

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

September 28, 2022 | 5:00 PM ET Zoom:

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

# 1. CALL TO ORDER – Open Public Meetings Act - 5:04 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 June 2022.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Vincent Rouse	V		Dr. Princess Towe	V	
Dashay Carter	<b>✓</b>		Julio Valdivieso	$\checkmark$	
Jasonn Denard	$\checkmark$		Allan Boomer	$\checkmark$	
Briana Gilchrist	V				

Non-Voting Board Mer	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)									



### 3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

• Good afternoon. Whatever you do you gotta keep moving forward. We are operating with full transparency and correctly. We have met our goals. Parent participation is paramount to running the board. The link to vote for the parent representative will be available. (Rouse)

# 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Superintendent Mincy gave her presentation update.
  - I want to say I love the new crest. (Gilchrist)
  - I think it is important to share the data because people might forget that kids were home learning pivotal skills, so it is important to frame the data as you did.. (Denard)
  - o I would like a copy you referenced. (Towe)
    - I will email it as soon as we end the call. (Mincy)
  - I appreciate you acknowledging the bad and the good so we can understand the areas we need to improve with the plan for correction. Please update us in the future as you adopt this new method and the results. (Valdivieso)
  - Thank you for making partnerships outside the village to move us forward, as well as your transparency to move us forward to where we need to be. (Rouse)

### 5. PARENT BOT REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

- Toni Ince
  - I have been an advocate for children and families for 18 years. I am a very open-minded faith based with strong listening skills. My empathy improves who I am, because my moto is to meet people where they are at. To make a positive staple in the community. I pride myself on advocacy for myself, my son, and parents and my leadership skills. During the pandemic, I started a Toni chat and check-in where people can talk about their feelings in the pandemic. I started a conference call line as well for people to check-in and talk about their feelings. In my previous son's school, I was the co-chair and interacted with parents on Zoom. I am on the board of directors of my alumni. I am instrumental in providing resources and implementing different events. I volunteer at a food pantry every 3rd and 4th Thursday.. I love to see the people come and be happy and grateful for what we have to offer them. I am on about 90% of STEAMs informational platform. I participated in the end of the school year's school event with the students.I enjoy spending time with my son Tyler, reading, skating, and ensuring he is involved in extracurricular activities.. I would like to implement new initiatives, one very important is a father initiation. If I am elected I will work diligently to advocate for students and families under the BOT guidelines.. It takes a village and I would love to be a part of this one. I will still be involved regardless of the outcome. May the best person win. Stay safe.

# 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Personnel Committee

We met on September 15th, and called a meeting to order at 5:11P, present from the BOT was
myself and Dr. Towe. We discussed the office of school safety and job openings. At that time we had
three openings available in the highschool: English, Spanish, and inclusion Math teacher as well as a
long-term sub and a counselor. For STEAM, we had three openings: ELA, long-term sub, and 1-1 aid.
For PAC, we had two special education teachers for 3rd and 6th grade, one Math and one assistant



teacher. We discussed the transfers and monthly turnovers. We had a few turnovers in August however, those numbers were already included in our vacancies and they have begun hiring for those positions. We went over the co-curriculum process that was sent out to principals and vice principals. Teachers will be able to apply and be able to receive a stipend for being in a club. We discussed the attendance performance plan which was sent out to principals and vice principals. Meetings will be happening with the staff. This is to make sure we track any attendance issues and follow the necessary discipline process if necessary. We will be tracking it better this year than the past.. We talked about employees not calling out during blackout periods. The attendance performance plan has been vetted by the union. We went over terminations and resignations. We were over the school education program which is up for a vote today which is a modern way to do recruiting and bring in subs quicker. Meeting adjourned 5:40P. (Carter)

# Operations & Finance Committee

# • Operations.

Met on September 14th and we discussed the following. Those in attendance were myself, Boomer, Shankar, Avery, Haugan, and Carter. We went over the sidewalk bid. There is a resolution to reject the sidewalk bid because we need to put out a new bid to repair the sidewalk and remove a tree. We also discussed our security contract, and you will see a resolution to reject that contract because we have decided to extend our security contract. Some people may have concerns about that but please note we can terminate that contract at any time. We have decided to extend it for now. We were able to follow up with a community concern at PAC that involved some issues with the garbage disposal. We will be putting the trash beyond a fenced area, so it is no longer an eye sore for our community. We also have a resolution for the website design contract. We can save a lot of money by signing this contract now, instead of September. We discussed the Kean Scholars academy program which would allow our scholars who participate in this program to graduate with up to 40 credits. No more updates from me. (Gilichrist)

#### Finance.

- All attendees at Operations were present at financial. We spoke about enrollment. When it comes to running the school, enrollment is very important when it comes to the numbers. WE were pleased that our enrollment was better than expected or in line with expectation. We went over a break even scenario of how much enrollment could decline that would still allow us to be in a good space. We are easily over 100 students over that number. We looked at the budget and the bill list. We felt the budget was on track and should be able to meet our budget goal this year. We went through the bill list, and had a presentation via email of our treasury, bank transfer report, and secretary report. I am going to invite Haugen to highlight before we vote on those reports. (Boomer)
- I want to highlight that we did complete the preliminary numbers for June. The school is in a great position. We are still on track to be under budget. Since we completed the preliminary number for June they are ready to be submitted to the auditor for review and we can continue to move forward on schedule for the reconciliation for July, August, and September which will be presented at the next board meeting. (Haugen)

### Curriculum & Instruction Committee

 The superintendent and assistant superintendent did provide an amazing overview, so I would like to move to the resolutions. Motion to package L ,M, N, O by Denard. Second Gilchrist. (Denard)
 Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee



- No Updates they have been captured in the CSA report. (Griffith) Executive Committee
- Captured in update and superintendent's report. Moving to resolution. (Rouse)

# 6. RESOLUTIONS

I. 2022-9-28-A: Approval of the September 28, 2022 BOT Meeting Agenda

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		K				Dr. Princess Towe**		K			
Dashay Carter		<b>\</b>				Julio Valdivieso		\			
Jasonn Denard	V	<b>\</b>				Allan Boomer		\			
Briana Gilchrist		>									

# Discussion:

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II. 2022-9-28-B: Approval of the August 8, 2022 BOT Meeting Minutes

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse**		V				Dr. Princess Towe					
Dashay Carter		<b>\</b>				Julio Valdivieso		\			
Jasonn Denard	V	>				Allan Boomer					
Briana Gilchrist		K									



2022-9-28-C: Approval of September 22' Personnel Report

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		V				Dr. Princess Towe	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$			
Dashay Carter**		V				Julio Valdivieso		$\checkmark$			
Jasonn Denard		V				Allan Boomer		$\checkmark$			
Briana Gilchrist		V									
<u>Discussion:</u> •  //. <u>2022-9-28-D:</u>	<u>Approv</u>	al of SC	COOT	Educat	ion Col	ntract (substitute te	eacher a	agency	)		
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		V				Dr. Princess Towe		$\checkmark$			
Dashay Carter	$\searrow$	K				Julio Valdivieso		$\checkmark$			
Jasonn Denard		<b>\</b>				Allan Boomer					
Briana Gilchrist**		V									
<u>Discussion:</u>	Approv	al of Bl	<u>oomfie</u>	ld Coll	<u>ege Stı</u>	udent Teacher MOI	Ţ				
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		V				Dr. Princess Towe		$\checkmark$			
Dashay Carter	V	V				Julio Valdivieso**		$\checkmark$			
Jasonn Denard		<b>✓</b>				Allan Boomer		$\checkmark$			
Briana Gilchrist		$\searrow$									

\*\*: Motion Seconded



2022-9-28-F: Approval of USI Insurance Services - Broker of Record

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse						Dr. Princess Towe		✓			
Dashay Carter		✓				Julio Valdivieso		$\checkmark$			
Jasonn Denard**		✓				Allan Boomer		$\checkmark$			
Briana Gilchrist		V									
<u>Discussion:</u> ● <i>VII.</i> 2022-9-28-G:	<u>Approv</u>	al of D	WC Se	curity (	Contrac	ct (extension)					
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		$\checkmark$				Dr. Princess Towe		$\checkmark$			
Dashay Carter			$\checkmark$			Julio Valdivieso		$\checkmark$			
Jasonn Denard**		V				Allan Boomer		$\checkmark$			
Briana Gilchrist	$\checkmark$	$\searrow$									
<u>Discussion:</u> •  VIII. 2022-9-28-H:	Approv	al of K	ean Sch	nolar A	<u>cadem</u>	y Agreement					
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		$\checkmark$				Dr. Princess Towe		✓			
Dashay Carter						Julio Valdivieso		$\checkmark$			
Jasonn Denard**		N.				Allan Boomer		$\checkmark$			
Briana Gilchrist		K									

# **Discussion:**

• I have a question. I see that the transcript grades you can earn are high-pass, low-pass, and no credit, I am wondering so any credit you earn from this does not factor into your GPA? (Valdivieso)



