

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board
Monday, December 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Accountability Board members present:

1. Lorraine Dean
2. Cynthia Gross
3. Sonja Merchant Jones
4. Edward Kangethe
5. Regina Gail Malloy
6. Pritika Parmar
7. Noah Patton
8. Kwame Amancio Romero-Sackey
9. Doris Minor Terrell
10. P. Logan Weygandt

Staff present:

1. Branville G Bard, Jr
2. Liam Haviv
3. Jeanne Hitchcock
4. Jarron Jackson
5. Rianna Matthews-Brown
6. Connor Scott
7. Sarah Trager
8. Evie Uhlfelder

In addition to Board members and Staff, 61 members of the public joined the meeting, virtually, through zoom.

Opening

A regular meeting of the Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board was called to order at 6:04 p.m. on Monday, December 13th, 2021 via Zoom webinar application by Branville Bard.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Branville Bard, Johns Hopkins' vice president for public safety, welcomed everyone to the meeting, provided an overview of the meeting agenda, and asked the current Board members to introduce themselves. Each Board member provided a brief introduction and spoke about their background and interest in serving on the Accountability Board.

2. Discussion

Dr. Bard provided a brief overview of his background, priorities, and vision for both the Accountability Board and public safety at Johns Hopkins. He indicated that in his first few months at Johns Hopkins, he has made it a priority to meet with students, faculty, staff, visitors, and community members to learn more about their experiences and hear their feedback. He stated that he will look to the Accountability Board to help advise and guide the development of the JHPD (including policies, practices, and training) after the end of the university's two-year pause. He also discussed his strong support for harm reduction and public health approaches to crime prevention, noting that many people are often better served through social solutions rather than the criminal

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board
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Meeting Minutes

justice system. Dr. Bard also acknowledged concerns around over-policing and police misconduct, noting that he has dedicated his career to studying ways to address these serious issues (he noted that his dissertation is on racial profiling) and implementing strategies to identify problematic officers and hold them accountable. He said that given his academic background and professional experience, he believes in data-driven results for police departments and stressed the importance of making that data publicly available.

3. Questions & Answer, Concerns, and other Feedback

Dr. Bard invited members of the Board to share feedback and ask him questions.

The following topics were covered during this portion of the agenda:

- Logistics of virtual meetings during COVID;
 - Request for the chat function to be open during meetings (N. Patton)
 - Concerns raised about registration function
 - *VP Bard made a commitment to explore this further and update the Board*
 - Question about when the Board will resume in-person meetings; (E. Kangethe)
 - *VP Bard shared his preference for in-person meetings but noted COVID restrictions are a determining factor. He said he and his team will look into the matter and bring it back to the Board.*

- JHPD Implementation
 - Question about the status of JHPD implementation, including the MOU with BPD (L. Dean)
 - *VP Bard noted Johns Hopkins is in a full pause, therefore there have been no MOU discussions and there will not be any discussions until the pause is over.*
 - Question about the role of the Accountability Board in the MOU process (L. Dean)
 - *VP Bard stated the Accountability Board will be involved in the MOU process.*
 - Question about the JHPD jurisdictional boundaries (D. Minor Terrell)
 - *Dr. Bard noted the legislation is very prescriptive, and boundary lines can only be extended off-campus with community support. Maps are available [online](#).*

- Accountability Board
 - Question about the status of the open Accountability Board Seats (L. Dean)
 - *R. Matthews-Brown indicated the application period had closed,¹ and the Nominating Committee was scheduled to meet later in the week to review applications. The expectation is that the Accountability Board nominees will be announced later in December, and, like last time, the list will go to the Maryland State Senate for approval. The goal is to have those nominees approved by the end of the 2022 MD Legislative Session.*

¹ The [Accountability Board application period](#) ran from October 18, 2021 to November 28, 2021. [Nominees were announced on December 21, 2021.](#)

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board
Monday, December 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes

- Question about what resources will be provided to the Board (budget for independent consultants and administrative support) (L. Dean)
 - *VP Bard made a commitment to explore this further and update the Board*
- Comment that the University should not drive the agenda, the Board should play a role in that process. (C. Gross)
 - VP Bard agreed and noted his desire for a strong Accountability Board.
- Question about the process to share questions/concerns with VP Bard (S. Merchant Jones)
 - VP Bard encouraged the Board to use the Accountability Board email (AccountabilityBoard@jhu.edu)
- Question about the structure and timing of meetings (S. Merchant Jones)
 - VP Bard answered this meeting is atypical; Bard then continued, noting that forthcoming meetings will occur quarterly. VP Bard said he will chair the meetings, and the Board will help develop the agenda so each meeting is productive and the Board addresses topics, questions, and concerns they want.²
- Alternatives to policing
 - Question about status of other non-policing initiatives that Johns Hopkins has been pursuing (L. Dean)
 - VP Bard shared updates about several alternative strategies being pursued by Johns Hopkins. These include:
 - The [Johns Hopkins Behavioral Health Response](#), an effort launched in the fall of 2020, to pair behavioral health providers with campus safety and security officers to respond to behavioral health crises on or immediately surrounding our Baltimore campuses. The initial pilot was launched on the Homewood campus, and the response to the program has been very positive. The plan is to move to 24/7 across all campuses as staffing permits.
 - [Innovation Fund for Community Safety](#), a \$6 million, four-year fund, to support community-led programs designed to reduce violence in Baltimore City.
 - Roca and focused deterrence, Baltimore's City's group violence reduction strategy, both of which receive funding support from Johns Hopkins.
 - VP Bard also noted that he understands there will never be either/or approach to public safety: if we hope to improve public safety in our community, a holistic approach incorporating non-policing-alternatives are necessary.
 - Comment that the CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets), a mental health crisis intervention program, which has reduced the need for police (L. Dean)

² VP Bard has proposed to the Accountability Board that the March 2022 meeting be devoted to discussing Board governance.

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board
Monday, December 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes

- VP Bard concurred CAHOOTS has been a successful program, noting police are not the best solution for every situation, but they do have an important role in our communities.

- Open Meetings Act
 - Question about whether the Board can meet without VP Bard (R.G. Malloy)
 - *VP Bard made the commitment to set up OMA training for the Board and the public safety team who will be working closely with the Board.*³

- External Engagement
 - Question about VP Bard’s outreach and engagement with the community (E. Kangethe)
 - VP Bard provided a brief overview of his external engagement, which includes community members as well as students, faculty, and staff, and noted that he is having conversations with people with a range of views on the JHPD – opponents as well as supporters. He noted both sides of the conversation bring valuable perspective.

- Johns Hopkins Public Safety
 - Question about the public safety leadership reporting structure within Johns Hopkins (C. Gross)
 - VP Bard stated he reports to the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration for Johns Hopkins University, Laurent Heller and Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer for Johns Hopkins Medicine, Robert Kasdin.

4. Closing:

VP Bard thanked everyone for their time and engagement and stated he is looking forward to working with the Board in an ongoing capacity. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

³ The meeting is now scheduled for March 10, 2022 (5:30-7:30pm).

Johns Hopkins University Police Accountability Board
Monday, December 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Action Items/Next Steps

1. Logistics of virtual meetings during COVID (registration/chat function) – VP Bard made a commitment to explore this further and update the Board.
2. Accountability Board resources – VP Bard made a commitment to explore this further and update the Board.
3. Open Meetings Act training – VP Bard made the commitment to set up OMA training for the Board and the public safety team who will be working closely with the Board.

Items Being Tracked for Future Meetings/Discussions

Currently there are no items being tracked for future discussions.

Accountability Board Meeting Schedule (2022 calendar year)

- Special Board Meeting (Open Meetings Act Training): March 10, 2022 – 5:30-7:30pm
- Quarterly Meeting 1: March 14, 2022 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Quarterly Meeting 2: June 13, 2022 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Quarterly Meeting 3: September 12, 2022 6:00 – 7:30pm
- Quarterly Meeting 4: December 12, 2022 6:00 – 7:30pm

Accountability Board Meeting Minutes Approval

Current as of February 04, 2022 9:30am

Meeting: December 13, 2021*

Meeting Attendee	Affiliation	Yay	Nay	Abstain	No Response
Sonja Merchant Jones	Community Member	X			
Edward Kangethe	Community Member				X
Noah Patton	Community Member	X			
Cynthia Gross	Mayoral Appointee	X			
Doris Minor-Terrell	Council Pres. Appointee				X
Lorraine T. Dean	Faculty	X			
Paul Logan Weygandt	Faculty	X			
Regina Gail Malloy**	Staff				
Pritika Parmar	Student	X			
Kwame Amancio Romero-Sackey	Student	X			

* - board voted electronically; poll opened on Jan. 25, 2022 and closed Feb. 3, 2022.

** - resigned, effective January 19, 2022