

Board of Trustees Meeting September 23, 2024 (In-Person) Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts 125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

September 23, 2024 | 6:00 PM ET Zoom:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER - Open Public Meetings Act - 6:14 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 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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 including an update from Mr. Gamble, Ms. Vargas, Ms. McLain.
 - Very excited. I want to commend what you are doing under the leadership of Ms. Mincy. This is awesome and I think that Ms. Mincy mentioned earlier that it's not our job to teach students what to think, but how to think. And that is my mantra, and I, and I commend you guys for that. And I think that we will see a great increase if this continues and I believe that it will because the fire has started. And so, I wish you well and I can't wait later, to get your results and you got you guys, keep that enthusiasm going. (Towe)
 - Ogood evening and to speak to Ms McLain, I enjoyed the piece about chess. Chess is definitely an amazing game of life for scholars as well as adults. Tyler plays chess. And if we could even start them younger, right? Because learning life and learning how to move the king and the queen. You know, the queen protects the king, right? It's definitely an amazing game of life and it helps you navigate. It helps scholars and adults navigate through life. So if you could even tap into the younger kids in playing that game, I would really look forward to that. And I would like to check back in after October 11 to find out how the scholars did and they can bring it back to the campus. (Ince)
 - o I'm glad to see the robust professional development for teachers as being a former classroom teacher, I can recall, you know, 20 years ago when our professional development was, you know, once every two months, once every three months and to be able to be able to have professional development every week is a plus for teachers and staff so that our students can continue to get this rigorous instruction that they need in order to develop into great citizens that they're going to be. So thank you all. This was a great presentation tonight and I'm looking forward to greater strides as we continue to educate the students of the village. Thank you. (Rouse)

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations & Finance Committee

• Good evening everyone. We had our meeting on September 18th and we went through enrollment as well as operations, IT, finances and facilities as well. So first on enrollment, very, very proud to look at the numbers. We have enrolled 1429 students for this school year. We are now ahead of budget, which is really a great result. And at least I can say this from the time that I've been affiliated with the board, this is the highest enrollment count we've had since I joined the board and perhaps one of the highest that that we've all seen and we're super excited about that. We do continue to register families for the village and we also have certain grades that are fully at capacity like 9th grade which we're excited about. Moving on to IT. We recently fully integrated Sankofa campus onto the Internet. We're now running 10 gigabytes of Internet back to the high school, which is great. We have a new vendor and that vendor is saving us money and improving service. So excited about that. On facilities we've been talking about replacing our boilers for a very long time. It's very, very expensive and it's very important because you got to be warm in the cold months, you got to have hot water. And so our two boilers are now up and running. This is a very expensive project that was also covered by grant money and so we're excited about that. We spent a lot of time talking about the procedures to



make sure that the boilers stay up, who's in charge and all the different licenses that are involved. And our goal is to be ready for what's called the NJQS A/C level of accreditation. And that's a state standard that not that charter schools are not held to. But one that we are going to look to because it's the public school standard. Moving on to the Finance Report. Our finances are very, very strong. You'll see that in the treasure report. There's a cash balance of over 12.4 million, which a year ago was 9.2 million. So there's more cash on hand today. You'll also notice that our fund balance at the end of the last school year, it ended plus almost \$1,000,000 higher than the year before. In terms of ratios, the state really looks at how many days worth of cash we have on hand and the standard is 30 days. You need to be able to cover all your expenses for at least 30 days. We have 222 days worth of cash on hand, so we are ahead of schedule there and then. Finally, we just talked about a number of contracts that we'll vote on today and just a number of additional items. But I always have to say that our financial state of affairs is really, really strong in our school district. And that concludes my report. (Boomer)

Personnel Committee

- Yes, thank you. I'll be reporting from Ms. Carter tonight. The Personnel Committee met on Thursday, September 19th via Zoom and in attendance was myself, vice Chair Gilchrist, Ms. Wilkerson, and our board secretary. We went over the updates for our September teacher vacancies and again we are excited that we are looking a lot better than we have so great job to our Superintendent and our staff. Sankofa their old vacancies. Pac at this time has 3 vacancies. Steam 0 vacancies and our high school 4 vacancies. That is something great job, great job, great job, a lot of districts cannot report these statistics at this time. So thank you all for your hard work and making sure that our children have bodies in the classroom. Also, we went over our MPTCS recruitment strategy that our HR team is out there still recruiting to make sure that we have 0 vacancies across the board and that all positions are filled. So they're at Rutgers Mega Fair, they were there this week and they'll be at King as well this week, university for the recruitment fair. Also, they will be also approving some things as well. So we want everybody to approve this resolution tonight for the personnel committees report for September. Keep up the great work, everyone. We're looking real, real good for our 25th year of existence. Had to put that in there. That is our report. Thank you. (Rouse)
 - o I just also like to add that thank you so much to our personnel team. Starting the school year with under 10 vacancies is incredible in all the years that I've been a part of the village as a student, as an employee, and now as a board member. That is a great accomplishment. Thank you, not just bodies but competent bodies and I'm excited to see how that translates into the culture of the school moving forward. Thank you so much. (Gilchrist)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

- Good evening. The committee met on the 10th and we covered a lot of items and tonight we're
 going to look at the field trip approvals and I think Mr. Abbaleo's going to help you out a little bit
 with some of these. We have a new curriculum that we're looking at for climate change and the
 home instruction. As always, that contract needs to be renewed and we will approve it tonight
 hopefully. And Mr. Abbaleo will talk about the grant agreement. (Towe)
 - o Good evening, everyone. So just the C & I folks spoke extensively about the items we're just presented extensively on the items we're going to vote on. I will highlight a couple of things that they didn't hit on. With the field trips, you'll see a number of our college visits are going to be underway after this meeting, so our students will be going to Stockton. Delaware State is our first HBCU that they will be attending as well as they will be going to Columbia University in



November. And then there's also a trip for our high school theater students, they will be going to NJ Pact in mid-October. And then for the other resolutions, they're related to the items that were presented on tonight. So the AmeriCorps contract, that is an MOU with the folks so the instructor can support our fifth-grade students at Pac and Steam for the climate change curriculum. And then lastly Ms. Mincy hinted at this earlier, but the New Jersey Children's Foundation they've been a phenomenal partner of ours. They've granted us over 10s of thousands of dollars and some years over hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some of it is money that they honestly just gift us. In other events its where we actually apply and compete for grants, but they are funding over 60% of the work that we will be doing with Ms. Vargas. So that is the NJCF grant agreement that you see on resolution I and I think that covers it Dr. Towe for the C&I committee.(Abbaleo)

Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee Alumni

Good evening everyone. I have a few quick updates from the alumni committee. I apologize in advance if some of these are repetitive as I noticed Miss Mincy, you had already covered some of these so I'm just going to piggyback on what you said already. So last week, Suicide Prevention Week went really well. The social workers across the village worked diligently to ensure that we were intentional about the planning. The workshops were conducted to bring awareness and hopefully prevention to our students and our village community. Follow-ups are being done this week for students that may need to be connected to any other mental health resources. Respect week, violence prevention week, and [hard to hear] week in October, we're currently planning for that on September 17. Ramapo College conducted information sessions for the seniors, so thank you guys for already getting that college and career readiness started. We have a tour scheduled for Stockton on September 26th. We have another informational session scheduled with Stanford on the 25th and looking ahead, we have our college and career fair on November 12th in the Black Box theater, and there's to double emphasize what Miss Missy said earlier about voting. We are inviting all of our alumni to participate in our village votes, so if you need some cash and you are in college, make sure that you submit your proof of registration so that you have an opportunity to win a \$100.00 gift card. Thank you guys. (Gilchrist)

Culture & Climate

No Report

Executive Committee

Yes, just two things to bring for a vote tonight. One, we all met together last week about our CSA goals. So we want to be able to approve that tonight. We had a great, robust conversation about it and we are excited about the goals for our school Superintendent. And lastly, we also have to approve a settlement and you all can see the name without me saying it out loud and the settlement will be coming from the insurance that we have as a village. (Rouse)



6. RESOLUTIONS

I. 2024-9-23-A: Approval of the September 23, 2024 BOT Meeting Agenda

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

Discussion:

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II. 2024-9-23-B: Approval of the August 26, 2024 BOT Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion:

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III. 2024-9-23-C: Approval of September 24' Finance Report

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

Discussion:

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^{**:} Motion Seconded



IV. <u>2024-9-23-D: Approval of the Effective School Solutions LLC. contract</u>											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		N				Julio Valdivieso					\checkmark
Briana Gilchrist**		Y				Allan Boomer	V	V			
Dashay Carter					\checkmark	Toni Ince		\			
Dr. Princess Towe		Ŋ									
were unable t Our attorney a extremely ber counseling fo	o meet. also rev neficial f r these s t. Our a	Howe iewed for som student	ver, we it. This ie of ou ts. In th	have r effectiv Ir most e past,	eviewe ve scho vulner we've	through the culturd it and we did dis ol solutions contrable students. It's chad to pay for this k that you please w	cuss it i ct is sor going to , but th	n oper mething be se is year	ations a g that's ervices a it's goi	and fina going and ng to b	ance. to be be a

V. <u>2024-9-23-E:</u>	V. <u>2024-9-23-E: Approval of September 24' Personnel Report</u>											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Vincent Rouse	Š.	\				Julio Valdivieso					\checkmark	
Briana Gilchrist		V				Allan Boomer		K				
Dashay Carter					\checkmark	Toni Ince		N.				
Dr. Princess Towe**		▽								-		

Discussion:

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2024-9-23-F: Approval of Field Trips VI. Abstain Absent Abstain Absent **Voting Members** Motion Voting Members | Motion No Yes No Yes Julio Valdivieso Vincent Rouse $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ Briana Gilchrist** $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ П Allan Boomer ☑ | Toni Ince Dashay Carter $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ Dr. Princess Towe $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ **Discussion:** 2024-9-23-G: Approval of New Jersey School Climate Change Corps MOU VII. Abstain Absent Voting Members Motion Voting Members Motion Yes No Yes No Abstain Absent Vincent Rouse Julio Valdivieso \square Briana Gilchrist** Allan Boomer $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ \square Dashay Carter ✓ Toni Ince \square Dr. Princess Towe $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ **Discussion:** 2024-9-23-H: Approval of Essex Regional Ed. Comm. Home Instr. Contract SY 24-25 Abstain Absent Voting Members Motion Abstain Absent Motion Voting Members Yes No No Yes Vincent Rouse ☐ Julio Valdivieso \square \square ☐ Allan Boomer** Briana Gilchrist $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ \square Dashay Carter ✓ Toni Ince Dr. Princess Towe $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$ \square

Discussion:

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**: Motion Seconded



IX. <u>2024-9-23-1:</u> A	A <i>pprova</i>	of NJ	CF Gra	nt Agr	eemen						
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse		K				Julio Valdivieso					
Briana Gilchrist	\checkmark	\checkmark				Allan Boomer		\checkmark			
Dashay Carter					\checkmark	Toni Ince		\checkmark			
Dr. Princess Towe**		N.						-		-	
Discussion: • X. 2024-9-23-J: Approval of CSA Goals for SY 24-25											
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	\checkmark	\checkmark				Julio Valdivieso					V
Briana Gilchrist		V				Allan Boomer		\checkmark			
Dashay Carter					\checkmark	Toni Ince		\checkmark			
Dr. Princess Towe**		\checkmark									
<u>Discussion</u> : ● XI. <u>2024-9-23-K:</u>	Approv	al of Ba	aldwin	Final So	ettleme	ent					
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	\checkmark	\checkmark				Julio Valdivieso					✓
Briana Gilchrist		N.				Allan Boomer		\checkmark			
Dashay Carter					\checkmark	Toni Ince		\checkmark			
Dr. Princess Towe**		\checkmark									

Discussion:

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**: Motion Seconded



- 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.
 - No speaker's for public comment.
- 8. CLOSED SESSION 7:18 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: 7:18 PM ET Towe - Gilchrist** | Approved

Respectfully submitted at: 9/23/2024 Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths