

Marion P. Thomas Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes of Rescheduled Meeting- February 27, 2017

125 Sussex Avenue

Newark, NJ 07103

The meeting was advertised in the Star Ledger of August 5, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00PM

I. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll call

Femi Amorin, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, conducted a roll call of members in attendance. 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
Rev. Slaughter Joined by Phone
R. Petty
D. Best Joined by Phone
M. Jones
F. Amorin

(ii) Excused

K. Roberts
J. Dean-Taylor
L. Leslie

(iii) Other:

T. Jalloh – Board Counsel
D. White – Director of Operations
Rev. G. Ince – Executive Director – Friends of MPTCS
Dean S. McGee
S. Confrancisco – Director of Scholar Support Services
Anna Brown – Human Resources Manager

III ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The Agenda was amended to include a presentation by a representative of Communities Always Bring Extra Love (CABEL) and Rev. Ince to provide updates on facilities for the school by the Friends of MPTCS.

IV. MINUTES

The minutes for the January 30, 2017 meeting of the board were approved by the Board.

IV. PRESENTATION

Mr. Owens of Communities Always Bring Extra Love (CABEL) provided an overview of the proposed partnership with MPTCS. The program is designed to provide scholars and families information and guidance relative to financial literacy. The Board directed that the program be considered as part of the curriculum planning of the school after which it could be rolled out.

VI ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Chief Academic Officer Report

The report provides an overview of major highlights and information pertaining to the Village and covered 5 key areas (1) Academic Achievement, (2) Assessment, (3) Village culture, (4) Family Engagement and (5) Programs.

The report provided an overview of readiness of the school for the Partnership Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC). Each of the campuses has a countdown to the assessment.

The CAO reported that the leadership of the School has begun to see improvements by scholars in English and Language Arts and Math by using the purchased learning tools that were designed to supplement instruction.

As part of efforts to involve parents in the affairs of the school, the elementary school campus organized a movie night in which 25 families attended. There was also Black History Month programming with scholar performances and a dinner that had 50 families in attendance.

The High School Winter Dance Showcase held by the Performance Arts Department was well attended in the Blackbox Theater.

2. Operations Report

The Director of Operations Mr. Damon White provided a report on the operations of the School during February 2017. He reported that the School ended the month with enrollment of 1,342 students, a reduction of 7 students compared to January 2017 with 1,349 Scholars

He reported that a meeting was held on February 15, 2017 with the State Superintendent, Chris Cerf regarding the outcome of the ongoing residency reverification policy and return of Newark Public School (NPS) to local control He reported that Cerf asserted that the reverification exercise was successful and generated \$4 million dollars of revenue to NPS.

The Director of Operations (DO) reported that the kick off of the 2017 Enrollment process started in January 7, 2017. MPTCS is working with the Sales Force to monitor and ensure that MPTCS records on seat availability are in synch with sales force records at all times.

He invited Dean Rankin to provide highlights of Electronic Violence and Vandalism Report (EVRS). Dean Rankin reported that there were 4 cases reported from July through December 2014 but only one confirmed During the 2015-2016 school year there were 17 cases reported but only three confirmed cases and they were dealt with on inquiry he reported that MPTCS performance /report is not out of line with other schools of the same size in the State.

The Director reported on attendance and tardiness, inclement weather and other operational issues. He also reported that the Father for Our Children event was very successful and well received by attendees. He singled out Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Munoz, Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Avery for their hard work and contributions towards making the event very successful. He stated that all in attendance had a wonderful time and were treated to a wonderful performance

VI COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Executive Committee

The Board Chair invited the Principal to respond to concerns raised by the Class Reps of the High School at the December 2016 meeting of the Board. The Principal informed the Board that she meets regularly with the Class Reps. to know their concerns and always attempts to resolve them promptly.

The Chair requested that Rev. Ince, the Director of Friends of Marion P Thomas Charter School provide update on facilities.

