

Board of Trustees Meeting March 27, 2024 (Virtual) Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts 125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

March 27, 2024 | 5:00 PM ET Zoom:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER - Open Public Meetings Act - 5:06 PM

• 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 there of posted on the district's website (www.mptcs.org), in the office of the Clerk of the City of Newark, and was published in the Star-Ledger in August 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

NOLL CALL					
Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Vincent Rouse	\checkmark		Julio Valdivieso	\checkmark	
Dashay Carter	\checkmark		Allan Boomer		
Briana Gilchrist			Toni Ince		
Dr. Princess Towe					

• Briana Gilchrist joined the meeting during the Superintendent's update.

Non-Voting Board Members Present									
Elijah Griffiths (Board Secretary/Administrator)	Tina Jalloh (Board Attorney)								
Angela Mincy, Chief School Administrator/Superintendent	Joshua Solow (School Business Administrator)								



3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

• Chairman Rouse gave an update.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Ms. Mincy gave a presentation update.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations & Finance Committee

- We had our meeting on March 14th. The first point of business was to discuss admissions with Ms. Easter. We are already making significant progress in next year's enrollment. We have 717 applications that have been received so far before March 13th. We are receiving a slightly smaller number of applications, but we are getting ranked higher on average and more higher rankings then we've had in the past. We continued to talk about the tactics and strategy around marketing which include ads at the hospitals, billboards on trains and buses etc. We talked about direct mail and we've also increased our budget for advertising which I think is why we are getting ranked #1 more this year. At this point last year we had 218 applicants that ranked us #1, and this year we are at 251 so definitely a big increase in the commitment of our applicant level. Just a couple of updates, we have new LED lights installed at the high school. We have significant progress on the boiler being installed at PAC, and also significant progress on the culinary kitchen being installed at PAC. The goal for the kitchen is to be installed before the beginning of the school year next year. Moving on to technology, we spent a good amount of time talking about the different grants we are spending money on technology items from the different grants we know are going away over time. We made some progress on telecom services being used under grants, and wiring. We heard an update on the GP8/NJSLA testing process. We've had a pretty high level of participation across all the grades that were tested this far. Moving onto Shipman, we just got updates on some of the tech being installed. We are making good progress on that. We rolled our IncidentIQ which will be done by June. This is a new way to track some of the tech assets on campus and also report anything going wrong with those tech assets, computers and things like that. Lastly, we talked about the upgrade with the camera system at the high school which is 95% done. Next, we moved on to talk about our fundraising. We got a very thorough report from Jennifer who is our fundraising consultant liaison, since she started in January of 2023 we've raised about \$79,000. Moving onto finance, we reviewed our financial position. There are 3 reports all baked into 1 line item in the finance report. One speaks to our cash position, our Fund balance which is 5.6 million higher than it was a year, and 1.5 million higher than it was a month ago. We had a big discussion about our budget. We have not yet voted on in our committee the budget for next year, but we will be voting on that next meeting. That concludes the finance and operations report out. I wanted to highlight two things we are voting for today. (Boomer)
 - QUESTIONS
 - One is a hospital agreement, I wanted to ask Mr. Shankar if you can explain to the board the purpose of that agreement since we didn't have time to go over it, then I will be done with the report.
 - The hospital agreement is going to be a 65 inch LCD screen that will go live at the cafeteria at the hospital. It will be a 6 minute loop of aids, and Marion P Thomas will



be showcased for 45 seconds on that 6 minute loop. We are going to get analytics about how many impressions we will receive in the 12 month period. We will have our own tiny QR code on the advertisement which will lead families directly to the enrollment website, so we can specifically see how many families viewed our ad, how many transitioned to our website, and how many we were able to convert into actual applications to see if this investment should be pursed long term. This is just another avenue taken for us to get our name and brand out in the community. (Shankar)

- Great. Thank you for that answer. That concludes our report. I would like to thank Mr. Shankar and really the whole staff for getting us prepared for the finance and operations committee. (Boomer)
- Where will that be located in the hospital? Is there a specific location? (Rouse)
 - In the cafeteria. (Shankar)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

• We met on the 12th and we covered quite a few things, some of which were discussed already tonight by our superintendent and Mr. Abbaleo. However there are several items that need to be approved or voted on tonight such as Mr. Abbaleo spoke about the partnership between teachers of America and our own teachers for the summer. That is one item we will vote on. Another one is the Pre-K planning workbook that is one we discussed in our meeting in full. And we have the approval for several field trips, and the mental health and safety plan needs to be voted on which is a requirement. We have several field trips in K - 2 and Pre-K going up the highschool going thru May 30th. (Towe)

Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee Culture & Climate

- The culture and climate committee due to scheduling conflicts were not able to meet last month. We do have one resolution to put out. We are partnering with a company called Uiamaa. It is basically a vending machine for healthy food. It is cash-free, because it is funded through a grant so our students don't have to pay to use it. That is the basic gist to it. The agreement is attached to the resolution. I invite superintendent Mincy if you have anything else I am missing that should be said about this. I want to thank you Ms. Mincy, as well as Michelle Griffin, and the contractor Jennifer Kohl who put us in touch with this vendor. This is another out of the ordinary and great opportunity that we are providing for our students. I love to see it. (Valdivieso)
 - Thank you. We are very excited about this one. You are absolutely right, I can not take credit for bringing this to the village. Jennifer Kohl brought this entrepreneur to us and you're right it will all be healthy foods that will be in the vending machine at no cost to our students. And it is all by locally grown food entrepreneurs of color so giving locals the opportunity to break in and for kids to try things that are healthy. It is 100% a win. That will be here at the highschool in another two weeks. We are really excited about that one. Julio, you covered it perfectly. We will be sure to bring some pictures when it is up and running. I was really excited about the meeting we had with Dr. Carter who is the brainchild behind this endeavor, we felt instant alignment because a lot of what they talked about is rooted in Sankofa, we know Sankofa on our crest. We don't have to pay for it, which is typically an \$80,000 a year cost. And that is coming to the village at no cost. (Mincy)

Alumni



The alumni and culture committee met on March 12th. We discussed a few things. The first thing we discussed was the MPTCS foundation scholarships. Applications will be released to students on March 25th. There are 6 types of scholarships that can be offered. We have our pastor Charles E. Thomas Legacy Scholarships for students who have been with the village from Pre-K to their senior year. We have the Dr. Karen Thomas Academic Excellence Scholarship for students with a 3.0 or higher. We have the Ernestine Watson Community Service Scholarship for students who have exceptional commitment to the village. We have the Chef Rawls Scholarships for culinary students to continue their education into a culinary program that is 4 years. We have our Scholars of Promise Scholarship for students that have improved their academic performance. And then lastly we have our Bridging the Gap Scholarship for qualifying students who need a bridge. Scholarships that help close the gap in order for them to attend and successfully complete college. If any parents are on the line, we do have these scholarships that are being released so please make sure your students are applying for it once they open. I wanted to highlight one of our Alumni. His name is Claudia Walker. He is currently a physical education teacher not at Marion P, but he is in the education space so it is good to see one of our students are really continuing their education so they are trickling through college but also giving back in the education space. That is a success story. The next thing we talked about is our Laugh After High School & Parent summit. We will have a date coming out soon. That will be a successful event. It is going to be after testing, and the point of this event is to really burst you got between parents, families, and the school. That is what we talked about, and we have no resolutions coming out of the committee. (Gilchrist)

Executive Committee

• We had a chance to meet and had an opportunity to speak with our superintendent, the leader of our village about the process of our Shipman street campus. That is moving forward. We also had the opportunity to speak with her about the acquisition of land so that we can continue to move forward with the vision she has to make sure we obtain a gym for our young people. And we're excited to say about the progress of our basketball team for this year, and we see it all over social media. We are grateful to be able to push this forward for the scholars of Marion P. Thomas Charter School because they deserve it. And this is a vision our superintendent has for us. We also had the opportunity to discuss our probation status. Yes, we are still there but as you have seen tonight and prior as the reports given we are trending upward. We have already outrun what was on that report. Thank you again to our wonderful team. We are trending upward, and everyone sees it and they know it. Tonight we have an item to vote on the sustainability plan which is an awesome plan as we continue to trust the leadership of our superintendent and staff because they have already proven that they have the right vision of MPTCS because we are making the mark and exceeded the expectation of others. (Rouse)

Personnel Committee

• We met this last week. It was brought to our attention that the vector testing that we are required to do is now in full swing. New teachers and staff are to complete this by the end of the year. We are at 100% compliance right now which is good, so people are meeting those qualifications. I can say I am doing my own vector testing right now. In terms of vacancies at STEAM 4, PAC 4, and at the high school 6. I have the breakdown for each. At STEAM grade 1 -5 ELA, grade 6 - 8, and a Spanish teacher. At PAC, we have two kindergarten teachers, and 1 grade 1 -5. In the highschool, we have an English teacher, history teacher, chemistry teacher, and 3 special ed teachers. Those are the 6 at the high school. As we talked about already, we are working very hard to get these positions filled. We



have 13 hires coming in. We have a new principal and a vice principal. We are hoping we can get them to come on board earlier and maybe Superintendent Mincy or Mr. Abbaleo can speak more on that. We had 3 resignations that were listed and posted already, and 3 resignations/retirements and 3 separations. 11 cocurricular activities and 15 staff are going for training. They will get reimbursed for going to the training. We will be getting a report of the non-renewals at our next meeting. I think Mr. Abbaleo spoke about the testing already. We have two items: the traditional personnel report and approval of donations. (Towe)

6. RESOLUTIONS

I. 2024-3-27-A: Approval of the March 27, 2024 MPTCS BOT Meeting Agenda

						TOO BOT MEETING					
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	V	\				Julio Valdivieso		K			
Dashay Carter		\				Allan Boomer		(
Briana Gilchrist					\checkmark	Toni Ince		N.			
Dr. Princess Towe**		▽									

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II. 2024-3-27-B: Approval of Regular 2.28.24 BOT Meeting Minutes

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Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent			
Vincent Rouse		N				Julio Valdivieso	\searrow	\						
Dashay Carter		N				Allan Boomer		K						
Briana Gilchrist					N	Toni Ince**		V						
Dr. Princess Towe		N												

Discussion:

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MOVE PERSONNEL TO AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION | MOTION: Valdivieso - Boomer** | Approved



III. PACKAGE C & D1 | Motion: Towe - Rouse** | Approved 2024-3-27-C: Approval of March 24' Personnel Report 2024-3-27-D1: Approval of Donations

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse**		N				Julio Valdivieso		\			
Dashay Carter		N				Allan Boomer		\			
Briana Gilchrist		\				Toni Ince		\			
Dr. Princess Towe	\checkmark	V									

Discussion:

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IV. PACKAGE E - G | Motion: Boomer - Valdivieso** | Approve

2024-3-27-E: Approval of March 24' Finance Report 2024-3-27-F: Approval of SHI Erate Program Quote

2024-3-27-G: Approval of University Hospital Showcase Agreement

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		Ŋ				Julio Valdivieso		\			
Dashay Carter		N				Allan Boomer	V	\			
Briana Gilchrist		N				Toni Ince		\			
Dr. Princess Towe**		V									

Discussion:

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V. PACKAGE H - the other side 2024-3-27-H: A 2024-3-27-J: A 2024-3-27-K: A). Approva Approva	ral of TI al of Pre al of Fie	FA Sum e-K Buc eld Trip	nmer Le Iget Pla	earning anning	<u>Workbook</u>	rney lee	eway to	o finalizo	e the e	dits to
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absen
Vincent Rouse		Y				Julio Valdivieso	\checkmark	\checkmark			
Dashay Carter		Y				Allan Boomer		N			
Briana Gilchrist		Ŋ				Toni Ince**		N			
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VI. <u>2024-3-27-L: Approval of Ujamaa Cafe Site Partner Agreement</u>

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		\				Julio Valdivieso	V	\			
Dashay Carter		K				Allan Boomer		\			
Briana Gilchrist		K				Toni Ince					
Dr. Princess Towe**		K								-	

Discussion:

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PULL M FROM AGENDA | Motion: Rouse - Valdivieso** | Approved

VII. 2023-3-27-M: Approval of MPTCS Sustainability Plan (PULLED)

Discussion:

- The plan that I reviewed that was attached to the agenda section 1,2,3,4,5 were all blank, 6 had some writing under the Chief School Administration. I was not sure what we were voting on. Am I missing something? (Valdivieso)
 - o It looked like the template was linked, and not the one that was filled out. (Abbaleo)
 - I may have versions mixed up. (Griffiths)
 - I thought this was a vote to establish a process and vote later, is this something that needs to be approved this month or can we do it later? (Valdivieso)
 - We were getting this board approved as a safeguard, but we learned from the state that we don't have to get it board approved. We're okay on that front however I think we should still share it with the group so the board is apprised of what we are approving. It just speaks to the interventions and strategies in place such as after school and Saturday academy for tutoring purposes, likewise it has the TFA partnership, our platforms that we use, and it also has some goals that we set in regards to chronic absenteeism. It doesn't necessarily have to get board approved tonight, and we can share it offline if that's alright. (Abbaleo)
 - I want to see it because you guys do great work, but so I can do everything in my power to support it. (Valdivieso)
 - I was unaware that you did not receive this item, so I am fine with us pulling that for tonight. (Rouse)
 - Are there any key things that you're very proud of that you want to highlight? (Valdivieso)
 - Section one it speaks to like what is the evidence based intervention or strategy that we're using which means you have students who are exposed to the tier 1 curriculum that the whole class gets and for those students who are not on grade level or not grasping it at that whole class level it's what is the district doing to reach those students outside of that whole group instruction during the day. That's actually one of the things I think that we should be proud of as a district because we're kind of tackling it from all angles. We have the Saturday Academy listed there. We have programs that you guys have board approved like our Alex, which is our kind of secondary math curriculum used as an intervention style to help accelerate the learning for our students. That's on the math side. We also highlighted reading plus which is on the English language arts side. And then we also highlighted our partnership with Teach for America ignite tutoring, so that's when they actually have their college seniors come in and support our students during the school day. I would definitely say we are proud of the interventions and the approach that were taken to reach all the learners, despite what level they're on. We know that's a wide range, especially on the back of the pandemic, so that definitely is one area to be proud of. Then the other areas because this all falls under the title 1 when we set goals, the goals that we set in the sustainability plan



you guys will actually see again when we have board approval to submit our annual school plan in June. So there's an overlap between the sustainability plan and our yearly annual school plan. And then outside of that it's some logistical items within the plan. (Abbaleo)

- In the future, I would love an update on how the Levina group has impacted our students. I want to reiterate that I am really proud to be affiliated with the school with the kind of approaches you guys take and the amount of information not even just for the board members but any parent from the school district can tune in. I brag to other parents about how parents can log in to any board meeting to understand what is happening in the whole school district. I really appreciate it because in my daughter's school we don't have this kind of open information access so as a parent I love it. (Valdivieso)
 - We appreciate that, and I want to address the Levina Group. Mr. Abbaleo had a walk today at PAC because a large portion of the Lavinia work was sponsored by NJ CF, and they're asking that same question is this something that we would want them to continue to fund. What we're doing is doing what we always do, looking very closely at the data and seeing what the data is telling us. One of the things that I am fiercely committed to is that we really codify the block. When I say that I mean the literacy block and just all of the components which is invaluable to the work because we want to be able to make sure that we're really training teachers not in pieces in isolation but that it is cohesive so that they really understand how kids learn to read what do we do when they're struggling so forth and so on. It's a very nuanced conversation but we definitely as always will keep you apprised, but we are literally monitoring the work ourselves, so yeah thanks for that question. (Mincy)
 - I always tell my daughter if you can't explain it, you don't know it, you're able to break it down that even I am able to understand it. Keep doing what you're doing. I really appreciate it. (Valdivieso)



- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT It is now time for public participation. To engage in public comment, all speakers must register via the district's website no later than 5 calendar days prior to the advertised meeting by 5:00 PM ET. Please state your name and address for the record. All speakers will have 2-minutes to address the BOT.
 - Arsenia Reed 6:08 PM not present

EXECUTIVE SESSION | Motion: Rouse - Valdivieso** | Approved

LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION | Motion: Rouse - Valdivieso** | Approved

- 8. CLOSED SESSION 7:36 PM
- 9. CLOSING REMARKS FROM BOARD CHAIR:

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

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:38 PM ET Rouse - Towe**

Respectfully submitted at: 3/27/2024 Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths