

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

March 28, 2022 | 6:00 PM ET Zoom:

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

## 1. CALL TO ORDER - Open Public Meetings Act - 6:11

• 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	$\checkmark$		Julio Valdivieso	$\checkmark$	
Dashay Carter	$\checkmark$		Allan Boomer	$\checkmark$	
Jasonn Denard	$\checkmark$		LaSonya Nevius	$\checkmark$	
Briana Gilchrist	$\checkmark$				
Dr. Princess Towe	$\checkmark$				

Non-Voting Board Me	mbers 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

We want to take the time to showcase the focus of the month, which is MPTCS Women's History. Beginning with the person this school was named after Marion P. Thomas. Inspiration of MPTCS and our schools proudly bear her name. We honor her spirit of excellence. Dr. Karen Thomas the co-founder, CEO and superintendependent of MPTCS. Dr. Thomas was the driving force behind the school's growth and under her direction we inquired the facilities to serve over 1300 students. We honor Dr. Thomas during this Women's history month as well. Another co-founder, Ms. Ernestine Watson who supported the student's families and staff of MPTCS since its inception. She championed fundraising efforts, served as leader on the MPTCS boards, provided scholarships, and continues to serve even as of today. She is one of MPTCS greatest supporters. Denelle Waynick, an accomplished attorney, a consistent contributor to the village, served as last president of BOT, and most recently established a 4-year scholarship for MP TCS alumni. Angelica Allen-McMillan served as a school leader here at MPTCS and today she serves as acting commissioner of education for the state of NEw Jersey. Last but not least, we celebrate MPTCS superintendent Angela Mincy. Proudly continuing the legacy of the women who served before her and she is reimagining our village by infusing new ideas, new vision, and new programs that will prepare our scholars to excel in college, their careers, and in life. Everyone give a hand as we celebrate women's history month. We also want to celebrate the women who serve on the BOT. The men on the BOT want to celebrate the women on the BOT by giving them some flowers. They have been doing a great job and working and we are proud to have them be a part of our team. (Rouse)

#### 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Happy Spring. Spring is always an exciting time of the year for the hopeful change especially with Corona looking like it is on the way out. I am so happy and honored to do this work and create a space that scholars and all of us enjoy. District leaders have been conducting school visits to norm expectations and get a clear picture of how our schools are fairing. Our purpose is to gain feedback to create a plan to fix issues. We walk and include the entire central office including human resources to get a before and after of where our schools are and where we want to move forward. We looked at the climate and culture, building aesthetics, do teachers have a space for lounging, are the messages clear, etc. Central question: how do scholars, staff, and parents experience our schools. Special education corrective action plan (CAP) on July 1st the school was put on a CAP. We hired a new Doctor of Education Dr. Pia Moore who came on board and the CAP was removed. Attendance for the district is at 87.65%, compared to last year which was 81.06%. Mindful of chronic absenteeism rate which decreased from last month's rate and significantly lower than last year's rate. We celebrated perfect attendance scholars with multiple prizes. High school campus attendance has improved greatly. Enrollment applications closed Feb. 12th. Adding supervisor of Operations and Enrollment. Need a dedicated person to do that work, with a competition between schools in the area. Covid positive cases have declined. Reevaluate mask policy before the end of month. Bathroom in PAC is fully functional. During Spring Break there will be excessive cleaning. HR Fair on Saturday April 2, 2022. HR held a live session to talk to HR about April recruiting fairs. We have a referral program. Here are the March Student and Teachers of the month. Worked on team building with district leaders with our meeting and Taboo game. Thank you for listening and please follow us on social media to see some of the things that are happening. (Mincy)



#### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee (F-J)
  - SBA please give us an overview of the reports. (Boomer)
  - We have been interacting in each meeting with the SBA and really keeping an eye on the audit, budget, spending, anticipated spending. I will say I feel very strong about the things that have been put in place with our organization and compliance. (Boomer)
  - We have been having our finance committee to review our finance reports. Cash has been sitting very well. We need to approve the pre-K education aid report. The budget as listed for 75 kids is \$1,680,900 included in the budget is the detailed salaries, instruction, support services, and then other which is just any miscellaneous expeditors. (Haugen)
  - One more thing, I want to note. We have also been having a call every Monday morning with FRIENDS and are making significant progress for the building costs. We are getting more understanding of the expenses moving forward. (Boomer)
- Curriculum Committee (K-L)
  - We met in the second week of the month. It was a fruitful meeting. We talked about the curriculum adoption update specifically English, math, and a conversation about the health curriculum. We talked about how the math curriculum will be presented to the superintendent. The goal is to ensure that all of those areas LA, math, and health are locked in for next school year. Obviously some of these things may go into place this year, so we can do training and get staff members acclimated to the curriculum resources. We talked about the new assessment that our scholars in 11th grade - 2 weeks ago - the NJGPA and the readiness that our village had around that. It is a brand new assessment that every 11th grade student is taking or took for the first time this year. Our scholars were prepared for that assessment. We are looking forward to the data. This assessment is a new graduation requirement. There is a lot of discussion about that in the state. We will be looking closely at what the NJDOE says as regards to scoring. We also talked about the NJSLA which is the assessment that our scholars grades 3 - 9 will be taking and the preparedness around that since this will be the first time that they have taken this assessment in 2 years. This will be a continued discussion to ensure our scholars are ready to take that assessment. We know that will be a key data point when we talk about the renewal process. We want to make sure our teachers are prepared to administer that assessment as well as our students to take that assessment. (Denard)
- Culture & Climate Committee (M)
  - For the culture and climate committee, we had some fun things happening at the school. We continued to celebrate our scholars for their attendance by offering a raffle to encourage our students to come to school and keep our attendance up. We also had a level up conference for our students to provide training and resources for our high school students as they plan their college and career, and next steps in life. We had some great speakers. We partnered with People's Prep. This is the second time we have done it, and we are planning to keep this as an annual tradition. One of the things we will be voting on today is a mental health grant that we received. At the start of COVID the government gave a grant to impact mental health as students prepare to return to school. Our school has decided to partner with Effective School Solutions. They will be giving us a grant so we can train our staff and receive more support around helping our students as they transition back to school and reduce their anxiety so they can be more prepared to learn as they continue throughout the school year. This is what we will be voting on today. (Gilchrist)



- Personnel Committee (C-E)
  - The personnel committee met on March 9th and we went over the vacancy roster. We had a huge need for school nurses that are now filled. We also spoke about HR going live where they were making themselves available to answer any questions that individuals in the district have. We are looking at the policies for human resources and reviewing and altering our handbook, discussing recruitment plans, and some items to be voted on today for some new hires and assignments. (Carter)

#### 6. RESOLUTIONS



I. <u>2022-3-28-A: Approval of the February 28, 2022 BOT Meeting Minutes</u>

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

# **Discussion:**

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II. 2022-3-28-B: Approval of the March 28, 2022 BOT Meeting Agenda

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

# **Discussion:**

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III. 2022-3-28-C: Approval of February Personnel Report

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

## **Discussion:**

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IV. 2022-3-28-D: \$2,000 Hiring Bonus for Hard to Staff Hires

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

## Discussion:



V. 2022-3-28-E: \$500 Referral Bonus

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

# **Discussion:**

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VI. 2022-3-28-F: Approval of March 2022 Vendor Bill List

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

## Discussion:

Packaging items F - J together. Motion Valdivieso. Second Boomer



VII. 2022-3-28-G: Approval of February 2022 Board Secretary Report

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

## **Discussion:**

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VIII. 2022-3-28-H: Approval of February 2022 Reconciliation Report

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

## Discussion:

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IX	2022-03-28-I: C	arractive Action	Plan: 2021 001	002 and 003
IA.	ZUZZ-U3-Z0-1: C	orrective Action	FIAIL ZUZ I-UU L	. UUZ and UUS

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

# **Discussion:**

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X. <u>2022-03-28-J: Approval of 2022-2023 Pre-K Budget</u>

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

# Discussion:

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XI. 2022-3-28-K: STEAM Field Trips & Title I After School Tutoring (Mar 22)

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

## **Discussion:**

• Package K-L: Motion Denard & Second Towe - Approved

XII. 2022-3-28-L: High School Field Trips (Mar 22)

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

## Discussion:

- Restaurant depot field trip. Is that to give those students who are interested in culinary programs a background which is billed as a restaurant shop? Is that the purpose of that? (Valdivieso)
  - Yes it is in our career exploration program. (Rouse)



XIII. 2022-3-28-M: ESS Mental Health Support Sub Grant

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

#### **Discussion:**

- I want to point out. This resource in the contract it is noted that they are giving up to 1 individual psychotherapy season for each student each week and family therapy typically offered on twice daily basis, up to 1 daily group therapy session and those groups wont be more than 10 to one multifamily group therapy session each month. If you find these resources useful as the community, please take advantage of these resources. (Valdivieso)
- And if you are someone who knows someone who can take advantage of these resources, please feel free to refer them to our program. (Gilchirst)
- 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 7:09 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: 7:10 PM ET

Respectfully submitted at: 3/28/2022 Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths