

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 28, 2022 | 6:00 PM ET Zoom:

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

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

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

• Jasonn Denard & Briana Gilchirst have a proxy.

| Non-Voting Board Mer | 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 are moving strong to still present the best for our scholars and appreciate the hard work being done. (Rouse). Happy Black history month.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE -

- Happy Black History Month
- MAP Assessment
 - Admin Oct & Feb., will be administered in June. It is a computerized test that will compare students to peers and other schools.
 - o Participation Rates
 - Increase in math and ELA. ELA 12% increase & math 9.8% increase.
 - MAP Data at a Glance
 - Growth projection a mix bag. 50% is the target goal. As a district, ELA growth rate is 51%. and Math growth rate is 49%. Variety of factors like remote learning, teacher shortages, testing fatigue, transitions. There are gaps in data. Math trending upward but not pre pandemic level.
 - Responding to MAP Data
 - Educating administrators to know how to adjust teaching for where students are at. New professional development for teachers.
 - Grouping students for after school tutoring and Saturday tutoring session.

Attendance

- Chronic absenteeism rate is 49.6% is lower than last year's 72.4%.
- Average daily attendance is higher from 81.06% to 86.77%.
- Having raffles for perfect attendance.
- Covid Updates
 - Following CDC guidelines. Number of cases significantly reduced. Down to only 4 cases last week, from a peak of 65 cases one week.
- Staffing Update
 - Finally, there are nurses on each campus who will be onboarded soon.
- Crafting 5 year Strategic Planning
 - Ben Feit spearheading 1st session tomorrow.
 - Facilities Updates
 - Awaiting final engineering budget for PAC auditorium for the hope of a Spring Break completion.
 - Basement bathroom at PAC renovation goal to be fully operational March 10th.
 - Boilers at PAC and STEAM are scheduled to be water treated to help minimize corrosion.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - N/A



6. RESOLUTIONS

AUDIT REPORTS

- Page 1 Required Communications.
- Following general standards of accounting and federal government standards.
- One new statement implemented in July 2020 GASB statement 84. Student activity funds reported in special reported funds.
- Difficulties due to some documentation unavailable. Trial balances were not reconciled. Became reconciled as they performed the audit. Received full corporation.
- Corrected misstatements that had issues. No uncorrected misstatements.
- No issues with management to report.
- Management needs to provide a letter saying all is truthful, believe that is the board's job to approve tonight.
- Fully confident in the team currently in place so we never have to review another audit in the future.



2022-2-28-A: Approval of the January 24,2022 BOT Meeting Minutes Abstain Absent Voting Members Motion Abstain Absent **Voting Members** Motion Yes No Yes No Vincent Rouse ** Julio Valdivieso $\overline{ }$ Dashay Carter Allan Boomer Jasonn Denard LaSonya Nevius Briana Gilchrist Dr. Princess Towe Discussion:

| II. <u>2022-2-28-B: A</u> | II. <u>2022-2-28-B: Approval of the February 28, 2022 BOT Meeting Agenda</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----|----|---------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|--|--|--|
| Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | Voting Members | Motion | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent | | | |
| Vincent Rouse | | K | | | | Julio Valdivieso | | K | | | | | | |
| Dashay Carter | | V | | | | Allan Boomer | | N. | | | | | | |
| Jasonn Denard | | V | | | | LaSonya Nevius ** | | V | | | | | | |
| Briana Gilchrist | | \ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dr. Princess Towe | V | > | | | | | | | | | | | | |



III. 2022-2-28-C: Approval of the February 15, 2022 BOT Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion:

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IV. 2022-2-28-D: Approval of the February Personnel Report

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

Discussion:

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V. 2022-2-28-E: Approval of the February 2022 Vendor Bill List

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

Discussion:

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VI. 2022-2-28-F: Approval of the January 2022 Board Secretary Report

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

Discussion:

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VII. 2022-1-242022-2-28-G: Approval of the January 2022 Reconciliation Report

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

Discussion:

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VIII. 2022-2-28-H: Approval of the McGraw Hill Contract (Digital Services / Coursework)

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

- Some text is red in the contract, am I correct in assuming that was our weigh ins on their boilerplate. (Valdivieso)
- Yes, that is correct, our Attorney Jallah confirmed. (Griffiths)
- That was very helpful to include those in red, so I knew where we had weighed in on. I want to commend Attorney Jallah for that attention to detail. (Valdivieso)



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

Discussion:

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X. 2022-2-28-J: Approval of Ordonez Landscaping LLC Contract (Snow Removal)

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

Discussion:

 Motion for approval with small correction to paragraph 8 the word Italian should be Ordonez. I discussed with Attorney Jallah that it should be Ordonez and would be changed. (Valdivieso)



