

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (In-person)
 Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts
 125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

February 22, 2023 | 4:30 PM ET

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87205682710?pwd=dWh4bE5qWCtkWk9PcThPSWdLbVZZUT09>

1. CALL TO ORDER – Open Public Meetings Act - 4:50 PM

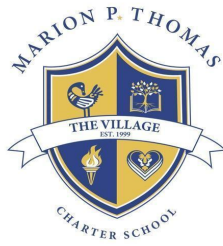
- The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (“Act”) was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Marion P Thomas Charter School Board of Trustees has caused notice of this meeting to be advertised by having the date, time, and place there of posted on the district’s website (www.mptcs.org), in the office of the Clerk of the City of Newark, and was published in the Star-Ledger in February 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

| Board Member | Present | Absent | Board Member | Present | Absent |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vincent Rouse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Julio Valdivieso | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dashay Carter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Allan Boomer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Briana Gilchrist | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Toni Ince | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dr. Princess Towe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |

| Non-Voting Board Members Present | |
|---|---|
| Elijah Griffiths (Board Secretary/Administrator) | Tina Jalloh(Board Attorney) |
| Angela Mincy, Chief School Administrator/Superintendent | Kristina Haugen (School Business Administrator) |

** Motion Seconded



3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- Good evening, Village. Tonight, I want to share with you what I and members of the board believe is a beacon of hope and a green light for the work of the students, parents, administrators, and the entire village that s Marion P. Thomas Charter School.

As we all know, education is a work in progress with a focus on continuous quality improvement. We will continue to make educating our students our number one priority. We know some things need to be done better and I am here tonight to tell you that we have made significant progress and will continue to make our schools beacons of educational excellence.

Tonight I want to share with you that the New Jersey Department of Education and Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan has informed the Board that Marion P. Thomas Charter School has received approval for renewal to operate as a charter school for another five years until 2028. This is fantastic news! The three areas upon which we were evaluated were academic performance, fiscal viability, and operational stability. This renewal is a testament to our collective hard work and progress.

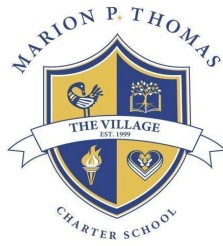
Many charter schools are often renewed for one year, so we are incredibly pleased and proud that we have received approval for five years. We welcome this wonderful news from the Acting Commissioner and look forward to working with the State on an improvement plan as a condition of our renewal.

I want to be clear and transparent that in addition to our license being renewed for five years, that we are also being placed on probation in order to track and meet additional targets. I am confident we will meet these targets.

We are confident in our ability and that of the students and the entire village to meet the refinements that we will focus on for this coming year. Approval from the State of New Jersey is proof that together, we are making progress. It also means work remains to be done to provide the best environment to produce Newark scholars and to continue on our path to educational excellence every year.

A major part of the progress report also takes into consideration the changes this Board put in place over the last two years including new Board members, a strategic plan and a new superintendent of schools. In addition, as required by the State, we will soon have a fully-certified Board – that means we have nearly completed all of our required training to ensure we are performing at our optimum levels for our students and administrators.

As I mentioned, a major part of our progress over the last two years is also due to the hiring of Superintendent Angela Mincy - a dedicated, Newark born and raised educator who counts as some of her life's most important work – educating Newark students. She brought to our village a dedication and commitment spanning 25 years in the Newark Public School system and a strategy to reimagine how we engage our students around education.



In closing, I want to thank Superintendent Mincy, our students, parents, administrators, teachers, the entire village and my Board colleagues. Together, we have made significant progress. We are continuing to carry the mantle of our founders; the Reverend Dr. Charles Thomas, who created a vision for Newark students 24 years ago – we continued to carry that mantle today.

I believe I speak on behalf of the entire Board in that I am confident we will continue to make Marion P. Thomas a charter school system to be emulated by others and a center of excellence that will graduate New Jersey's and the world's future leaders. Thank you. (Rouse)

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Superintendent Mincy gave her presentation update.
- Shankar & Abbaleo presented NJSLA data.
 - Questions & answers asked for presentations found in the Zoom Meeting link.

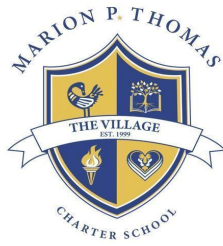
5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee

- Personnel committee met on Feb. 16th at 5P. In attendance were myself, Rouse, Ms. Wilkerson from the district, and Elijah. Spoke about district vacancies (5 HS, 6 PAC, and 5 STEAM) and MPTCS referral program for a \$500 bonus if you refer a candidate and are hired as a full time instructional or non-instructional position. We are only asking you to vote on two things: approval of a \$500 referral bonus and the personnel report. (Carter)

Operations & Finance Committee

- Finance
 - We met on Feb. 15th. Started first talking about renewal level. This year's budget was confirmed at October's submission now at 60.1%. Talk about variances of enrollment and need to be more realistic enrollment. Spoke about cash on hand at 94 days which is above state requirement. Renewed Canon printing contract through competitive bidding process. The budget for this year is also mentioned. We also spoke with our auditors. For approval is the Board Secretary report, Reconciliation report, and check register. (Boomer)
- Operations
 - Meet on Feb. 15th with myself, Boomer, Carter, Rouse, and Shankar. Did a walk through of the HVAC system in the culinary department. Heating and repairs completed in PAC breezeway. Able to save \$1,500. No major resolutions. (Gilchrist)
 - I want to highlight one more thing that came up in operations from a board member question. We did confirm the number of defibrillators at each school (3 HS, 4 PAC, and 3 STEAM). We also had a discussion about how many minutes it takes to get to them as well as who is trained to use them. There is also ongoing training going on for them as well. (Boomer)
- Discussion
 - There is a vendor on the bill list CHLIC. (Valdivieso)
 - That is CHLIC dental insurance. (Haugen)
 - Aramark food service served a very stereotypical food selection for Black History Month of fried chicken and watermelon. The apology seemed to lack sincerity, it is disrespectful to all students and so when the time comes around on if we will be renewing with Aramark I urge all the board



members to not forget this. I am wondering, did they send out any letter of apology to address this recent issue? (Valdivieso)

- I have not received any communications from Aramark (Haugen)
- I just wanted to remind you that we are looking for minority owned businesses for all contracts. We definitely will look for that when the contract is up for renewal. We want to make sure to serve the students quality food, but also want to be open minded about who we give that money to. (Boomer)
- I have not received any communications either. (Rouse)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

- We talked extensively about curriculum and instruction so I will keep it short. We met on Feb. 14th with Dr. Towe, Chairman Rouse, Dr. Moore, and myself in attendance. Talked heavily about the remedial plan and a bit about the mindset shift that needs to occur. We are also looking into providing professional development for our staff. Field trips are one item voted on today. A few trips to local colleges and college fairs that even allow parents to attend. And a few other field trips for our other students. (Abbaleo)

Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee

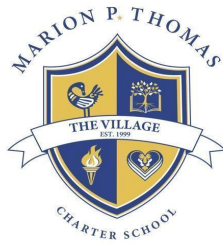
- No Update

Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee

- We met weekly. On March 3rd the enrollment will be closing. We will call it a soft close because technically you can still enroll. Our billboards went up on Feb. 6th, you can see around Newark. Our parent newsletter includes an offer to parents to assist recruiting new families. We can already go through plans to recruit all year long. We have extended a contract to get new marketing materials. We are reimagining our social media so as to focus on education. We have noticed an increase in our Spanish speaking students so we have decided to prioritize the resources. To any board members, we do have extensive notes in our shared folders. (Gilchrist)

Executive Committee

- We did have a chance to meet with Mincy after receiving the letter from the state. The plan for implementing the changes has been submitted. We plan to attend that meeting and believe a presence speaks volumes. We have a meeting with friends of MP to come to a decision about the refinancing of 1025 Sussex Avenue, and hope to have this completed by next month. (Rouse)



6. RESOLUTIONS

I. [2023-2-22-A: Approval of the February 22, 2023 BOT Meeting Agenda](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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| Vincent Rouse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Julio Valdivieso | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dashay Carter** | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Allan Boomer | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Dr. Princess Towe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |

Discussion:

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II. [2023-2-22-B: Approval of the January 25, 2023 BOT Meeting Minutes](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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Discussion:

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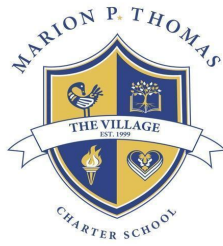
III. [2023-2-22-C: Approval of February 23' Personnel Report](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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Discussion:

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** : Motion Seconded



IV. [2023-2-22-D: Approval of the \\$500 Referral Bonus](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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Discussion:

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V. [2023-2-22-E: Approval of February 23' Finance Report](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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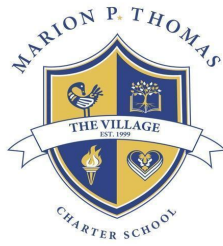
VI. [2023-2-22-F: Approval of Amended Budget FY 23 - 10/15 Count DOE Submittal](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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| Dr. Princess Towe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |

Discussion:

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** : Motion Seconded



VII. [2023-2-22-G: Approval of Travel Reimbursement for HR Staff](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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| Dr. Princess Towe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |

Discussion:

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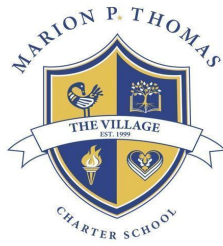
VIII. [2023-2-22-H: Approval of Field Trips](#)

| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
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| Dr. Princess Towe** | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |

Discussion:

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** : Motion Seconded



7. PUBLIC COMMENT - It is now time for public participation. To engage in public comment, all speakers must register via the district's website no later than 5 calendar days prior to the advertised meeting by 5:00 PM ET. Please state your name and address for the record. All speakers will have 3-minutes to address the BOT.

- No registered speakers

8. CLOSED SESSION - 6:28 PM MOTION TO GO EXECUTIVE SESSION Carter - Boomer**

9. CLOSING REMARKS FROM BOARD CHAIR:

Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication to the village. Have a great evening! Committees thank you for meeting.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:28 PM ET Rouse - Carter**

Respectfully submitted at: 2/22/2023

Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths

** : Motion Seconded