- When you do a dual credit, the credits will apply to both college and high school credit and count for their regular transcript for highschool. (Mincy)
- For Kean's transcript, they get credit for and don't have to take the course again because these don't look like the normal college grades. It wouldn't factor into their GPA for Kean?
  - Let me get back to you on that, I don't want to mischaracterize. (Mincy)
  - I was just wondering since you can theoretically pass with a low-pass and there is an option where you can reject the grade and not take the credit, I just wonder if there would ever be an incentive to do that if it will not count against your college GPA anyway. (Valdivieso)
  - I was just going to say that, if I had to get a pass fail grade which is to the benefit of our students. We don't want a low-pass grade but it is still to the benefit of our students, because they still get the credits. High School students take college credits, so they are doing two programs and two levels of academics at the same time. Kudos to those students doing that (Gilchrist)

IX. 2022-9-28-I: Approval of Charter School Athletic League contract - STEAM Academy

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		Ŋ				Dr. Princess Towe		>			
Dashay Carter		V				Julio Valdivieso**		\			
Jasonn Denard		N				Allan Boomer		V			
Briana Gilchrist	Ŋ	N									

## **Discussion:**

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X. 2022-9-28-J: Approval of Mileage Reimbursement for Attendance Counselors

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		N				Dr. Princess Towe		N			
Dashay Carter		V				Julio Valdivieso		<b>✓</b>			
Jasonn Denard**		V				Allan Boomer		<b>✓</b>			
Briana Gilchrist	$\checkmark$	V					-				

- What is an attendance counselor? Are these with the state? When I looked at the form it the office of management and budget for the state is the originating agency. (Valdivieso)
  - We used the attachment just to share the government mileage reimbursement rate for the staff. The attendance counselors are asked to make home visits when the scholars are not attending



school to make sure everything is okay, and if the families have any needs. Since they use their personal vehicles, we are asking if they can seek reimbursement to make these home visits to check on the scholars. (Haugen)

- Just so you know Mr. Valdviseso, we added two for this current school year. One services PAC and the other one services STEAM and the High School. (Mincy)
  - Thank you that answers my questions. (Valdivieso)

XI. 2022-9-2	8-J1: Approva	ot Finalsite	contract	website	design)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse**		\				Dr. Princess Towe	$\searrow$	<b>\</b>			
Dashay Carter		>				Julio Valdivieso		V			
Jasonn Denard		V				Allan Boomer		\			
Briana Gilchrist		<b>\</b>									

## Discussion:

- I have a few questions on this one. I see there are track changes on the document, I assume those are Attorney Jallah's markup and that the other side has already agreed to the markups. So we can assume that the track changes are just included for us, but it will be approved and presented without those track changes? (Valdivieso)
  - We are not going to proceed unless they agree to the current terms in the document. Just so you
    know it is the current website vendor they have that had some customizable templates to give
    the district a face lift. We were going to go with a different vendor, so they lowered the rate and
    offered to throw in additional features. (Mincy)
    - I appreciate scrutinizing the contract. I like when I see some discussion and changes made. (Valdivieso)

XII. 2022-9-28-K: Approval of September Finance Report 22'

III. <u>2022-7-20-N. Approvar or September 1 marice Report 22</u>											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		N				Dr. Princess Towe		\			
Dashay Carter		V				Julio Valdivieso	<b>∀</b>	>			
Jasonn Denard		Ŋ				Allan Boomer		V			
Briana Gilchrist**		$\searrow$									

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XIII. 2022-9-28-K1: Approval of Reject MPTCS Sidewalk Repairs and Replacement RFP											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		$\checkmark$				Dr. Princess Towe		V			
Dashay Carter		V				Julio Valdivieso		\			
Jasonn Denard	N.	N				Allan Boomer**		K			
Briana Gilchrist		V									
<u>Discussion:</u> ●  XIV. <u>2022-9-28-K2: Approval to Reject MPTCS Security Bid</u>											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		V				Dr. Princess Towe					
Dashay Carter		$\vee$				Julio Valdivieso		N.			
Jasonn Denard**		<b>V</b>				Allan Boomer		V			
Briana Gilchrist	$\vee$	V									
Discussion:  •  XV. PACKAGED L-O: Motion Denard. Second Towe**  2022-9-28-L: Approval of CCL Therapy contract  2022-9-28-M: Approval of Educational Specialized Associates contract  2022-9-28-N: Approval of Center for Children's Behavioral Health contract  2022-9-28-O: Approval of Essex Regional Education Services Commission contract											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		V				Dr. Princess Towe		V			
Dashay Carter		$\checkmark$				Julio Valdivieso**		$\vee$			
Jasonn Denard	V	$\searrow$				Allan Boomer		$\searrow$			
Briana Gilchrist		N.								· · ·	



