

Marion P. Thomas Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes of Rescheduled Meeting-January 30, 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
J. Dean –Taylor – Joined by phone
V. Rouse
L. Leslie
K. Sherrer El
F. Amorin

(ii) Excused

Rev. Slaughter
R. Petty
K. Roberts
M. Jones

(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

III ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The Agenda was amended to include a closed session. The motion to approve the amended agenda for the meeting was moved by D. Blount and seconded by L. Leslie.

IV. MINUTES

The minutes for the December 19, 2016 meeting of the board were approved. The motion to approve the minutes was moved by D. Blount and seconded by Sherrer El

VI ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Chief Academic Officer Report

The Chief Academic Officer was unavoidably absent. Her report that was previously sent to members for their review was accepted.

2. Operations Report

The Director of Operations Mr. Damon White provided a report on the operations of the School during January 2017. He reported that the School ended the month with enrollment of 1,349 students. He reported that MPTCS achieved various percentages of verification of students currently enrolled in the School. The Director informed the meeting that MPTCS has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU-4) with Newark Public Schools (NPS). However, the agreement is subject to amicable resolution of issues surrounding reverification of residency of students enrolled in MPTCS.

The Director of Operations reported that MPTCS has compiled and submitted the Annual Electronic Violence and Vandalism report (EVRS) and that Dean Raking will provide highlights of the report at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

He also reported that the Statement of Assurance of Paraprofessionals is currently being prepared. The deadline for submission was January 31, 2017. He also reported on the status of other routine activities being carried out by the Operations Department.

On the invitation of the Board of Trustees, from the December meeting, Dean McGee presented a report on the status of the annual physicals for all Scholars in the High School. He reported that all scholars participating in sports have completed their annual physicals. He also presented the Board with a copy of the Athletic Policy of MPTCS. Dean McGee was asked to stay behind to participate in the Closed Session of the meeting.

VI COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. The Executive Committee

The Chair reported that the Board is yet to hear back from the leadership of the High School on the presentation made by representatives of the scholars in the High School at the December 2016 meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Chair directed Dean McGee to liaise with the Secretary of the Board and obtain a copy of the minutes that detailed for issues raised at the meeting.

The Chair restated the line of authority in the absence of the Chief Executive officer. Principals would continue to report to the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) on issues that require attention of the Board of Trustees or any officer designated her.

The Cohort made up of the Chief Academic Officer, Director of Operations, Director of Marketing and Director of Human Resources will continue to liaise with the Board on the reporting chain.

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

Rev. Ince reported that a meeting previously planned with t The Chad School Foundation (The Chad) to discuss pertinent issues relating to the current state of the building on 308 South 9th Street in Newark was cancelled at the instance of The Chad. They claimed that no fundamental problem is currently wrong with the building that would warrant such a high level meeting.

He reported that Friends of MPTCS has been prequalified by the Newark Housing Authority to bid for two properties located at Morton Street and at the corner of Bergen and Clinton Avenue. The two buildings were owned by Newark Public School (NPS) and transferred to the Newark Housing Authority for sale to interested members of the public.

He further reported that the Clinton Avenue property is in a better shape but lacks adequate parking. The building has no gymnasium to accommodate the needs of the school. If acquired, MPTCS might need to put on additional floor to meet the needs of the school.

Friends of MPTCS are looking for a developer that can build and rent the building to the School and t estimated costs of \$8 million.

2. Policy Committee

The committee has nothing to report to the meeting.

3 Personnel Committee

The Personal 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 and request for medical leave by two staff members. The Committee Chair presented a total of 12 openings across the four campuses.

The Committee Chair reported that a New Applitrack website was launched in January 2017. He also reported that a teacher was suspended with pay in the middle school for “Institutional Abuse” pending an outcome of an ongoing investigation. A case worker is scheduled to do a follow up in February 2017.

The Chair reported that the nurse at the high school has requested for 2 days per week to complete her practicum. The Practicum will be held between January and May 2017.

The Chair reported that the schedule planning meeting to review evaluations and determine hiring needs for the 2017 -2018 is in progress.

3 Finance Committee

The School Business Administrator presented the financial status of the school as of January 31, 2017. He affirmed that the school is solvent and has enough cash to pay the bill list presented if approved. All required reports are also up to date.

VII LEGAL UPDATES

The attorney reported that the School has filed complaints against two teachers that left the services of the School without giving adequate notice as required by their contract.

MPTCS is requesting that the State suspend their teaching licenses as per NJ Department of Education regulations for such an infraction.

VII CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was moved to closed session to discuss an incident that happened at a game involving the MPTCS Basketball Team at Belleville High School. The motion to move to a closed session was moved by K Sherrer El and Seconded by L. Leslie.

VIII OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

No comment from the public. However, the Director of marketing, Ms. Griffin, informed the meeting of the upcoming signature Fund Raising Event of the School - Father for our Children. This year event takes place on February 17, 2017 at South Orange performing Acts (SOPAC) in South Orange. She invited all members of the Board to the event. She gave out extra invitation cards to members who might want to invite friends and colleagues to the event.

X RESOLUTIONS

FINANCE

1-17-1

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the bill list for the month of January 2017 in the amount of \$2,904,417.06 **Approved**

1-17-2

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the Board Secretary Report for the month of December 2016. **Approved**

1-17-3

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the Treasurer of School Monies report for the month of December 2016. **Approved**

1-17-4

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas approves the Revised Operating Budget for 2016-2017 School Year based on the enrollment count of October 15, 2016 and the submission of the budget to the New Jersey Department of Education. **Approved**

1-17-5

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approves the Corrective Action Plan on the Findings of Independent Auditors Management Report on Administrative Findings June 30, 2016. **Approved**

1-17-6

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves adjustments to the 2016- 2017 budget through 4 transfers proposed by the School Business Administrator resulting in a fully balanced and positive budget. **Approved**

HUMAN RESOURCES

1-17-7

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

Name	Position	Effective Dates
Jade Wilson	Aide Middle School	1/17/2017
Rosalyn Gallmo	Elementary School Teacher	1/20/2017
Amani Thomas	Custodian – sub cleaner	1/09/2017

1-17-8

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approves the following transfers/ changes: **Approved**

Transfers/Changes:		
Juliete Haynes	One on One Aide HS to MS Campus	12/19/2016
Beverly Johnson	From one on one aide from HS to MS	11/29/2016

1-17-9

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

Separations:

Name	Position	Status	Effective Date
Michael Lyons	Science Dept. Chair	Resigned	1/13/2017
Tom Wonaszek	HS Phys. Ed. Teacher	Resigned	3/10/2017
Rhonda Wright	HS Math Teacher	Resigned	2/22/2017

OTHER

1-17-10

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School to approve the participation of 48 scholars and eight adults in the Golden Fork Luncheon at Bella Italia Ristorante on Thursday, January 26th from 11 am to 12:30 pm. The selected scholars have won the Golden Fork more times than other classes from October to December. The cost of the event is \$1,200 for two schools. **Approved**

1-17-11

- The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approve the participation of the Instructional Coaches at The Middle School and SELECT in a two week online class beginning

February 27th entitled *Improving Math Instruction Through Feedback* at Harvard Graduate School of Education at a cost of \$149 per coach. **Approved**

1-17-12

- The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the partnership with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to provide tutoring services to High School Scholars. The program to run for 8 weeks, utilizes six engineering students to tutor individual scholars, work in small groups and push into classrooms – six hours a week from January 30, 2017 through March 23, 2017 at a cost of \$14,400. **Approved**

1-17-13

- The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolve to approve the participation of Seven MPTCS staff and 60 High School scholars who have moved up a level or more in the Ascend Math Program. The group will see Hidden Figures at SOPAC on Thursday, January 26th from 10 am to 12 pm at an estimated cost of \$1,125 which covers transportation and admission ticket. **Approved**

1-17-14

- The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolve to approve a recommendation of The Chief Academic Officer to take the entire Middle School Staff and Scholars to see the Hidden Figures for a Black History Event at City Plex Movie Theater in Newark. The event takes place on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 -10.30am to 1.45pm at a cost of \$2,850 which covers transportation, refreshments and movie tickets. **Approved**

1-17-15

- The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the partnership between Marion P Thomas Charter School and Communities Always Bring Extra Love (CABEL) Foundation to bring MPTCs Scholars and families practical information and guidance relative to financial literacy. The total cost of the program is estimated at \$15,000 which covers stipend for instructors and supplies. **Tabled.**

1-17-16

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolve to approve the recommendation of the Principal of High School to take qualifying Scholars to City Plex Theater in Newark as part of the Black History Month. The event takes place on February 16, 2017 at an estimated cost of \$700 which covers transportation, refreshments and movie tickets. **Approved**

XI ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Sherrer El and seconded by Lesley Leslie.


Prepared by Femi Amorin - Board Secretary

Approved by MPTCS Board of Trustees