on audit, compliance, and budget matters by the Director of Finance Mrs. Deloso. A Finance Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, January 7, attended by Ms. Leslie Roseman, and Board Members Mr. Myron Stewart, Ms. Janelle Lester, Mr. Rodney Nedd.

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- The annual audit remains in progress, with active collaboration occurring between the Director of Finance Mrs. Deloso and the auditor. Required documentation, including EFS reporting, fixed assets, contributions, accounts receivable, and accounts payable, has been reviewed and submitted. The auditor indicated that a draft audit report is expected next week.
- Compliance reporting updates confirmed that all EFS and EGMS submissions have been completed, certified, and accepted, with no outstanding items. These reports cover federal, state, and private funding and are audited annually.
- Budget/Financial Update
 - As of November, financial performance reflects revenues at 44.48% and expenses at 42.74%, resulting in a 2% surplus. Variance analysis showed higher-than-planned spending in plant services (68.07%) and student support services (52.26%), largely due to advance payments for contracted services. Under-utilization was noted in instructional expenses (37.7%) and special education expenses (34.04%), which are expected to balance out by year-end.
 - Target monthly benchmarks were reviewed, with projections indicating a potential year-end deficit. Strategies are being implemented to increase revenue and manage expenses accordingly. Cash management strategies, including interest-bearing accounts, were discussed, and additional options suggested by Board Member Rodney Nedd will be explored.
 - Grant and funding updates showed a utilization rate increase from 21.12% in October to 69.7% in November. Approximately 60% of remaining grant balances are associated with ARPA health funds. The recent hiring of a BCBA, funded through ARPA mental health funds, is expected to support full grant utilization by June 30.
 - Projected financials for the remainder of the year indicate full (100%) grant utilization with a projected deficit. Mitigation strategies include cost control, delaying nonessential expenses, maximizing grant usage, and pursuing additional funding opportunities.

Motion was passed to adjourn meeting by Vice Chair Stewart at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Board Member Smith-Winfrey, all were in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

- None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- None

ADJOURNMENT

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