#### Discussion:

- As I was looking through the contract, they are charging \$425 per evaluation or reevaluation for the CCL therapy. And then a reimbursement rate of \$98 per hour for a physical therapist and \$78 per hour for certified occupational therapy or assistant. I did not understand the fees schedule. What is the \$425 for as opposed to the \$98/hr or \$78/hr. (Valdivieso)
  - I know the evaluations and reevaluations happen every year for our scholars that fall into this category. In terms of the nuance of it, I think the team can speak better to that. (Denard)
  - The evaluations and reevaluations happen every year. This is actually just a renewal of the contract we had in place last year, so those evaluations happen for all our students with IEP. We will outsource some of that work in Summer months when employees are off. The rate is based on the actual therapeutic services the child needs, so there is a higher rate for the physical therapist over certified occupational therapists assistant. Pending on the specifications from the childs, IEP depends on the professional used to provide services to that child. (Abbaleo)
  - How long does an evaluation take? (Valdivieso)
    - An evaluation is extremely lengthy and they go through everything to make sure they are in the correct placement with the needed therapy. It is always a lot more than the hourly rate. (Jallah)
    - The IEP might specify something like the child needs physical therapy two times a week for a two hour session, which is where that hourly rate comes into play. (Abbaleo)
    - Sometimes students require services that we can not handle internally that we send outside of our village. (Mincy)

XVI. 2022-9-28-P: Approval of Field Trip - PAC Academy

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		$\checkmark$				Dr. Princess Towe	N.	$\checkmark$			
Dashay Carter		V				Julio Valdivieso		N			
Jasonn Denard**		V				Allan Boomer		N			
Briana Gilchrist		V									

- On page two, it says the ratio for chaperons is 2.2% per classmate. Is that accurate, because I am looking at 140 students involved and 20 chaperons. Sounds like 1 chaperon for every 7 students. (Valdivieso)
  - The guideline is 1 chaperon for every 10 students so that would be better than state guidelines. (Denard)
    - It doesn't equal 2.2% so I am wondering where that number is from? Is it a mistake versus that being another aspect I am not considering? I am looking at page 2 of the PDF in the field trip planning form. (Valdivieso)
- The district follows that 10 to 1 ratio, and I think the way this was calculated might be 2.2 adults per class when you average it out. But it falls in line for the 10 1 ratio. I will circle and gain clarification



on this number. The 20 chaperons for the 140 students covers us. At minimally they would need 14 chaperons, for 140 students involved. (Abbaleo)

2022-9-28-Q: Approval of Hudson County Community College Dual Enrollment Course

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		K				Dr. Princess Towe		\			
Dashay Carter		<b>✓</b>				Julio Valdivieso		<b>✓</b>			
Jasonn Denard**		<b>\</b>				Allan Boomer		V			
Briana Gilchrist		<b>✓</b>									
clear line bein opportunities	g draw allow o or these	n in col our stud progra	llege to lents to ams an	caree be ex d prog	r in not posed rams lik	areer readiness and just one partnersh to the rigor of collect this. (Denard)	nip but	multipl	e ones	. Our n	nultiple
	Motion					Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<b>\</b>	V				Dr. Princess Towe**		V			
Dashay Carter		V				Julio Valdivieso		N.			
Jasonn Denard		<b>✓</b>				Allan Boomer		<b>✓</b>			
Briana Gilchrist		<u> </u>									

**Discussion:** 

XVII.



XIX. 2022-9-28-S: Authorization for CSA to submit MPTCS Emergency Virtual Plan 22-23

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	Y	V				Dr. Princess Towe**		<b>\</b>			
Dashay Carter		K				Julio Valdivieso		K			
Jasonn Denard		K				Allan Boomer		K			
Briana Gilchrist		V									

# **Discussion:**

- Where can people find the virtual plan? (Valdivieso)
  - Right now, you are just voting on this to be submitted to the state. Once approved, it will be accessible. It will be shared on the website once ready. This and the charter renewal app are not completed in totality. The BOT is voting for them to be submitted to the state. (Mincy)
  - Under covid 19 tab on the website, we will populate it on the website once approved by the state. (Abbaleo)

XX. <u>2022-9-28-T: Authorization for CSA to submit Charter Renewal Application 23-28</u>

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse**		N				Dr. Princess Towe		N			
Dashay Carter		N.				Julio Valdivieso		K			
Jasonn Denard	$\vee$	<b>\</b>				Allan Boomer		V			
Briana Gilchrist		<b>✓</b>									

#### **Discussion:**

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### Executive Session Motion Rouse, Second Valdeivieso\*\*

- 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 6:50 PM
- 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. Please come to the next meeting with a committee report.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:55 PM ET Carter - Gilchrist\*\*

Respectfully submitted at: 9/28/2022 Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths