

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

April 25, 2022 | 6:00 PM ET Zoom:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER - Open Public Meetings Act - 6:05P

• 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 July 2021.

2. ROLL CALL

• The following individuals are voting members of the Board:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Vincent Rouse	✓		Dr. Princess Towe		
Dashay Carter	\checkmark		Julio Valdivieso	\checkmark	
Jasonn Denard	abla		Allan Boomer		V
Briana Gilchrist			LaSonya Nevius		

- Proxy for Allan Boomer's votes
- Julio Valdivieso arrived 6:11PM

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 evening. Thank you again for your vote of confidence. It is once again as I greet you with joy, enthusiasm, and hope as we move forward to a great future for the MPTCS village. Thank you again Board of Trustees for your dedicated and passionate and proficient work. Thank you all for working hard to make sure we govern with our scholars in mind as they continue to grow and flow. We appreciate the dedicated work of our superintendent Mincy and her team who continues to reimagine the village with a true level of transparency so that no stone is left unturned. I am not sure she really knew the weight of the task when she accepted, but she has allowed strength to be her portion. We appreciate that work. We are still moving forward working with our partners to make sure that we finance 125 Sussex Avenue. We want to make sure that is complete as well as revisiting policy and getting ready for charter renewal. MPTCS was built on a strong foundation and we will continue to build solid scholars who will go out and be change agents to the world. We are excited about the representation of MPTCS scholars at the cities Rock the vote. There are people, politicians, and famous guests who are still reflecting on how well MPTCS was represented on that day. Our superintendent who also spoke on that day so bells are ringing all around the city. And they are still talking about it. Let's keep our tiger spirit alive and let's continue to roar all around the city and country so everyone knows about MPTCS. I would like to congratulate one of our teachers who was featured on The Ellen Show, Mr. Jaleel Ritchwood. Thank you for being an example to our young men in our village and the city of Newark. I am excited to hear about the Boys to Men Club that has begun. Excellent. Truly our young men need a true example of manhood. Let's continue to work and move forward in a spirit of excellence to make sure our scholars receive everything they deserve. (Rouse)

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Welcome to the April 25th meeting. I promised to keep it quick. We are coming off of Spring Break. I hope you had a restful break. I thought it was fitting to start with the great Maya Angelou, "If you are always trying to be normal, you'll never know how great you can be." I feel like those words ring so true as we are reimagining the village. We just need to think big, outside of the box, don't always be so safe and color inside the lines. Just think of what we can do to provide an amazing experience for our scholars. Agenda very simple just looking at focus areas. (Mincy)
- Teaching and Learning Update
 - From a teaching and learning standpoint, NJSLA is on the horizon. It is an annual state administered to NJSLA, ELA, & Math grades 3 9 and science grades 5, 8, & 11. It is the first time that scholars have taken tests since 2018 2019 school year, so before the start of the pandemic. The testing window is May 9th 20th. We know that the students have been inundated with tests. We know they are suffering from a level of fatigue. But we really needed the data so while we hated to do it, we needed that information because we are trying to motivate everyone through a special calendar (theme days, inspirational messages, & prep rally). (Mincy)

Operations Update

- From an operations standpoint, we had a hiring fair. on April 2nd, and offered on the spot interviews. We had about 50 attendees, and 7 recommendations were made as a result of that event. I wanted to give a huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers in attendance. (Mincy)
- Also, great news. There is a limited CEAS certification pilot program for teachers across the state.
 This is a big deal. We applied, and have been approved for that program. That means we are



allowed to have waivers for up to 10% of our teachers who are in the process of obtaining certifications without a penalty. We know teachers have to be certified and when they are not districts can be penalized. This is a big deal in light of the national teacher shortage that exists. Our HR department has been hosting live events. The next one is on April 29th 10A - 1P, any staff members who are listening and want questions answered should stop by via zoom. (Mincy)

Facility Update

- From a facility standpoint, they were working. I want to shout out all the team members in the village who work day and night, both teams together, and each different campus. (Mincy)
- There were files missing at one point, we have them back in our possession. They were moved here on site. (Mincy)
- The roof work at building B & C has now been completed. (Mincy)
- We have new exterior bulbs lighting at STEAM, the dust to dawn lighting. (Mincy)
- Then we had a ceiling collapse a few months ago that affected our servers. That has been replaced. (Mincy)
- We received the final engineering reports for the structural cracks at STEAM. Information around that will be forthcoming. (Mincy)

• Covid 19 Updates.

