



**MPTCS Board of Trustees**  
**Rev. Vincent Rouse | Chairman**  
**P: 973.621.0060 • F: 973.621.2453**  
**vrouse@mptcs.org**

**Marion P. Thomas Charter School Board of Trustees Meeting**

October 25, 2021 | 6:00 PM ET

Zoom:

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Open Public Meetings Act - 6:12**

A. 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 thereof posted on the MPTCS website, in the office of the Clerk of the City of Newark, and was published in the Star-Ledger in July 2021.

**2. ROLL CALL**

A. The following individuals are voting members of the Board:

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Vincent Rouse	x		Julio Valdivieso	x	
Dashay Carter	x		Allan Boomer	x	
Jason Denard		x	LaSonya Nevius	x	
Briana Gilchrist	x				
Dr. Princess Towe	x				

Non-Voting Board Members Present	
Elijah Griffiths (Interim Board Secretary/Administrator)	Tina Jalloh(Board Attorney)



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**3. BOARD MINUTES**

1. Approval of Board Minutes September 27, 2021

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		X				Julio Valdivieso		X			
Dashay Carter	X	X				Allan Boomer		X			
Jason Denard		X				LaSonya Nevius	XX	X			
Briana Gilchrist		X									
Dr. Princess Towe		X									

2. Approval of Agenda : Approve of Agenda October 25, 2021

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		X				Julio Valdivieso	XX	X			
Dashay Carter		X				Allan Boomer		X			
Jason Denard		X				LaSonya Nevius	X	X			
Briana Gilchrist		X									
Dr. Princess Towe		X									



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**4. CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

**Discussion:**

**Superintendent’s Update**

**Discussion:**

- Appreciate the transparency in your reports (Valdivieso)
- I was impressed with Mr. Arce in the Ops Committee meeting - great assessments on day 1! (Valdivieso)
- Can you share the heatmap with board members? (Gilchrist)
- In the chat, it was mentioned/ HS attendance - teenagers in social activities prior to start of the school day
  - Will share - just want to note it is raw data (Mincy)
- Chat
  - Any update on the PAC school nurse situation? (Gilchrist)  
no update as of yet, there is a challenge. Not just village wide.

**5. 2021-10-25-A: Approval of the September Board Secretary Report**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso	x	x			
Dashay Carter		x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius		x			
Briana Gilchrist		x									
Dr. Princess Towe	xx	x									



marion p thomas  
CHARTER SCHOOL

MPTCS Board of  
Trustees Rev. Vincent  
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**6. 2021-10-25-B: Approval of September Bill List & September Treasurer's Report**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter	XX	x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius	x	x			
Briana Gilchrist		x									
Dr. Princess Towe		x									

Discussion:

- Finance committee met twice last week to make sure we're being responsible with our spending (Valdivieso)

**7. 2021-10-25-C: Personnel: New Hires, Resignations, Leave of Absence(s) and Terminations**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter	XX	x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius	x	x			
Briana Gilchrist		x									
Dr. Princess Towe		x									

Discussion:

- Confirming we are going into a closed session? (Valdivieso)



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**8. 2021-10-25-D: Approval to Remove former SBA as Signer on TD Bank Accounts**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	XX	X				Julio Valdivieso		X			
Dashay Carter	X	X				Allan Boomer		X			
Jason Denard		X				LaSonya Nevius		X			
Briana Gilchrist		X									
Dr. Princess Towe		X									

**9. 2021-10-25-E: Approval to Authorize L. Agastra (Asst. SBA) as Signer on TD Bank Accounts**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		X				Julio Valdivieso	XX	X			
Dashay Carter		X				Allan Boomer	X	X			
Jason Denard		X				LaSonya Nevius		X			
Briana Gilchrist		X									
Dr. Princess Towe		X									

**Discussion:**

- I would like to acknowledge the hard work LA is doing (Valdivieso)



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**11. 2021-10-25-F: Approval of the MPTCS Emergency Virtual & Remote Learning Plan**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	X	X				Julio Valdivieso	XX	X			
Dashay Carter		X				Allan Boomer		X			
Jason Denard		X				LaSonya Nevius		X			
Briana Gilchrist		X									
Dr. Princess Towe		X									

**Discussion:**

- Is there anything on here you want to Highlight for parents or anyone’s attention? (Valdivieso)
  - No scheduling changes to avoid interruption (Mincy)

**12. 2021-10-25-G: HS Field Trips**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		X				Julio Valdivieso		X			
Dashay Carter	X	X				Allan Boomer		X			
Jason Denard		X				LaSonya Nevius	XX	X			
Briana Gilchrist		X									
Dr. Princess Towe		X									

**13. 2021-10-25-H: Education Data (contract)**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	X	X				Julio Valdivieso		X			
Dashay Carter		X				Allan Boomer		X			
Jason Denard				X		LaSonya Nevius	XX	X			



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Briana Gilchrist		x									
Dr. Princess Towe		x									

**Discussion:**

- More information? (Valdivieso)
  - To engage in competitive bidding (ex. PPE). This vendor will ascertain the best of the bidders offering identical scope of work(s). (Abbeleo)

**14. 2021-10-25-I: MPTCS Observation and Evaluation Guidebook SY 21-22**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter		x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius		x			
Briana Gilchrist	XX	x									
Dr. Princess Towe	x	x									

**15. 2021-10-25-K: Rutgers University Literacy Development (contract)**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter		x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius	XX	x			
Briana Gilchrist	x	x									
Dr. Princess Towe		x									



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**16. 2021-10-25-L: Essex Educational Regional Services Tuition SY 21-22 (contract)**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter		x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius		x			
Briana Gilchrist	x	x									
Dr. Princess Towe	xx	x									

**17. 2021-10-25-M: PAC Academy Field Trips**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter		x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius	x	x			
Briana Gilchrist	xx	x									
Dr. Princess Towe		x									





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**18. 2021-10-25-N: STEAM Academy Field Trips**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter	XX	x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius	x	x			
Briana Gilchrist		x									
Dr. Princess Towe		x									

**Discussion:**

- We're paying teachers a stipend to do additional tutoring after schools? Is this a way we want to make sure our students are catching up to be where they need to be? (Valdivieso)
  - Yes (Mincy/Abbeleo)

**19. 2021-10-25-O: Big Picture Big Learning (contract)**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	X	x				Julio Valdivieso		x			
Dashay Carter		x				Allan Boomer		x			
Jason Denard		x				LaSonya Nevius		x			
Briana Gilchrist	XX	x									
Dr. Princess Towe		x									



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**20. 2021-10-25-P: Hiring of Interim SBA & Search for Perm-Replacement for SBA**

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	X	X				Julio Valdivieso		X			
Dashay Carter		X				Allan Boomer		X			
Jason Denard		X				LaSonya Nevius		X			
Briana Gilchrist		X									
Dr. Princess Towe	XX	X									

**Discussion:**

- Do we have someone in mind already OR are we passing the resolution to move forward? (Valdivieso)
  - Correct, in an interim capacity. (Mincy)

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**7. CLOSED SESSION -**

**8. CLOSING REMARKS FROM BOARD CHAIR:**

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

**9. MOTION TO ADJOURN 8:44 PM ET**

Respectfully submitted at: 10/25/2021

Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths