

Board of Trustees Meeting January 27, 2025 (Virtual)
Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts
125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

January 27, 2025 | 5:00 PM ET

Zoom:

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

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

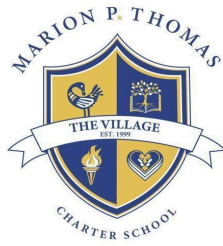
- The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act ("Act") was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Marion P Thomas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

- Ms. Carter has an excused absence.

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)



3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- Chairman Rouse gave an update.

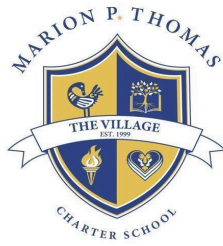
4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Ms. Mincy gave a presentation update.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations & Finance Committee

- Good evening everybody. We had a meeting on January 22nd, we talked about a few different things in our committee. The 1st is enrollment. You'll be proud to know that our enrollment applications are almost double what they were a year at this time. We've got 452 applications for enrollment in the next school year. We have a number of upcoming enrollment and recruitment events, including multiple open houses both virtual and in person. We also have a number of targeted recruiting events, including events targeting our 8th graders who are in the village already. Moving on to technology, we have 821 incident IQ. These are tickets that are mostly Chromebook related that we have closed out for this school year. On the facility side, our boilers are all functional. Our staff is being trained on how to operate all the different systems. We've also completed fire inspections across all four of our buildings. Moving on to finance, you'll notice that we're putting forth our normal build list, but also we're reviewing a few different reports. I'm going to give you a couple highlights from some of the finance reports. The first thing I'll point out is that when you look at our Treasures report, you'll see that our cash balance is higher than a month prior by about just under 400 K higher. And from a year ago, our cash balance today is almost \$2,000,000 higher than it was one year ago and almost \$4 million higher than where it was two years ago. So our financial footing is really solid. Our fund balance, which includes cash and also money that we will get in the future is higher than it was a year ago by almost a million dollars and higher than it was two years ago by almost \$5 million. Again, our fund balance is looking really good. Finally, just looking at our budget for the year, we have budgeted deficit this year of just under 1.9 or 1.8 million. And right now we're projecting a smaller deficit of about 1.2 million. But we again are in solid footing. We reviewed all of our grants and we've also made sure that the SBA and the staff is aware that it is our intention to utilize every penny of every grant that we have access to for the benefit of the young people in the in the village. One thing I want to brag about in our committee, we did a review of how much cash we should be keeping in our checking account versus how much could go into a money market account and we as a committee decided to move more cash into the money market and we made an extra \$7000 less month that just from simply moving money from one account within the same bank into another account. So that is our Finance Committee and also operations report, any questions or comments? (Boomer)
 - Yes, I think it's great news that we have doubled the amount of people who want to apply to become a part of the village. That's some good news for us to publicize and for us to know that information. (Rouse)
 - Absolutely. And also just my hat is off to the folks that are involved in enrollment. It's a lot of work and you know you are trying to create a message in the marketplace using advertising and also word of mouth and you know it's a lot of tireless work and I just appreciate all the effort that goes in. (Boomer)



- Absolutely agree. (Rouse)

Personnel Committee

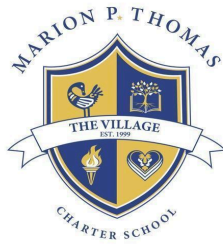
- On January 16th, the Personnel Committee met at 5:00 PM with Mr. Abbaleo and we were introduced to our new Director of Human Resources, Miss Cynthia Migosi. Welcome to the village, Miss Migosi. I have a few brief updates to share with you for concerning our meeting. Our payroll has now returned back to the district in house. Array the SBO office is no longer providing the service for the district. So with the effort to recruit and attract top talent, we have 3 hiring fairs coming up. NJ School Jobs, which has already took place. We have one at Keen University, and there's also another one that will be attended by our team as well. We also discussed and reviewed the district's vacancies. Last month we had a total of 16 vacancies, which is a little higher than the month before which was 14 so just two over that. At Sankofa Academy, there is no change. At Pac, there are 7 vacancies. At Steam Academy, there are two vacancies. It decreased one from last month and at the high school, the Culinary performing arts, there are 7 vacancies. Lastly, we discussed the transition update of the high school floor plan and we have one action item for the board to approve tonight, which is our January 2025 Personal action list. And this concludes our personnel. I will say that all of our committee participants were in attendance, Vice Chair Miss Carter and myself was in attendance at this meeting. And that's our report for tonight. (Rouse)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

- Good evening everyone. The committee met on January the 14th and we were really treated with the testing procedures that you received tonight. So we went over that as well in our meeting. Tonight we only have two items for resolution, unless Mr. Abbaelo you have something to add. We have two items for field trips and for home instruction that we would need a resolution on. That is 27 F and 27 G. (Towe)
 - I'm sorry that guy changed slightly so that there are no field trips that are up for resolution tonight. One is for students who are on home instruction and then another is for a home instruction contract for an individual student who's receiving outpatient services. So that, yeah, there was a mix of that field trip one was earlier today, but they sent a revised version out. (Abbaleo)
 - Alright, so I revise that actually, we just have the home instruction resolution for those students, either for hospital stay or they're just out of there away from us. So we have to resolve that.(Towe)
 - Yep. And they're getting bedside instruction at a hospital. (Abbaleo)
 - So then that means F is out and we're just looking at G, so I guess I make a resolution then a recommendation for item 127 G. (Towe)
 - Yes, so 127 G just for clarity, if you guys see on the agenda that's the approval of the Home instruction student. (Griffiths)

Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee

- Good evening. I have a really quick report out. The alumni committee met on January 14. Myself, Ms. Ince, Mr. Valdivieso, Ms. Carla Wynter-Darius, Ms. Vanessa Jean Lewis, and Mr. Mickens was not there in attendance. But we have some exciting news, we elected our Student Council president for this year, "Penelope Harr Zapata". I am hoping I'm pronouncing your name correctly. I do have her bio, so I'm happy to circulate that to the board for whoever's interested. She will be joining the board as a student representative in upcoming meetings, so look forward to seeing her and having her on our board as well. Also, we have some really great things coming out of the college and career office. On

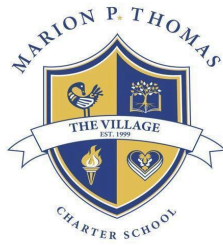


instant decision day, we had 11 acceptances from BCMSU. I'm not remembering which college that is, but that's not the most exciting news. The most exciting news is that we have a bunch of other acceptances for grammar pro. We went to a HBCU fair at Kean. We got 37 acceptances from there. We get college tours for 2 Ivy League schools, Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania and Ms. Jonte Lewis said that we received over \$1,000,000 in scholarship offers so far. That is incredible news coming out of our college and careers office. Thank you so much for all the hard work that you're doing to make sure that our students are not only applying to college, but also applying for scholarships and securing those scholarships. Thank you. And that completes my report. (Gilchrist)

Executive Committee

- Yes, just a quick update. We are gearing up to celebrate a milestone in the life of the Marion P Thomas Charter School. And so we did meet about that and we are looking forward to making sure that all of our stakeholders are part of this great and grand celebration. And that's the end of our report today, you'll hear more about it in the days to come. Thank you so much. (Rouse)

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6. RESOLUTIONS

I. [2025-1-27-A: Approval of the January 27, 2025 BOT Meeting Agenda](#)

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"/>						

Discussion:

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II. [2025-1-27-B: Approval of the December 16, 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 checked="" 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"/>						

Discussion:

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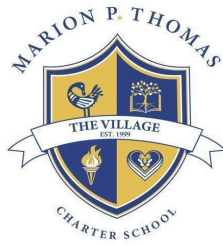
III. [2025-1-27-C: Approval of January 25' Finance Report](#)

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"/>						

Discussion:

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IV. [*2025-1-27-D: Approval of Amended FY 25 Budget and Submission to NJDOE*](#)

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:

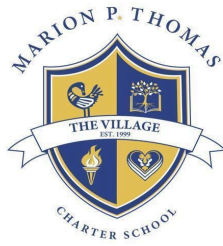
- Yeah, this is just a point of discussion, I just want to make sure it goes on the record. We talked in our committee about the fact that we're comfortable with the budget, we're comfortable with the number for enrollment that's been budgeted for the upcoming school year. But we would like for that budget in the future, the enrollment budget to also be discussed in the Finance Committee just so that we the enrollment numbers, the single most important number in our budget because that is really what the state looks at. But also all the numbers of revenue flow off of that number. And while we're pleased with the number that was selected, the budget of 13079, we just want to make sure we have amended our processes so that the board gets a chance to also approve the enrollment target for budget for the next school year, so not for this school year, the 2026 - 2027 school year. That's my comment. (Boomer)

V. [*2025-1-27-E Approval of January 25' 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>						

Discussion:

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VI. [*2025-1-27-F: Approval of Edu. Svcs Commission of NJ Home Instruction Contract*](#)

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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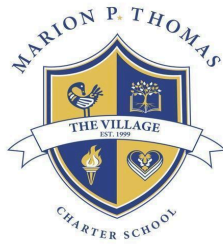
VII. [*2025-1-27-G: Approval of Home Instruction Students*](#)

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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**.: 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 - 6:20 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: 6:20 PM ET Rouse - Gilchrist** | Approved

Respectfully submitted at: 1/27/2025

Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths