



Board of Trustees Meeting December 16, 2024 (Virtual)  
 Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts  
 125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

December 16, 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

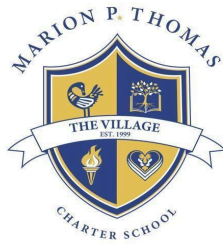
- The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (“Act”) was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Marion P Thomas 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](http://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

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

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

\*\* Motion Seconded



### 3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- Chairman Rouse gave an update.

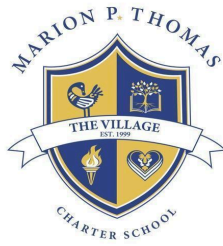
### 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Ms. Mincy gave a presentation update.

### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Operations & Finance Committee

- Good afternoon, everybody. I'll be summarizing the Ops and Finance Committee meeting we had on December 11th. The first thing we talked about was enrollment. We're working now on enrollment for the next school year. We already know that this year we're actually over budget for our enrollment, which is great given that the state really looks at how good we are adhering to our budget targets. We're over for this year. Here we have 250 new applicants for the new school year, which is the highest number we've had in the last few years at this point in the school year. Moving on to facilities, we've had a lot of great updates there. We are just about done with our boiler project which you all know has been a multiyear project that the Ops and Finance Committee has been monitoring at the school. Moving on to IT, we've closed out over 654 trouble tickets. We have 20 open tickets on the IT side. We've also fixed the readers on the doors. There was an issue where when you swipe to get into certain doors, the readers had failed and that's being repaired right now. Moving on to finance. Our cash balance is currently about \$1,000,000 lower than what it was one month ago, but it's still higher than it was a year ago by about \$1,000,000. We are doing really well from a cash perspective. Our fund balance is \$1,000,000 higher than it was a year ago and about 4.2 million higher than it was two years ago. So again, our fund balance is in good shape as well. We've made really good progress towards expensing all the grants that we have the chance to take advantage of, like the Title 1 grant, and the ESSER 3 grant. We are making sure that no grant dollar goes to waste. Regarding our full year budget, we are projecting a small budget deficit this year that looks like we are on track to hit that although we could improve and beat the budget deficit that we've forecasted by a few \$100,000. Moving on, we had some discussions about the rate of interest we're earning on our operating cash, we will be making some moves for higher return on investment on our cash balances. We reviewed our bills list. We also reviewed our invoice process of how we hold on to the bills and keep them in electronic form and we're making some strides to ensure that 100% of our bills have a digital copy. Right now, we're kind of living in a world where some bills are recorded in physical folders that get printed out and some are online. So we're moving towards getting everything for this school year in the digital world. And I think that's it. We've also just had some discussions about making sure the team is working well together. So we know we have a remote outsourced CFO and we're just talking about making sure that we get the CFO and the staff together in person from time to time so working on that schedule as well. So that's it for Ops and finance. Questions or comments? (Boomer)
  - Yeah, Boomer on the grant policies I see so I read those over and to me on the read, it suggested that we're just, they're just pretty much straightforward adoptions of the New Jersey Department of Education's requirements. Am I missing anything where you guys are interpreting the requirements further in policy? Any notable, you know, aspects of either one of the policies that we're voting on tonight that the board members should be aware of? (Valdivieso)
    - I'm going to yield to our SBA. Josh, if you could help answer that question. (Boomer)



- Yeah. So their policies from our policy provider, Strauss Esmay, these policies are from our collaborative federal monitoring review that we had. And that was, you know, basically they came out and said, you know, we need to adopt a few policies to make sure that we're following the federal grant policies. You know, as far as purchasing and there going out to bid for certain things when using federal dollars. You know, they're generalized policies, but yeah. They're straight from our provider. (Solow)
  - Yeah. And just a word on these types of policies. This one seems very straightforward in terms of just implementation of what's required. But I mean generally you'll get a requirement from the Department of Education if it needs no further interpretation. There's no real need to make a policy unless it's specific. And then, if there's certain specifics that need to get fine-tuned at policy level, it's just good for the board to be aware of exactly what portion we're fine tuning. (Valdivieso)
    - Yep, nothing was changed on our end. And Mr. Abbaleo, maybe you know, anything more. I'm pretty sure that they're just Department of Education requirements. (Solow)
      - Now they don't require any modification and they put us in full compliance with the federal grant guidelines for spending the federal money. (Abbaleo)

#### Personnel Committee

- Yes, good afternoon everybody. Personnel actions should have received that in your e-mail. There was no meeting this month because it ran into the same time as the celebration for the board receiving this award. But the personnel actions, which is the same as it would be this time of year. And that is the report for today. And so you should have received that in your e-mail of any changes that were made. Again, there was no committee meeting this month, but we were still able to receive any actions that were made. (Rouse)

#### Curriculum & Instruction Committee

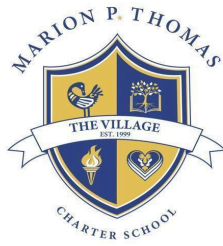
- Good evening. Actually, we only have two items for resolution and that is the approval of the field trips that are coming up at the end of this year and the beginning of next year and the approval of home instruction. And I think we have one student. I guess I need to make a motion that we put them together to vote for our home instruction and field trips. (Towe)

#### Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee

- No Report Given

#### Executive Committee

- No Report Given.



6. RESOLUTIONS

I. [2024-12-16-A: Approval of the December 16, 2024 BOT Meeting Agenda](#)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Discussion:

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II. [2024-12-16-B: Approval of the November 18, 2024 BOT Meeting Minutes](#)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

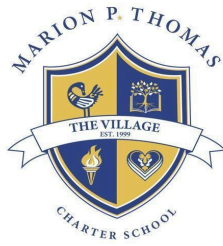
Discussion:

- For me, I just noticed Elijah noticed that you have attorney Jalloh's name on there. I think it's been Abdul for that meeting and this one as well. (Valdivieso)
  - Thank you for flagging. I see that for the non-voting board members. I will update that. And I think to be more specific, I'll just put the office of Jalloh and Jalloh. (Griffiths)

III. [2024-12-16-C: Approval of December 24' Finance Report](#)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

\*\* : Motion Seconded



Discussion:

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IV. [2024-12-16-D: Accept E-Rate Advantage Donation](#)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Discussion:

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V. [2024-12-16-E: Adoption of Grant Policies](#)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

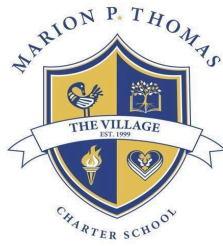
Discussion:

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VI. [2024-12-16-F: Approval of December 24' Personnel Report](#)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

\*\* : Motion Seconded



Discussion:

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VII. PACKAGE G - H | Motion: Towe - Valdivieso\*\* | Approved  
[2024-12-16-G: Approval of Field Trips](#)  
[2024-12-16-H: Approval of Home Instruction Students](#)

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Vincent Rouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allan Boomer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dashay Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Discussion:

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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 - 5:37 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: 5:37 PM ET Valdivieso - Ince\*\* | Approved

Respectfully submitted at: 12/16/2024  
 Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths

\*\* : Motion Seconded