

Meeting Minutes

Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, September 12, 2024



Attendees

Board (in-person): Evelyn Angelle, Pierre Aristide, Kimberly Barta, Sue Burnett, Darin Carroll, Adam Drutz, Todd Gregory, Elizabeth Killinger, Michael McMurray, Jeff Miers, Praveen Naik, Lees Rodionov, Larry Stephens, Greg Vesey, Laura Whitley, Nathan Wiker, Melinda Yee

Board (online): Lina Amador, Tracy Beam, Ryan Bucholtz, Albert Chao, Damon Echevarria, Kola Fagbayi, Bob Franklin, Jarin Hansen, Drew Horn, Preeti Jain, Robbie Jones, Mitch Kuy, Bruce Macklin, Guillermo Martinez, Jamie Pierce, David Skinner, Deanna Young

Staff: Joe Burke, Ne’Cole Caldwell, Becky Coulter, Carla Crowe, Tania Daniel, Monica Espinosa, De Jones, Patty Lalonde (online), Becky Neeley (online), Andrea Richardson, Tiffany Spates, Karen St. Fort, Liisa Williams

Guests: Priceless Anyanwu, Maria Cristina Arredondo, May Buchu, Laura Coe, Brianna Hernandez, Kathy Maxie, Jackson Maxie, Eva Sanchez

Past Chair Greg Vesey called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m. He shared that the organization had moved to a consent agenda to spend more time engaging in strategy and mission. The June 30th financials and minutes from the June 20th meeting were sent in the pre-read materials. Greg asked for questions/comments/corrections on the minutes and financials. He asked for a motion and second on each item; the motions passed.

Next, Greg shared the nomination report. Victor Zapata, Dow stepped off the board. In his place, the nominating committee recommended Nathan Wiker, President of Univation Technologies, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dow. Greg asked for a motion and second to approve Nathan’s nomination; the motion passed. Greg welcomed Nathan to the board.

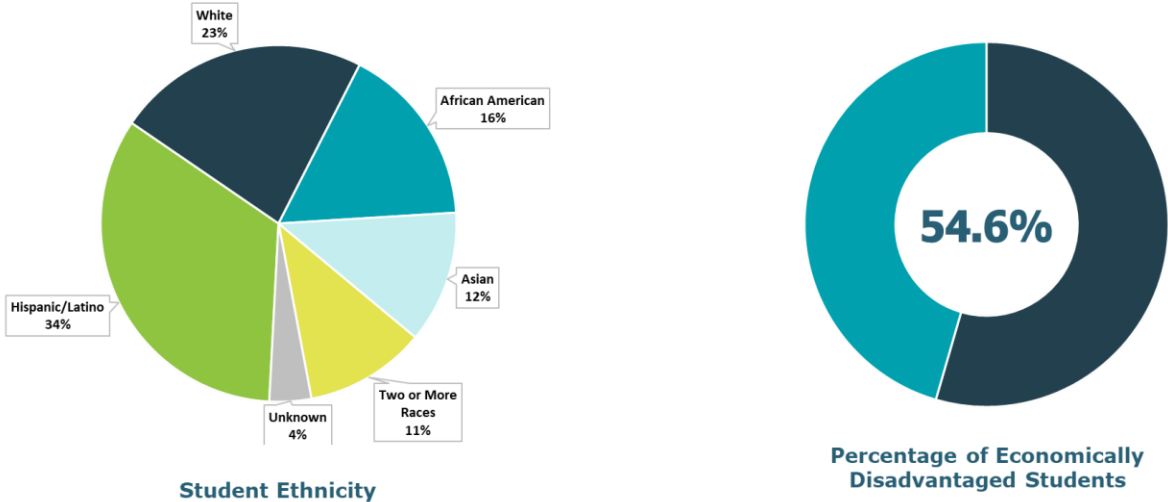
De Jones facilitated the recognition of two staff members receiving service awards: Christina Craft (5 years) and Monica Espinosa (15 years).

Andrea Richardson provided an update on the JA Hall of Achievement and shared information on several new sponsorship opportunities. She also reported that several changes will be made to the event and program including using students as greeters and ambassadors, facilitating a student panel as the mission moment which will be followed by a paddles-up appeal for personal support. Next she shared the list of prospective sponsors and asked members to reach out to any of the companies/individuals listed to encourage their participation.

Ne’Cole Caldwell delivered the year-end program report and shared that student participation was down 9% due primarily to the declining involvement of HISD as their schools adapted to the NES



model. However, the number of instructional contact hours increased slightly which reflects the board’s vision of providing more deep experiences for students. She also shared the student demographics for 2023/2024:



Ne’Cole also shared preliminary student engagement data from 3DE. From an attendance perspective, 3DE students had a 4.8% higher level of average daily attendance than their non-3DE peers and saw 23.2% fewer cases of chronic absenteeism. Our office also worked with JA USA on implementing a new evaluation model that saw positive results in terms of attitudinal measures.

Project Committee Chair, Evelyn Angelle, shared an update on the Phillips 66 | JA Discovery Center. She reported that JA closed on the purchase of the 290/43rd Street property and demolition had commenced. The committee solicited bids from four general contractors and is pleased to report the bids came in \$2M below budget. Arch-Con was selected as the GC and will begin construction of the new facility once the demolition process and permitting processes are completed.

Because the bids came in under budget, the committee is evaluating two potential add/alternates: possibly adding solar panels and a backup generator.

The project issued an RFP to several local banking partners to finance the project. Pledges will be received over 3-5 years, so there will be a need to close between pledges received and expenses incurred. The committee will select the financial institution with which to work.

Evelyn also shared that JA has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Braun Enterprises for JA’s current facility located at 3710 Dacoma Street. The purchase price is \$2.2M which is above expectations. Once the due diligence is complete, JA will have the opportunity to close the deal between June 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025, at JA’s discretion.

Joe Burke shared sponsorship opportunities related to the new Discovery Center. The original goals set by the board were to create an environment that was reflective of the future economic makeup of greater Houston and southeast Texas and to deliver learning experiences that enables students to develop skill needed for the future of work. The team has reimagined the programs implemented. JA BizTown will emphasize a collaborative, problem-solving approach to the simulation with students

working in updated shops. Success will be redefined and aligned with a holistic approach to being a contributor to the community revolving around people, prosperity, and planet. JA Finance Park will augment the financial literacy focus by adding career planning.

Joe shared that to make this vision a reality, we need to engage new sponsors from within and outside the board. Sponsorships of shops in JA BizTown and Career Stations in JA Finance Park will range between \$20K - \$25K and enable sponsors to brand their space and provide graphic and digital content.

Tania Daniel facilitated a discussion with four JA Company Program who shared their experience and the impact it has had on them on an academic and personal level.

Greg adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Recorded by: Joe Burke

Respectfully submitted: William Swanstrom Secretary