

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

Minutes of Meeting, September 26, 2016  
125 Sussex Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07103

The meeting was advertised in 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 Amarin, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary conducted a roll call of members in attendance and a quorum was counted:

**i. Members Present**

G. Collins - Chair  
D. Blount  
R Petty  
Khaatim Sherrer El  
Dona Best Joined by Phone  
V. Rouse  
L. Leslie  
K. Thomas  
F. Amarin

**(ii) Excused**

R Slaughter  
Kema Roberts  
J. Dean-Taylor  
Michelle Jones

**(iii) Other:**

T. Jalloh – Board Counsel  
D Land – Chief Academic Officer  
Damon White – Director of Operations

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The motion to approve the agenda for the meeting was moved by D. Blount and seconded R Petty

#### **IV. MINUTES**

The minutes for the August 29, 2016, meeting of the board were approved. The motion to approve the minutes was moved by David Blount and seconded by L. Lesley.

#### **V ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

##### **1 Harassment Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report**

The MPTCS Harassment, Intimation and Bullying (HIB) report was presented by Dean Rankin for the 2015-2016 School Year. The School scored a total of 72% out of possible score of 78%. The score was affected by the changes in the reporting process during the year. The Board reviewed the report, and got answers to relevant questions before the report was approved.

##### **2 Chief Executive Officer Report**

The Chief Executive Officer briefed members on the operations of the School in the month of September 2016 and highlighted key issues that occurred during the reporting period.

She informed members that the School petitioned the Commissioner's Office to suspend the license of teachers who left without fulfilling their required 60-day notice.

The CEO also informed members that the school is working on creating a chain of command for each department and the organization overall to enhance the smooth operations of each department and the entire School.

On Enrollment, the CEO reported enrolment schoolwide, 6 in Elementary School, 7 in Middle School and 49 in the High School.

On reverification, the CEO reported that the School achieved 80% across the board. While most other Charter Schools verification is between 70% and 95%.

She mentioned that Chris Cerf visited MPTCS as part of his 20 schools in 20 days tour.

The CEO reported MPTCS has been approved by Newark Charter School Fund to receive a grant for succession planning funding support. The fund has been earmarked for the CEO proposed sabbatical leave. Victoria Foundation is also considering some special funding for a transition coach for MPTCS as part of the succession planning.

On facilities, the CEO reported that Friends of MPTCS has submitted a proposal to acquire three city-owned properties on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

She reported that the School is working on a number of partnerships - Montclair State culinary program and LaCasa internship programs

The CEO provided the other updates

- MPTCS will celebrate the National week of respect the first week in October on each campus with planned activities designed to encourage mutual respect.
- Ms Confrancisco along with the Parent Liaisons will be meeting the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) President to plan programs design to reboot the PTO over the course of the year and make parents more engaged with the School.

## **2. Chief Academic Officer Report**

The CAO report provided information and updates on the five (5) areas of focus: Academic Achievement, Assessment, village culture, Family engagement and programs.

Supervisor for Planning, Research and Evaluation Randy Gooden presented highlights of the 2015-2016 PARCC results. This year's scores showed improvement but did not substantially beat the NPS scores in math. She and the Chief Academic Officer answered all questions posed by the board and provided clarifications where needed. The Board commended the team and requested that CAO and her team should not hesitate to contact the Board for any assistance or needs to ensure the school does well.

The CAO informed members of the decision to introduce the Triple AAA, Academic, Athletic and Arts Afterschool Program. This will replace the mandated Saturday PARCC Academy designed for students on the cusp to push them into proficiency. AAA will offer the opportunity for scholars to not only work on their homework but receive educational opportunities in a small group setting the program takes place four times a week in all the schools.

\ The CAO also shared the CAO Newsletter for the month of September. The newsletter highlighted major activities and various initiatives of the Department.

## **VI COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. 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 the separation. The Personnel Chair also provided report of current openings and a request for medical leave by a staff member.

### **2 Finance Committee:**

The School Business Administrator presented the financial status of the School as of September 30, 2016. He confirmed that the School has enough cash to pay the Bill list presented if approved. All required reports are also up to date.

## **VII LEGAL UPDATES**

No updates reported by the Board Attorney

## **VIII CLOSED SESSION**

Motion Moved by Sherrer El  
Seconded by: Lesley

The session discussed a student discipline issue.

The Chair requested that management clean up student graffiti on tables that were used the previous month.

Motion to move Open Session  
Moved by: Pastor Rouse  
Seconded by: L. Lesley

## **X OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

Members were informed of an arbitration pending before the State involving an ex staff member that was terminated for excessive tardiness and absenteeism. The final decision of the State appointed Arbitrator is being awaited.

## **XI RESOLUTIONS**

### **FINANCE**

9-16-1

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School approves the bill list for the month of September 2016 for \$2,421,820.45 **Approved**

**9-16-2**

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

**9-16-3**

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

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**9- 16-4**

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

New Hires	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Rebecca Borg	Math Dept. Chair	9/1/2016
Teri Davis	Sped. Teacher/HS	9/1/2016
Peter George	Tech Support	9/4/2016
Kimberly Adelante	ES Teacher	9/12/2016
Dukepe Smith-Obasuyi	HS Interventionist	8/29/2016
Renzo Flores	HS Math	9/19/2016
Juli-Anne Benjamin	MS English Teacher/Instructional Coach	9/26/2016
Nnamdi Nwadike	Academy/Teacher	9/26/2016

**9-16-5**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approves the following promotions and changes of titles for the 2016-2017 School Year. **Approved**

Promotions/Changes:		
Name	Position	Effective Date
Genigue Flournoy-Hamilton	MS Principal	7/1/2016
Theresa Izzolino	HS Dept. English/History Dept	9/1/2016
Latisha Smith	Transferred from ES to HS	

**9-16-6**

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

Name	Position	
Shamirah Tucker	MS- Nurse	9/16/2016
Tatiana Romeo	Academy - World Languages/Spanish	9/5/2016

**OTHER**

**9.-16-7**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School approves the Gold Service Maintenance Agreement between ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation and Marion P Thomas Charter School for the servicing of Elevator at 125 Sussex Avenue at a cost of \$215 per month excluding taxes, payable quarterly in advance. **Approved**

**9-16-8**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the agreement with the Lenguire Institute of Fashion, Inc. to teach Garment Construction courses and design and implement extended day fashion program to students of Marion P Thomas Charter School for the 2016-2017 School Year at an estimated cost of \$116,500. **Approved**

**9-16-9**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the agreement with the Newark Yoga Movement for the provision of in class Yoga to supplement instruction to students of Marion P Thomas Charter School for the 2016-2017 School Year at an estimated cost of \$5,600. **Approved**

**9-16-10**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P. Thomas Charter School accepts the HIB report for school year 2016-2017 to be submitted to the DOE by September 30 as presented. **Approved**

**9-16-11**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolve to approve the following staff D Land, M Saunders, L.Finn-Brucce, and L Waddell, G. Hamilton and T Raheem to attend the Teaching / Learning/Coaching Conference in Dallas, Texas on November 3rd and 4th. The conference will serve to help us continue to refine our coaching philosophy and process, in addition to, developing the best way to support the work and growth of the instructional coaches. Registration, travel and accommodations for the conference is estimated will cost \$8,000. **Approved**

**9-16-12**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve that the CAO Office, Middle School Principal, Middle School Instructional Coach and Director of Accountability and Instruction to attend an ELA School-wide Program training at Princeton Marriot at Forestall on Thursday October 20, 2016. **Approved**

**9-16-13**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School hereby authorizes the submission of the Individual with Disability Education Act (IDEA) Basic Grant application for fiscal year 2017 and accepts the grant award in the amount of \$ 257,617of these funds upon the approval of the FY 2017 IDEA Application. **Approved**

**9-16-14**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School hereby authorizes the submission of the No Child Left Behind Grant application for fiscal year 2017, and accepts the grant award in the amount of \$720,169 (Title 1 \$698,924, Title IIA \$21,245 ) of these funds upon the approval of the FY 2017 NCLB Application. Approved

**OTHER**

**9-16-15**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve a request to establish a Special Education Program – Cognitive Impairment – Mild to meet unmet needs of students already identified. **Approved**

**9-16-16**

The Board of Trustees of Marion P Thomas Charter School resolves to approve the following t Field trips by the High School of Marion P Thomas Charter School at various dates in September and October 2016 as stated below: **Approved**

Date	Destination	Cost	Funding	Bus Company
9/27/2016	Newark Museum	Free	N/A	Mayor Transportation
10/9/2016	AMC Theater NYC	\$15,575.23	Students	Mayor Transportation
10/21/2016	NJPAC	Free	N/A	Mayor Transportation

**XII ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by L. Lesley and seconded by D. Blount.

Prepared by Femi Amorin – Board Secretary

Approved by MPTCS Board of Trustees