

# 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, December 9, 2025**

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

**Meeting ID: 850 8935 3172**

**Passcode: V62RbA**

### **Board Members present:**

Sam Gray  
Orlando Lawrence  
Suzette DeBeatham-Brown  
George Sutherland  
Soncerae Cicero  
Myron Stewart  
Vera Smith-Winfree  
Rodney Nedd  
Dr. Kerwin Low

### **Staff present:**

Dr. Troy Monroe  
Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall  
Sheryl Deloso  
Ana Marcil  
Sharron Solomon-McCarthy  
Anthony DiGennaro  
Dr. Latoya Johnson  
Kashay Green  
Bobby Gibson, Jr.  
Danielle Ramiz  
Lawrence Jeune

### **Special Guest:**

Dr. Konnie Rattley; Hartford Public School

Meeting is called to order by Sam Gray at 6:00 pm. Board Chair Gray calls the meeting to order, welcomes the parents and students for their attendance.

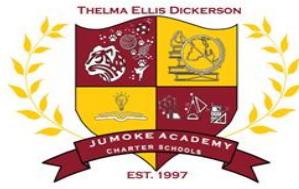
### **OPENING**

- Welcome/Public Comments

Board Chair Gray inquires if there are any public comments, none posed.

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

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## **BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS**

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

### ■ Opening Remarks

Board Chair Gray thanks everyone for being in attendance and for their continued commitment to our scholars, families and community. As we gather today, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our leadership team, our educators, and our staff who remain dedicated to the safe, engaging and academically rigorous environment where all scholars' efforts do not go unnoticed and we deeply appreciate all you do. Tonight's agenda reflects our focus on strengthening our academic outcomes, maintaining operational excellence and ensuring we are moving forward strategically and responsibly. I encourage open dialog, thoughtful discussion and collaboration as we conduct the business of the board. At this time, I would like to open the floor to any public comments. Board chair Gray acknowledges that there are no public comments. Superintendent Monroe acknowledges that we have a guest from Hartford Public Schools this evening. Board Chair Gray acknowledges Mrs. Konnie Rattley from Hartford Public Schools at which time she introduces herself.

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

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

### **PART A**

Superintendent Monroe welcomes all of our guests to the meeting.

Dr. Monroe welcomes the newest board members, Rodney Nedd and Orlando Lawrence.

### ■ November Scholar of the month Recognition

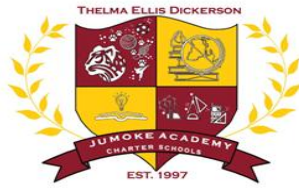
- Ke'nyla Robinson - TED-JAH – Dean DiGennerro introduces Ke'nyla to the board
- Joel Patterson - JAH-SMaRT – Principal Green introduces Joel to the board
- Cameron McCalop - JAH-HC – Principal Gibson introduces Cameron

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

Board Chair Gray congratulates the scholars and their parents and thanks them for attending the meeting.

A motion to adjourn at 6:11 pm was called by board chair Gray, board member DeBeatham-Brown moved, and board member Sutherland seconded the motion, no discussion and all were in favor, and there were no objections. The meeting was called back to order at 6:15 pm. Superintendent Monroe announces a special acknowledgment to Vera Smith-Winfree for her commitment to Jumoke Academy, he then provides her with a certificate of appreciation from Jumoke Academy Charter School.

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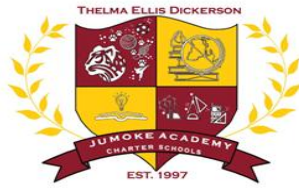
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## **PART B**

- District Updates:
  - Superintendent Monroe continues by addressing the Corrective Action Plan pre-meeting which was held the previous Tuesday with the State of Connecticut. The members of the district leadership team that were in attendance included Director of Student Support Services, Mrs. Solomon-McCarthy, Human Resources Manager, Mrs. Marcil, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Gordon-Hall and Superintendent Monroe. We are preparing for the Corrective Action Plan monitoring meeting to take place tomorrow. The purpose of the call was to prepare us, the state wanted to make sure that we knew that we were in a turnaround district status which we discussed at the last meeting. The state would like us to prepare how we are addressing student achievement which we were planning to do as a part of the Corrective Action Plan monitoring. A lot of the work is intended to begin in September of 2026; we are already in the process of working toward this goal. They wanted to remind us that our focus is on ELA, Mathematics, Attendance and staff certification, making improvements inroads in those areas of focus. We are expected to highlight our strengths and areas of growth as measured by interim data. They are requesting that we be prepared to explain what stands out in grade level test data and what strategies appear to be most effective, and to provide the desired outcomes. The question is, are we getting the desired results from the things that we have in place? They have a keen interest in how we are changing the adult practice, what are the things we are doing to change the adult practice in and around the district? Not just with faculty and staff but also working with the board, parents and all adults in our community. Additionally, how are we developing staff capacity, how are we monitoring instruction and is our professional development aligned and how do we know? We can answer and address all these questions; there is not anything here that we are not prepared to speak to tomorrow. I can say that we have seen some growth, albeit not as much as we would like in certain areas. There has been growth in staff certification and authorizations, reducing chronic absenteeism, and there has been small growth particularly in ELA in the district at certain grade levels. We know we have challenges in Math, we know we have challenges in science and other content areas, we understand this. So, we will be prepared to talk about our plans and address these issues, this is a part of their monitoring process. We will keep you informed on how that goes and what has come out of the meetings when we return to our next board meeting. Vice Chair Stewart inquires if there is a goal established or percentages of increases that we must meet? Superintendent Monroe advises that he will bring the percentages of increases at the next meeting.
  - Gala Update: We had a black Friday ticket sale, not sure if the board was aware of it. Ms. Renton shared the information in detail and included some for the things we are doing to have sale success. Superintendent Monroe wanted to highlight that we are trying to push participation at this year's annual gala which will be held on March 28, 2026, it is a Saturday at the Society Room in Hartford, CT. To date, the total proceeds so far are 5%. We need to sell tickets and need maximum participation. Most importantly, Superintendent Monroe has asked the board for soft introductions for at least one member of your professional and/or personal network. Superintendent Monroe recalls that the topic of table captains was brought up at the last board meeting, he asks that we have a commitment from board members to be table captains for a 10-

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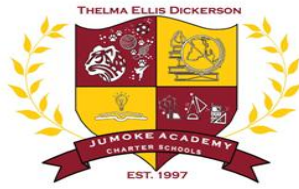
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person table. Board Chair Gray said he would take a table as well as board members Nedd, DeBeatham-Brown, Dr. Low, Stewart, and Sutherland. Board member Smith-Winfree asks what the breakeven is and if parking is included, it does not offer a special staff/faculty price and parking is not included in the price of the ticket. We have increased the price by \$5; the price will increase over time until the actual event. Board member Smith-Winfree asks what the plan is for contacting the sponsors from last year. Superintendent Monroe advises that the plan is to contact the previous sponsors, he has already been in contact with two thus far and has another meeting coming up next week. Superintendent Monroe states that he is personally involved with the process of reaching out to individuals for sponsorships. A questions was asked "have they received any documentation regarding the gala". The Communications Manager, Ms. Renton, responded that yes; they have received documentation and a packet with all the sponsorship tiers and opportunities. We will bring back previous auction items from last year that weren't sold and add them to this year's items. If you have auction items, please provide.

## ■ Marketing/Engagement Updates

- Monthly Minutes with Monroe: There are several things we continue to do to market and engage with our community of parents and supporters. We continue to do Monthly Minutes with Monroe, spotlighting the ongoing Zoom and community members. Principals are giving updates on what is happening in and around their campuses. We also have guests periodically that come on and speak for around 15 minutes and then we have a Q&A afterwards, the meeting is typically for an hour. We continue to address our needs and provide information to parents and our community who need to know. The next one on December 18, 2025, I've been toying around with perhaps a new idea, I may reach out to two or three of the board members. I would love to have you one evening to do a fireside chat about who you are, your experiences, your background, why are you on the board, what are you looking to contribute, and what are some of the issues that you're concerned about in terms of educational issues. It would be good for our community to get an opportunity to know who you all are as board members.
- Jumoke Academy Parent Association meeting: JAPA is back up and running. They have reoccurring meetings which are held at 325 Blue Hills every month. The parents genuinely like the facility, and we are thankful that it is getting utilized. Their general meetings are held every other month, and the leadership meetings are held the opposite month. We continue to have those meetings to engage with them around things that parents need to know, curricular initiatives, any concerns that they may have. On occasion the JAPA board requests specific guests pertaining to the needs of the board.
- Jumoke Journal Newsletter; journal is out, we will send an electronic copy to all the board members.
- Holiday Music Video Collaboration: We had a unique opportunity and are working with a company called In-Hale Studios to present a special holiday music video. They have requested to feature our scholars; permission slips were sent out right before Thanksgiving. The release of the video will come out on December 21, 2025, which we will share with you. Highlight Jumoke Academy and the studio as they are going around the country etc.

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- The Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education – Special Projects (FIPSE-SP) Grant; applied a couple of weeks ago, worked together along with Dr. Johnson and InHale Studios. Trying to secure a grant that concerns innovative contracts for the government including AI. Specifically for organizations like higher education, specific areas of need identified by our government.
- Board chair Gray welcomes Mr. Lawrence to his first meeting

## **PART C**

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

- Curriculum & Instruction

### **Theme: From Access to Achievement Empowering All Scholars for Excellence**

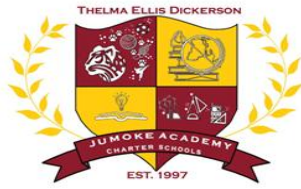
- Academic Update:
- Black Genius Infinite Possibilities Series, we had our first event last Thursday, over 99 people RSVP'd and only around 30 showed up. We had three male doctors of color Zoom in for the opening session. Then we had two breakout sessions with EMTs and a Radiology Technician. It was a ton of hands-on learning, at the end we had some giveaways we were very encouraged to see our scholars participate so freely. The scholars are looking forward to the next one which is in February around the topic of social media.
- As far as the turnaround status update, Principal Green and Chief Academic Officer Gordon-Hall attended the CSDE Overview session last Friday. It was a very informative meeting, we understand how we are identified. Certain things were mentioned during the meeting that again still have me questioning our status because one important thing they stressed is for each group that you identify, you should have at least 20 students, we do not have 20 students at the high school but do have a few scholars that have moved to Achievement First. We are moving forward with our plan, turnaround plan is due September 1, 2026, aligning the plan with the Corrective Action Plan and all other plans as well. Last thing is understanding the needs of our teachers, what we are seeing when we go through walkthroughs in the classroom, one big focus is on the lesson plan struggles as we have a lot of non-traditional teachers in the classrooms. Dean DiGennaro, the chair of our professional development committee and Chief Academic Office Gordon-Hall have decided that we are going to do the necessary switches to our next four professional developments. Board member Sutherland asks how many non-traditional teachers are there? Chief Academic Office Gordon-Hall responds, quite a few have authorization, but we will get that number for you.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Board member Smith-Winfree votes that we accept the November Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the October 2025 Financial Statements. Board member DeBeatham-Brown seconds at 6:49 p.m., Board chair Gray asks if there is any discussion, and if all are in favor, all ayes, no objections, none posed, therefore the motion passed.

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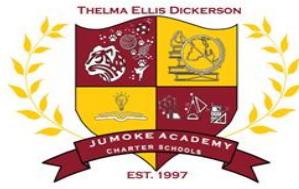
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## DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

- Budget/Financial Update: For the record the finance sub-committee meeting was held on December 3, 2025, present at the meeting was vice-chair Stewart, board member Lester and Mrs. Deloso. The Director of Finance, Mrs. Deloso starts by discussing our financial performance for October as well as the energy project being done at SMaRT. The revenue for October is provided as well as the expenditure and budget. We have a surplus of 9% which will decrease over time. Contributions are strong at over 94% of our budget, not expecting a major contribution. We received a refund from Soliant Health, which we recognize as miscellaneous income. State funding is on track, and we anticipate the third quarter installment. There are no billings yet for Title I and Title II funds, our application is still pending as we just received approval.
- Our expenditure on planned and services is 57% of budget, we continue to monitor these expenditures. Instructional service improvement, the cost dropped after we reclassified the expenses to the correct department. A discussion was held regarding the grand drawdowns; we were unable to receive a refund from the Title I & II funds. There are grant amounts available for a BCBA position and a Behavioral Technician, we worked with "The Missing Piece" for our after-school program. Vice Chair, Stewart inquiries about how we can spend the money we bring in through grants. A discussion was held regarding the shortage of finding special teachers to fill these roles that the grant supports.
- Energy Efficiency Project at JAH-SMaRT: We included a summary proposal in this evening's packet from three different vendors. This upgrade is important for our school because the new sub-units are more beneficial to us as they will help lower utility bills and the funds can be redirected to support our curriculum programs for scholars. We will also meet the environmental standards as our current unit is outdated, there is a financial benefit as we will qualify for the energy incentive. With the new system we will be using eco friendly products, and we won't have to worry about breakdowns. It will also be better and healthier and more productive space for our scholars and staff. We are currently comparing all of the three vendors. First, we have EarthCore which offers the most cost-effective solution, EMF programming is included, with 0% interest financing with Eversource. Comprehensive solution and financing options. FSG is lower cost, but it lacks guaranteed incentives, they are also a partner of EarthCore, when we contacted them, they recommended that we work directly with EarthCore. ESC provides advanced EMF programming, but it is double the cost. Tonight, our Business and Finance Department is asking the board for approval for financing for EarthCore. Request was made to the board to approve 0% interest in financing cost regarding the energy project, the project is for 7 years with a monthly billing of \$1,000.

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- A motion from board member DeBeatham-Brown at 7:03 p.m. stated that we authorize the application for the financing of \$100,000 for the Energy Project, at 0% interest, for 7 years and approve the release of energy incentives from EarthCore. Vice Chair Stewart seconded the motion, all in favor, all aye, no objections, the motion is passed.
- Board chair Gray asked if there was any interest in serving on the finance sub-committee board, board member Nedd raised his hand.

Motion to go into executive session made by Board Chair Gray at 7:08 p.m., with the board only and Superintendent Monroe, Board member DeBeatham-Brown seconds the motions, all are in favor, the motion is carried.

Board chair Gray asks Superintendent Monroe who else should remain in the room for the executive session: Superintendent Monroe provides a friendly amendment requesting all board members, Chief Academic Officer Gordon-Hall, Human Resources Manager Marcil remain in the room for the executive session.

Board member DeBeatham-Brown accepts the friendly amendment to include the board members, Superintendent Monroe, Chief Academic Office Gordon-Hall and Human Resources Manager Marcil to remain for the executive session, which is then seconded by Board member Sutherland, all in favor, aye, any objections, none posed, the motion is carried.

## **BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

- None

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Personal Matter
- Discussion of a document protected by the attorney-client privilege

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

- None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by board member DeBeatham-Brown to come out of executive session at 7:38 p.m., the meeting ended at 7:39 p.m.

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