He reported that Friends of MPTCS has submitted bids for the building located at Morton Street and at the corner of Bergen and Clinton Avenue. However, he reported that due some concerns, the middle school does not want the Clinton property. However, he stated that Friends had to bid on two properties to fulfill one of the conditions that any interested bidder must bid for at least two properties. Consequently, the Friends of MPTCs has no choice but to bid for the properties at Morton Street and Clinton Avenue despite the reservations the school had on Clinton Property.

He reported that the Board Attorney is preparing a one year lease agreement for the 308 South 9th Street property.

2. Policy Committee

The committee presented three mandatory policies on special education. The policies were developed by leaders of the school with inputs from the Board Attorney and Policy Chair. The reports are being presented to the Board for adoption.

3 Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee Chair presented the 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. The Personnel Chair also provided a report of current openings. There are total of 14 openings across the four campuses.

The Committee Chair reported updates on the Mr. Fletcher 30/60/90 day plan review. He stated that the plan is on course. The Personnel chair also reported that a middle school teacher was suspended with pay pending investigation of an alleged institutional abuse. The leadership of the school awaits updates from an outside investigator while the employee is continuing on leave with pay.

He reported that the Committee has mapped out planning sessions regarding the evaluation results.

3 Finance Committee

The School Business Administrator presented the financial status of the school as of February 28, 2017. He affirmed that the school is solvent and has enough cash to pay the bill list presented if approved. He also reported that all required reports are also up to date.

VII LEGAL UPDATES

The attorney reported that the complaints filed against two teachers requesting that the State suspend their teaching licenses as per NJ Department of Education regulations for the infraction of not giving proper notice. The hearing has been scheduled for July 11, 2017 and July 18, 2017.

VIII OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

No comment from the public.

. X RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE

2-17-1

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the bill list for the month of February 2017 in the amount of \$2,200,240.04. **Approved**

2-17-2

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

2-17-3

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the Treasurer of School Monies report for the month of January 2017. **Approved**

2-17-4

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approves the 2016-2017 Fiscal Questionnaires. **Approved**

HUMAN RESOURCES

2-17-5

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the following new hires for the 2016-2017 School Year. **Approved**

Name	Position	Salary	Effective Date
Viveca Williams	Elementary School Teacher	\$65,984 Per Annum	2/22/2017

2-17-6

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

Separations:

Name	Position	Status	Effective Date
Donna Anderle	ES Teacher	Resigned	2/17/2017
Christopher Mayers	MS Sped Teacher	Resigned	4/13/2017
Brittany Williams	MS Sped Teacher	Resigned	4/14/2017

OTHER

2-17-7

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the participation of Dr. Karen Young Thomas, Dr. Doreen Land, Mr. Damon White and Femi Amorin in Scaling for Impact: - Strategies to Enhance What Works in Education by Harvard University Graduate School of Education. The program takes place in Boston-Cambridge from March 7 through March 10, 2017 at an estimated cost of \$13,500 which covers tuition, transportation, accommodation and meals. **Approved**

2-17-8

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the following Revised Policies on Special Education: **Approved**

Policy No 6171.5 Special Education - Definitions

Policy No. 6171-5 (1) Special Education Identification, Location and Referral

Policy No. 6171.5 (7): Special Education Free and Appropriate Public Education

2-17-9

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the agreement with The Future Project, Inc. (TFP) a Washington D.C Corporation and Marion P Thomas Charter School. The agreement enables TFP to develop a school based program intended to assist high school students in developing a dream realization path and to assist the school in transforming the culture and climate, while forming collaborative partnerships with community organizations. The estimated total cost of the project is \$100,000.00. **Approved**

2-17-10

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the agreement with the Atrium New Jersey LLC and Marion P. Thomas Charter School for a one month placement of a Temporary Associate in the Business Office at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. **Approved**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Femi Amorin', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Prepared by Femi Amorin – Board Secretary

Approved by MPTCS Board of Trustees