We are always going to operate with our stakeholders' safety in mind. This morning all staff members participated in testing here on site, and at their respective campuses via Medimobile. Students will continue to be tested weekly and given the unpredictability with covid we are going to keep masks for now and will keep you apprised of how we will move as we go forward. Since our last meeting we had 2 cases, one student and one staff member. (Mincy)

Attendance and Enrollment.

- As a district, we are at 87.93% for the average daily attendance year that is up from 81.06% last year. STEAM is at 91.19% average daily attendance rate. High school is at 87.51%, and PAC at 85.54%. (Mincy)
- The chronic absenteeism rate has dipped slightly from last year was 46.2% and now is at 46% significantly lower than last year's 72.4%. We have been continuing honoring our kids at our attendance celebration. (Mincy)

Climate & Culture

Shoutout to the students of the month. (Mincy)

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Committee (C D)
 - Discussed black out dates, and will approve it in entirety through our handbook today. (Carter)
- Personnel Committee (E-G)
 - The personnel committee met and discussed a list of things that we will be voting on today. We
 went through the renew and nonrenew list, new hires, handbook, and spoke about teachers in
 training new positions coming up. We recommend you vote yes to the resolutions. (Carter)
- Finance Committee (H-J)
 - Finance committee met on Thursday of last week, and discussed the agenda items of April Bills
 List, March Reconciliation Report, and March Board Secretaries Report. We also reviewed
 additional questions to present the budget for next month. School continues to be in a great
 financial position. Our cash is sitting at \$10,020,839.18. We are still projecting to be under budget



for FY 22. Overall great financial health. Everything looks great as we look to close everything out this year. (Haugen)

- Curriculum and Instruction Committee (K M)
 - Two weeks ago, we had our curriculum and instruction meeting. We talked about a host of things. The first thing is preparation for NJSLA, since it is the first time for New Jersey to take these tests since before covid. We talked about the readiness of that assessment. Abbaleo and I are confident that the village is prepared for that exam based on some info provided.
 - We asked for some scholars who are going to college. 50% of our scholars are accepted to a 4 year university, while 90% have been accepted to a 2 or 4 year university. Trending in the right direction.
 - We talked briefly about preparing for summer programs in addition to some field trips. The final item was the approval of some curriculum items. (Denard)
 - I want to remind you these are both 5-year commitments which is good for consistency. Abbaleo
 and his team have negotiated professional development opportunities embedded into these to
 ensure presenting curriculum in entirety contracts. (Denard)
 - Quick Question, are we funding these curriculums in our budget or special programs? (Valdivero)
 - Some of this is being funded with the grant of our ESSER fund. This is a one time cost so we don't have to worry about the sustainability of this cost. There may be some additional purchases that we need to make along that way and those will come out of local funds. To answer your question, some of this is being supplemented from the ESSER funds. (Denard)
 - I personally want to say that this is a great investment. All the investments we are making to improve test results it feels like we are treating this like a star basketball team but directed toward academics. I love that. Great work (Valdivieso)

6. RESOLUTIONS



I. <u>2022-4-25-A: A</u>	Approva	al of the	e April	<i>25, 20</i>	<u>22 BO1</u>	Meeting Agenda					
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse				\checkmark		Dr. Princess Towe		K			
Dashay Carter	\	✓				Julio Valdivieso					✓
Jasonn Denard		✓				Allan Boomer		K			
Briana Gilchrist**		✓				LaSonya Nevius		K			
Discussion: • II. 2022-4-25-B: Approval of the March 28 and April 11, 2022 BOT Meeting Minutes											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse				\checkmark		Dr. Princess Towe		K			
Dashay Carter	✓	✓				Julio Valdivieso					✓
Jasonn Denard **		✓				Allan Boomer		N.			
Briana Gilchrist		\checkmark				LaSonya Nevius		\checkmark			
Discussion: • III. 2022-4-25-C: V. Rouse - 4 Year Term as BOT Renewal (Retroactive: 6.25.21)											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse				\checkmark		Dr. Princess Towe					
Dashay Carter **		\checkmark				Julio Valdivieso					\checkmark
Jasonn Denard	\checkmark	\checkmark				Allan Boomer		\checkmark			

LaSonya Nevius

Discussion:

Briana Gilchrist

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Voting Members	Motion		No No		Absent	ident (Exp. 6.25.23 Voting Members		Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		✓				Dr. Princess Towe**		✓			
Dashay Carter		✓				Julio Valdivieso					
Jasonn Denard		\				Allan Boomer		\			
Briana Gilchrist		\checkmark				LaSonya Nevius		V			
<u>Discussion:</u>	A <i>pprova</i>	al of Ap	oril 22'	<u>Person</u>	nel Rep	<u>oort</u>					
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		V				Dr. Princess Towe		V			
Dashay Carter **		N				Julio Valdivieso		V			
Jasonn Denard	\vee	V				Allan Boomer		\searrow			
Briana Gilchrist		\checkmark				LaSonya Nevius		\checkmark			
<u>Discussion:</u>	Approva	al of 20	<u> 22-202</u>	?3 Rene	ewals						
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		N				Dr. Princess Towe		V			
Dashay Carter	\vee	V				Julio Valdivieso		V			
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Allan Boomer

LaSonya Nevius **

Discussion:

Jasonn Denard

Briana Gilchrist

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C H A R T E R S C H O O L												
VII. <u>2022-4-25-G:</u> A	Approv	al of M	PTCS E	mploy	ee Han	<u>dbook</u>						
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Vincent Rouse		V				Dr. Princess Towe**		\checkmark				
Dashay Carter	V	Y				Julio Valdivieso		\checkmark				
Jasonn Denard		K				Allan Boomer		\triangleleft				
Briana Gilchrist		N.				LaSonya Nevius		\triangleleft				
Discussion: • VIII. 2022-4-25-H: Approval of April 22' Vendor Bill List												
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Vincent Rouse	V	V				Dr. Princess Towe		✓				
Dashay Carter		K				Julio Valdivieso		\triangleleft				
Jasonn Denard		V				Allan Boomer		\checkmark				
Briana Gilchrist		V				LaSonya Nevius **		\checkmark				
Discussion: • IX. 2022-4-25-I: Approval of March 22' Reconciliation (Treasurer's Report)												
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Vincent Rouse	\checkmark	✓				Dr. Princess Towe		\checkmark				
Dashay Carter		\searrow				Julio Valdivieso	✓	\checkmark				

Allan Boomer

LaSonya Nevius

 \checkmark

Discussion:

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Jasonn Denard **

Briana Gilchrist

 \checkmark



X. 2022-4-25-J: Approval o	f March 22' Board Secretary Report
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Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	V	N				Dr. Princess Towe**		K			
Dashay Carter		N.				Julio Valdivieso		K			
Jasonn Denard		N				Allan Boomer		K			
Briana Gilchrist		✓				LaSonya Nevius		\			

Discussion:

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XI. 2022-4-25-K: Approval of SAVVAS myPerspectives English Curriculum for HS

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

Discussion:

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XII. 2022-4-25-L: Approval of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Math Curriculum for HS

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

Discussion:

- Can I get a brief description of this and the value to students? (Valdivieso)
 - We had a great discussion about this because it is not the same company that we have with ELA. The team really thought that the professional development offerings was superior. It also gives us a chance to respond to the ever changing landscape in the state of NJ which provides us with additional resources to help the teachers better teach math throughout the highschool and earlier years. (Denard)
 - We did not have a math curriculum. We seemed to be using pieces of different things. This was something the teachers liked a little better, with the professional development embedded in so we have something that standards aling to hopefully help us better assist the kids prepare for the assessments. (Mincy)
 - This time last year we did talk a lot about the curriculum programs on the lower levels. The staff really appreciated the math curriculum in the middle level. The high school was kind of left with the program we originally had leaving a void. Instead of rushing through and adopting something, the team took this entire year to actually get other companies to provide high level presentations to make the best decision. I think this is something we can be proud of. (Denard)
 - Thank you for that additional insight. I want to make sure we provide additional information to highlight why we are doing things in the interest of our scholars. (Valdivieso)

XIII. 2022-4-25-M: Approval of MPTCS Field Trips

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Voting M	lembers	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Ro	use		\checkmark				Dr. Princess Towe		N			
Dashay Car	ter		\checkmark				Julio Valdivieso	\vee	N			
Jasonn Der	nard		V				Allan Boomer		Ŋ			
Briana Gilcl	nrist						LaSonya Nevius **		\vee			

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- 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 7:40 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.

22. MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:42 PM ET

Respectfully submitted at: 4/25/2022 Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths