

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, April 21, 2026
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Board Members in attendance:

Orlando Lawrence
George Sutherland
Leticia Acosta
Vera Smith-Winfree
Sam Gray
Myron Stewart
Rodney Nedd

Board Members on Zoom:

Soncerae Cicero

Faculty & Staff in Attendance:

Dr. Troy A. Monroe
Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall
Sheryl Deloso
Ana Marcil
Sharron Solomon-McCarthy
Dr. Latoya Johnson
Nakitha Crossley
Summer Myles
Natalie Best

Staff on Zoom:

Kiberly Renton

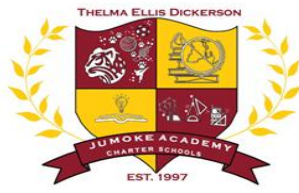
OPENING

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

- Welcome/Public Comments

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gray at 6:01 p.m. Board Chair Gray asked if there were any public comments and welcomed board members, faculty, staff, Superintendent Monroe, the leadership team, families, and community members.

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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BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

Mr. Sam Gray, Board Chair

- Opening Remarks

Board Chair Gray reaffirmed the organization's mission to prepare scholars for success and advance from access to true achievement for every student. He noted that the evening's agenda reflects this focus through the celebration of scholars, review of key updates, and discussion of academic progress, while emphasizing the importance of strong governance and accountability in service of students. The meeting then proceeded with the agenda, beginning with the Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent's report delivered by Dr. Troy Monroe.

CEO/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Troy A. Monroe, CEO/Superintendent

PART A

- March Scholar of the Month Recognition
 - Amelia Reid - TED-JAH - presented by Principal Danielle Ramiz
 - Zaheire Carpenter - JAH-SMaRT – presented by Principal Kashay Green
 - Sierra Cicero - JAH-HC – presented by Dean Summer Myles

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

Board Chair Gray requests a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m., so the scholars and parents can get refreshments. Board member Smith-Winfrey makes a motion and Board members Sutherland and Lawrence second the motion, no questions were noted and no objections. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting called back to order at 6:13 p.m.

PART B

- District Updates;
 - Heritage Gala Update

Superintendent Monroe opened Part B with an executive summary of the gala, expressing sincere appreciation to the Board for its strong support. The event raised \$61,867, exceeding the \$60,000 goal and achieving 103%, with revenue primarily generated through sponsorships, ticket sales, donations, and the silent auction. This represents an increase of \$17,482, or approximately 39% growth, compared to the prior year, with gains across all categories. The event was highly successful, featuring a well-executed program, strong community engagement, and standout student performances, which served as a highlight of the evening. Appreciation was extended to staff, scholars, and key sponsors, including Access Health and several community partners. Estimated expenses totaled \$36,000, resulting in a net of approximately \$25,000. Leadership emphasized the importance of balancing a high-quality attendee experience with fundraising goals and credited the Gala Coordination Team, with special recognition given to Communications Manager Ms. Kimberly Renton for her contributions. Ongoing follow-up, including donor outreach and participant feedback, will inform future improvements, with a focus on increasing sponsorships and enhancing the impact of upcoming events.

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■ 2026 Board Governance Professional Learning Webinar

Superintendent Monroe shared two upcoming board governance professional learning opportunities sponsored by the Connecticut Charter Schools Association. The first is a virtual webinar scheduled for April 29, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., focused on strengthening board capacity and fostering collaboration among charter school leaders. The second is an in-person event on June 11, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, offering opportunities to engage with other board members, discuss common challenges, share best practices, and network. Board members were encouraged to attend, and the Executive Assistant, Ms. Best, will provide the event details via email.

■ Federal Budget Update

Superintendent Monroe provided an overview of potential federal budget changes for fiscal year 2027, noting a proposed 3.9% decrease in discretionary education funding and a consolidation of federal grants into a single “MEGA Grant.” This restructuring may significantly impact existing funding streams, including the proposed elimination of Title 3 funding for English language learners, level funding for Title 1, and substantial reductions to programs under Title 4, which support enrichment opportunities. While a slight increase is anticipated for special education funding under IDEA, these changes present potential challenges that could affect state and local funding levels. Leadership noted that specific financial impacts are still unknown, but estimates may be developed using historical data, and additional guidance from the state will be shared as it becomes available. The proposed budget will reflect a conservative approach based on current information. Additionally, the Connecticut State Department of Education has introduced emergency generalist certification options to address ongoing teacher shortages for the 2026–2027 school year. This allows qualified individuals, including those teaching outside their certification areas or retired educators, to fill instructional gaps across grade levels and subjects. Leadership encouraged continued recruitment efforts and support from the Board and community to help identify potential candidates.

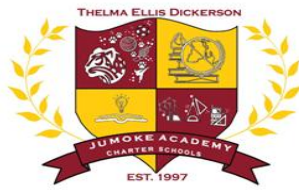
■ CSDE Staff Certifications Update & Accountability Meeting

Superintendent Monroe reminded the Board of the upcoming accountability meeting with the Connecticut State Department of Education on May 20, 2026. The State Department has requested that campus leadership participate in the presentation, with representatives from both the elementary and middle school levels. Key topics will include progress toward full staff certification compliance, efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism, and school-based strategies to improve academic achievement and performance. The leadership team has been preparing in advance and will meet again prior to the presentation to finalize its materials. The presentation is limited to 15 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session. The Board will be updated on the outcomes following the meeting.

■ Grant Status Update

Superintendent Monroe reported that the organization has secured a \$10,000 grant from Liberty Bank to support summer programming for scholars and is completing the necessary requirements to access the funds. Additionally, a funding decision is pending from a private foundation for general operating support, which would significantly assist with the upcoming budget; an update is expected at the May board meeting. The report concluded with an invitation for any questions from the Board.

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PART C

Dr. Marie Gordon-Hall, Chief Academic Officer

- Curriculum & Instruction

Theme: From Access to Achievement Empowering All Scholars for Excellence

Chief Academic Officer Gordon-Hall provided brief updates, noting that previously shared materials provided in the board packet outlined ongoing efforts to support scholar stability following recent principal presentations. She confirmed that the last day of school has been extended to June 16, 2026, due to snow days, and this change has been communicated to families. Additionally, the proposed academic calendar for the 2026–2027 school year, developed in alignment with Hartford’s schedule, has been shared with the Board and will be presented for a vote later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- March Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- February 2026 Financial Statements
- Proposed 2026-27 Academic Calendar

Board Chair Gray proceeded to the consent agenda, requesting a Board member to make a motion to approve the March Regular Board meeting minutes, the February 2026 Financial Statement, and the proposed 2026–2027 Academic Calendar.

At 6:40 pm; a motion was made by Board member Smith-Winfree and seconded by Board member Nedd. Board Chair Gray asks if any objections or discussion, none were noted, all in favor and the motion was passed.

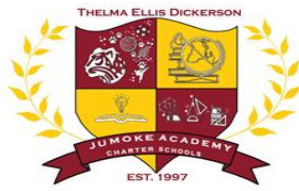
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Sheryl Deloso, Director of Finance

- Budget & Financial Statement Review and Discussion

Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Deloso presented the February financial report and a preliminary overview of the proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 budget, noting that the Finance Subcommittee met on April 8, 2026. As of February, revenue reached 73.15% of the budget, with Title 1 and miscellaneous income exceeding expectations due to additional program revenue. Expenses totaled 69.54% of the budget, with certain line items, including instructional improvement, facilities services, and business support services, exceeding budgeted amounts due to classification overlaps and early in the year expenditures, which will be adjusted in future budgeting. The academy reported a surplus of approximately 4% for the month. Most expense categories are trending appropriately, with the majority of monthly changes remaining below the 8% target. Key financial ratios indicate that total expenses are at 95% of revenue, personnel costs are at 70% of total expenses, contracted services remain low at 8.6%, and the operating margin stands at 4%, reflecting a stable but closely monitored position. Looking ahead, state per pupil funding is projected to fall below budget, while special education billing is expected to exceed projections. Overall expenses are expected to slightly exceed the budget, resulting in a projected operating deficit by the end of the year. In response, leadership has implemented cost control measures, including a budget freeze, to mitigate potential shortfalls.

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- 2026-27 Proposed Budget Preliminary Review

Chief Financial Officer, Mrs. Deloso presented a preliminary budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, beginning with enrollment projections based on a cohort model using historical data. A conservative enrollment estimate was selected to ensure a realistic and achievable budget. Revenue assumptions were developed using prior-year trends and confirmed funding sources, resulting in a cautious overall projection. On the expenditure side, major cost categories were outlined, with personnel costs continuing to represent the largest share. Total projected expenses exceed anticipated revenue, resulting in a projected deficit. To address this, several mitigation strategies were proposed, including reductions in staffing, contracted services, and capital projects. Leadership emphasized that the budget is intentionally conservative, with assumptions grounded in current data and designed to ensure sustainability.

Additional discussion highlighted that revenue generated from the new property remains minimal at this time, with plans to explore modest increases through adjusted pricing, added features, and improved visibility, while maintaining its purpose as a community resource. The Board requested that multiple budget scenarios be developed for further review, taking into account ongoing uncertainties such as federal funding and enrollment projections, and encouraged additional Board participation in the Finance Committee to support the process.

BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

- None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 p.m., Board Chair Gray requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Board member Smith-Winfrey and seconded by Board member Lawrence. Board Chair Gray asked if there was any discussion or objection; none were noted. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

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