XI. 2022-2-28-K: Approval of Kristina Edgar as SBA Effective 1/25/2022

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

Discussion:

- It would be helpful for a very short rundown on this situation. (Valdivieso)
- Kristina working in the Falkowski office will become the SBA on record. Michael is still supporting us.
 Kristina will become the SBA. They are reorganizing the office but the team is still the same. Dr.
 Falkowski will be the qualified purchasing agent. But the tram is still the same. (Mincy)

XII. 2022-2-28-L: Approval of Dr. Brian Falkowski as QPA Effective 1/25/2022

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

- Could someone give a distinction between QPA & SBA. (Boomer)
 - A SBA is a certificated position but you can be a SBA without a QPA certificate which requires more years of experience. Having a QPA allows you to bid higher to the maximum threshold of without going out to bid. (Falkowski)
 - Maximum threshold with a QPA is 44,000, but if you don't have a QPA big threshold 32,000 and quote threshold lower as well. (Falkowski)
- Is this QPA something every school has to have or is it special to have? (Boomer)
 - Most schools have a QPA certificate, if SBA does not have. If someone at the school doesn't have a QPA, the bid threshold becomes significantly less. (Falkowski)



- Is there a change in ways things get paid for? (Boomer)
 - No board still approves purchases, it just allows you to bid higher and not go out to public bid for the higher amount that QPA is qualified to bid. Without the QPA the bid threshold is significantly lower, I think maybe about 20,000 less so you would have to go out to bid. (Falkowski)

XIII. 2022-2-28-M: Approval of FY 21 Comprehensive Annual Report & Auditor's (CAFR) Report

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

Discussion:

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XIV. 2022-2-28-N: Approval of Revised FY21 Budget (Reflecting October 15th Enrollment Rev/Exp.)

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

- Is it customary in this forum to discuss anything in the budget where the SBA would give a summary or is this not customary? (Boomer)
 - o The overall budget and how it was originally designed was not necessarily changed, we worked off the budget that was presented in March 2021. But it was in a pdf and many pages, but in order to satisfy NJ we had to provide an updated budget with the revised revenue so the methodology we went to provide this update was to 1 update revenue using a 108 line item format which is required format of NJ charter schools and working on a budget to actual which



we recently presented to the finance committee, we used that tool to project out and update the budget numbers based on our spending trends through January that was used as the "narrative" for that budget. The overall budget plan has not really changed, except what was presented in the update was a real projection of how we are projecting for this school year and where we should basically end up as far as expendators on a per line item base. (Falkowski)

- I will say I was apart of that review and one thing I love about the current budget and the way it was presented and maintained is we have a really good eye not just on where we will be on the end of the year but also what sort of shortfalls we might experience from a cash flow perspective and how much of a reserve we will maintain. I feel very comfortable with the budget but I am glad Michael you were able to discuss it a little bit for people to understand what is different here. (Boomer)
- A quick follow up about the current revised budget. Did it also include recommendations from the audit? Or was this constructed before the audit was finalized? (Denard)
 - The revised budget did not include recommendations from the audit. (Falkowski)
- 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.

Georgeann Solomon-Frierierson

• Long Term Sub. I've been with MPTCS since 2019 and have had every job known at MPTCS. This is the first year that I had no clue what I was doing since when I went to the website it gave no description of work. I did not know what a long term sub entailed. I thought I was just teaching one ELA class, I teach two ELA classes and two social studies classes. I do everything a teacher does as well as guided reading. Those job descriptions should be posted as long as benefits. If I read those descriptions, I would have not taken the LTS position. It needs to be posted as a job if it will be a job at MPTCS. The job description needs to be clear so people can make educated decisions from knowing the job descriptions better. As a LTS, we were not afforded chrome books to do our job to help students. And when we were finally given chrome books, they were student ones and they did not give access to all the needed items like making copies, which required using personal computers which also limited ability to complete some work and make copies. LTS needs teacher chrome books to complete work easily.

