



Marion P. Thomas Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes of Scheduled Meeting

Held on January 22, 2018

I. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll call

Femi Amarin the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary conducted a roll call of members present. Members were counted, and the Board Secretary confirmed quorum for the meeting.

Members Present

G. Collins - Chair
D. Blount
V. Rouse **
L. Leslie
K Sherrer El **
M. Jones
K. Thomas – CEO
D. White- DOO
F. Amarin

(ii) Excused

Rev. R. Slaughter
R. Petty
J-Dean –Taylor
D. Best

**Two members were present but were unable to vote having been suspended by School Ethics Commission for not completing the mandatory board training organized by the New Jersey School Board Association for board members.

(iii) Other:

T. Jalloh – Board Counsel
M. Fletcher - Director of Human Resources
M. Griffin – Director of Marketing and Development



III ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The Agenda for the meeting was adopted

Moved by L. Lesley

Second by: D Blount

IV OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

The advertised agenda was amended and public forum was brought forward

No comment from the public.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1) Chief Executive Officer Report

The Chief Executive Officer gave the status of ongoing eleven projects. Five activities were completed and 6 activities are in various stages of completion.

On Charter Renewal

The CEO reported that Marion P Thomas Charter School was renewed and expanded. She reported that MPTCS was renewed based upon the variety of programs offered and a plan for turnaround. MPTCS is now renewed and expanded to 1,950 students k-12 and additional 75 seats in Pre School

She announced that 6 schools were up for renewals out of which we had information on the three that have been renewed - Link, MPTCS and Newark Educators. Waiting to hear about 3 others, but expect they were renewed also. Lady Liberty that has been on probation for many years has been designated for closure by June 30, 2018.

On Expansions, she reported that 8 schools requested for expansion. 5 schools were granted the full expansions they requested – North Star, Great Oaks, MPTCS, Lead and Link. Two Schools were denied expansion – Roseville and Newark Educators. Waiting to hear of decision on People Prep, but project they were not granted expansion.

She concluded that as of today 17,500 (32%) students are enrolled in charter schools in Newark The impact of these decisions raised total approved seats to near 28,000 seats which represent 51% of school enrollment in the City of Newark.



Enrollment.

MPTCS current enrollment is at 1,357, down by 8 students from past month report. Each of these students has gone to North Star; their first choice which is allowable under the rules of Newark Enrolls. She concluded her report that enrollment for next year is looking strong and the team is aggressively out on the field recruiting.

The Director Marketing – Ms Griffin reported that student recruitment has become stiffer. Parents are becoming savvy and consideration given to student performance in their choice of school.

The CEO reported that the Chief Academic Officer Dr Land is requesting three months medical leave to enable her to concentrate on her recovery.

Student Achievement

The CEO reported that the latest School Performance Report has been released by the State and provided members with MPTCS dashboard. The CEO also provided members with the projected Pass rates in English and Math for all the Schools. - Elementary School, SELEC Academy Middle School and High School. The goal of the School is to achieve a district wide average of 41.2%. ELA has a new goal of 36.20% and would require 418 to achieve the proficiency goal. The new math goal is set at 27.20% and will require 279 students passing to achieve the proficiency goal in PARCC.

The CEO reported that 251 scholars have been selected to participate in PARCC Power Program as of 1/17/18. The High School is using its B Day Schedule to provide in school support for students. Math students from NJIT will also be brought in to tutor during the day. The Middle School is using special schedule to provide additional time slots for students to receive PARCC practice sessions.

The CEO reported that 59% of the students are on track to graduate. The rate compared favorably to 35% that were on track at this time in 2017.

On Athletics, the CEO reported the Athletic Director Mr. McGee has expanded the offerings this year to include the following:

Practice Facilities

JFK—Elementary

YMCA – Middle School

World Impact—High School



Current programs

Boxing—40 students --now non-competitive
Basketball, Flag football for middle school co-ed
Track and soccer

Next Year

Volleyball
Fencing

On Facilities,

The CEO reported that the district wide 5-year facilities plan is in development. KNTM Architects has been retained to drive, develop and implement the facilities plan. She reported that for the purposes the next year the following is expected to be in place.

FACILITY	GRADES	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	RENOVATION
CLINTON	PreK 3- 2	145	Total
7 th St.	PreK3-6	400	N/A
SELECT	1-7	300	1 st fl.
Middle School	7-8	150	Broad St. or Burnett
High School	9-12	600	N/A

2) OPERATIONS

The Director of Operations (DOO) Mr. Damon White presented a report from Operations for the month of January 2018. He provided District attendance report and District suspension and Expulsion Summary for December 2017. He also reported a number of priority notifications and submissions for the month of January 2018.

On technology the DOO reported that the District attained 1:1 status upon the completion of the distribution of student Chromebooks in Shipman campus.

On facilities, the DOO provided updates on ongoing repairs and relocation at various locations and buildings:

- **Berger Organization Update (570 Broad)** - The work has been completed and the space has been turned over to the school.



- **Relocation Update(s)** – Human Resources move to 60 Park Pl. has been completed. > Selected departments are expected to move in by 1/22/18 when all technology issues and connectivity issues are completed. Friends will also be relocated here.
- **ES Chimney Repair Update** - the roofing and mason contractor has secured the chimney. The design of the new chimney has been completed and currently soliciting contractor bids to complete the work.
- **ES HVAC Unit Update (Bldg. C)** – Scheduled for installation in March.
- Due to boiler issues at the ES and Shipman Campus locations, facilities will now monitor the buildings for proper operation of this equipment on weekends. Additional remote temperature monitoring capabilities has also been installed at these locations.
- Renovation planning at Shipman Campus, 1st FL., is underway.
- Carrier is continuing to closely monitor the HVAC system at the HS for proper operation. At this time, the system is working properly.
- Due to the unusually low temperatures, several sidewalks at exterior doors High School) raised due to freezing, rendering these doors inoperable and causing egress issues. Hollister construction has investigated this problem and will be sending a site contractor to make repairs.

The DOO announced his decision to become the School Safety Specialist in accordance with N.J.A.C 6A; 9-2.1 and will attend all subsequent trainings on behalf of MPTCS. He also announced that the School is currently reviewing MPTCS portal to ensure we are compliant with the posting of all relevant organization information. The DOO also reported that the District Preventative Maintenance plan is in progress and the development of SY calendar 2018-2019 is in progress.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORT

1) Superintendent Search

The Director of Human Resources-Michael Fletcher presented updates on the search. He stated that three companies were shortlisted Axis Talent Partners, Edgility Consulting and Office Walker Group. He reported that Axis Talent Partners presented the best proposals and fee. He hinted that the committee might go ahead with Axis Partners.



2) Personnel Committee

The Chair of the Personnel Committee David Blount presented the personnel committee report. The report listed the new hires along with their effective dates. He also presented a listing of separations and the effective dates of their separations along with the request for leaves of absence.

The Personnel Chair also provided a report of current openings. He reported that there are total of 10 openings across the four campuses and the Central Office.

The Personnel Chair reported that MPTCS hosted a holiday party for the staff on December 22, 2017. He informed members that salary adjustments were made and a retro pay total of 2.25% was distributed based on the agreed salary guides.

3) Finance Committee

The Finance Committee report was presented by the School Business Administrator. The Bill List in the amount of \$ 2,910,469.29 for the month January 2018 was presented to the Board for approval. The SBA also presented the Board Secretary and Board Treasurer Report for the month of December 2017.

4) Legal Updates

The Board Attorney Ms. Tina Jalloh presented updates on number of issues affecting MPTCS.

A. CHAD:

- (i) Initial mediation conference was held on Friday, Jan 12. Plaintiff reasserted his claim that we owe a year and two or three months of rent. Plaintiff reasserted their claim that they have no obligation under the lease to make the repairs requested and that the lease was not rescinded and was still valid.

We asserted the contrary specifically that the lease was properly rescinded. Further we asserted theories of constructive eviction for failure to make repairs. In addition, we asserted that their failure to make repairs put our students and staff in a dangerous situation and that not only is it a breach of the implied warranty of habitability, but that their breach caused us to have no choice but to vacate the premises.



The mediator determined that it was necessary for more documents to be exchanged and did not take a position on our positions. However, she did ask questions about the current status of the facility and whether or not it has been, or would be re rented

A follow up call is scheduled for February with the plan that we exchange discovery before then.

(ii) Waiting on Status of Attorney for Hamilton.

(iii) Discovery phase is until May 29, 2018.

2. TJ v. MPTCS: Closed Session

3. Suspension of teaching license for Shakoor Reid

(i) There has been no word on the results of our motion for Summary Judgment on Shakoor Reid. The judge still has the file on her desk. If they do not rule in our favor we will move forward to a trial and I will prepare Witness from the school for the trial Anna Brown and Damon White.

(ii) No word on our settlement offer of 8 months.

4. Property Acquisition.

(i) We are scheduled to have a dry closing on Morton Ave tomorrow on Jan 23, 2018 and transfer the funds on Thursday, Jan. 25th.

(ii) On Burnet st. We are in the due diligent period. Our investors have opted not to hire a consultant to handle the application for Historical preservation designation and are working on it themselves.

V CLOSED SESSION

Motion to move to closed session

The Board moved to a closed session to discuss a confidential matter.

Moved by: L. Lesley

Seconded by: Jones



Motion to move to OPEN SESSION

Moved by: M Jones
 Seconded by: L. Lesley

VI RESOLUTIONS

1-18-1

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the bill list for the month of January 2018 in the amount of \$2, 910,469.29

1-18-2

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the Board Secretary Report for the month of December 2017.

1-18-3

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the Treasurer of School Monies report for the month of December 31, 2017

HUMAN RESOURCES

1-18-4

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the following new hires for the 2017-2018 School Year: **Approved**

Last Name	First Name	Position	Salary	Signing Date
Elementary School				
Torres	Jorge	Teacher	\$61, 563.00	12/12/2017
Green wood	Sophia	One to One Aide	\$24, 660.00	01/05/2018



High School				
Brooks	Joshua	English/Language Arts Teacher	\$62,083.41	12/22/2017
Benjamin	Prince	On Call Art Teacher	\$125 per day	1/11/2018
White	Terri	SpEd. Teacher	\$65,299.08	12/11/2017
Central Office				
Thomas	Devian	Bus Driver	\$19.50 per hour	12/14/2017
Bussey	Hayat	Temp Payroll Specialist	\$25.00 per hour	1/4/2018
Garcia	Marcus	On Call Substitute	\$125.00 per day	1/12/2018

1-18-5

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approves the following separations .**Approved**

Last Name	First Name	Position	Status	Effective Date
Nedrick	Vanessa	Elementary Teacher <i>K</i>	Resigned	01/30/2018
Bada	Tosin	ES Music Teacher	Resigned	2/21/2018
Thornton	Yolanda	ES Security Officer	Resigned	1/26/2018
Ligon	Timia	Select Academy School Social Worker	Resigned	3/16/2018
Thomas	Karen	CEO	Resigned (Retirement)	6/30/2018
Cier	Shawn	Teacher	Terminated	2/15/2018



1-18-6

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approves the following leaves of absence. **Approved**
New and Updated

Last Name	First Name	Position	Type of Leave	Leave Date	Return Date
Mosley	Krystal	Payroll, Business office	Sick	9/18/2017	extended (updated)
Wright-White	Kimberly	HS Principal	Sick	11/1/2017	1/3/2018 returned
Fields	Andre	HS Sub Security	sick	10/19/2017	3/30/2018 (updated)
Tunstall	Tonya	ES Parent Liaison	sick	1/08/2018	1/23/2018
Land	Doreen	CAO	sick	1/16/18	4/16/18

OTHER

1-18-7

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the following field trips by the High School for the month of January through March 2018.

Date	Description of trips	Grade	# of Scholars	# Chaperons	Estimated Cost
2/10/18	To attend the 16 th Annual Historically Black Colleges & Universities College Festival	11 th – 12 th	35	4	\$2,500
2/20/18	Fun Fuzion	11 th – 12 th	40	4	\$1,364.



3/1/18	Glassroots	9th – 12 th	25	2	\$702.
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1-18-8

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the proposal from the BRICK Academy for the provision of tailored leadership instructional support and ELA and Math content support to Marion P Thomas Charter School. The assignment is expected to commence February 1, 2018 through April 28, 2018 at a cost of \$60,000.

Moved by: M Jones
 Seconded by: Lesley
Approved

1-18-9

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the proposal from KNTM Architects, LLC to perform architectural and planning consulting services for the development of a 5-Year Facility plan for Marion P Thomas Charter Schools. The project which is expected to be executed in phases is estimated will cost \$60,000.

Moved by: M Jones
 Seconded by: Lesley
Approved

1-18-10

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the appointment of Michael Fletcher as the MPTCS Affirmative Action Officer effective immediately.

Moved by: L Lesley
 Seconded by M Jones
Approved

Prepared by Femi Amarin – Board Secretary

Approved by MPTCS Board of Trustees