Pastor Vanness Roper

• I want to talk about PAC - HS. Tax on parents and this building this year has been terrible. When we start talking about people not respecting action plans. The principal took her 2 months to get my godson approval for an action plan. Then my godson was diagnosed with bipolar. I was promised by Mincy that the sister superintendent 504 would contact me that was 4 weeks ago and they have not contacted me. They don't keep their promises. They talk about relationships and partnerships. But we can not have kids that are afraid to come to school. We can't have students that are assaulted every day. We can not have VP or administration using profanity on our children. This is not okay. We can not have gangs running this building. I asked Mincy in October, someone needs to take control of this building. They give them detention, the kids don't come. They tell them they have to come on Saturday. The kids do not come. The kids are not held accountable. They think this is a joke. Detention is a joke. There is no discipline in this building. And no one cares. If they see you stand up to them they call DCFS on you. The principal told her social worker to call DCFS on me, saying I insulted my godson when he went into crisis which was a lie. This is what you get when you stand up to them and fight for what is your right. I am calling for the principal's job. I know failure when I see failure, I know wrong when I see wrong, and I shouldn't have to come



out here individually as a person in crotches and come in a dark building and dark alleyway to tell the truth and to ask for our children to get a free appropriate public education. When you tell them that things are going wrong in the building you give them an opportunity to give them some help, they don't help. You get rid of the people who don't want to work saying we all have to eat, but our children are not the sacrificial cash cow because they need to eat and you need a budget to pay them the checks that they may not deserve. Either we are partners for real or not. You have my attention as an advocate. Because my child has been disrespected, the people's action plan has been disrespected and the 504 has been respected which are both state complaints. You have sex videos underneath stairwell in your building and you say absolutely nothing. We will fix it tomorrow, give us a chance, give them grace. I have a meeting because I am upset because someone called a social worker on me. I will be back until there are changes, there is more coming. I would appreciate as I asked for ADA accommodations as I am visually impaired as others are reading speeches. I have to memorize my speech. I am asking for parking accommodations for these BOT meetings, because I will be at all of them. I am talking to parents. Stand up for your children. Your children don't need to be attacked or beaten up every day. Every day 100 children shouldn't be walking in late because they do not want to go to school. This place should be friendly. I have much respect for the 1st and 2nd principal and have never complained to this board about anything. But to be called a misogynist and a racist for standing up for my children and godson and stand up as a community leader in this building and a principal who doesn't respect that all I ask for was common sense education. To have them try to brand me as a racist, go back and pull the video they said it. I am just letting them know what they do. They said to one another I am a superstar, you are going to make me a superstar I will be a superstar. I will be at these advisor meetings and I will be turning reports into the state. And believe me, I do my job well and don't need to be here everyday.

Robert Dutches

• 3rd year history teacher at high school. It's a welcome change to see everyone here in person. Lots of changes in the district in the last few years with new principals and superintendent. One thing that has been constant is my salary as well as every salary for every high school teacher in the last three years. I would like to have on the public record that despite the fact that most teachers receive higher salary no teacher in this HS has received a higher salary, despite the fact that we are going through quite a bit. I won't say anything disparaging and say I think everyone's best intentions are for the children here and for the long term health of our schools. However I think that ensuring the financial health of our school is important, another element of the health of school is the retention and satisfaction of teachers not just through words but actions which I hope in the coming negotiation meetings we come to a quick resolution in which all teachers feel appreciated and are compensated for the work that we do.

Patricia Noon

I am here to talk about some problems. I am a Junior parent. My husband and I have worked with 3 principals in the last period and all issues were always resolved immediately. This year has been a lot of changes in this school. There seems to be more marijuana, drugs, and vaping flowing in this school. And nothing is being done about it. Students are being threatened and insulted on a daily basis. Students are not attending classes and our handing out in the halls because they are afraid to come to class because some students are not doing anything to protect them. There are 100+ students coming in late every day because they do not want to enter with the regular student population because of the threats to violence. Some of these students have met with the superintendent and she said she would look into their concerns and they would not mention any names in their investigations. Now these students are being harassed by the administration since "you want to go to the superintendent I am going to call your parents about everything". This same VP was heard using profanity on one of these students. When questioned she said she did not care. This administration told the social worker to call DCFS, because they were told that my husband and godson had a physical altercation which was not true. This is what they do when they have parents in their building that they can not control. They have called on many parents this year and their complaints have nothing to do with abuse or neglect. I would appreciate if you would address these concerns ASAP because the parents of this building deserve accountability, our students deserve better than what they are getting from this administration. Thank you.



8. CLOSED SESSION - 7:34 PM

9. CLOSING REMARKS FROM BOARD CHAIR:

Thank you everyone for your attendance tonight. Thank you to everyone who has spoken tonight, your concerns have not fallen on deaf ears. As we continue to move forward with the village, we are proud of the accomplishments that have been made thus far we have not crossed every T or dotted every I but believe we have worked hard to get to this moment and concerns heard we are going to move forward and address the concerns as a village and make sure that our scholars get exactly what they need. Thank you Ms. Mincy and our staff for continuing to move us forward. Thank you for our BOT for tonight. We appreciate everybody. (Rouse)

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: 7:37 PM ET Carter

Dr. Towe **

Respectfully submitted at: 2/28/2022 Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths