



**Board of Trustees Meeting August 11, 2025 (Virtual)**  
 Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts  
 125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

August 11, 2025 | 5:00 PM ET

Zoom:

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER – Open Public Meetings Act - 5:08 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 June 2025.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

- Votes for D. Stewart will be held off until his background check and fingerprints are finalized.
- Valdivieso in attendance after vote B was completed.

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)

\*\* Motion Seconded



### 3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- Chairman Rouse gave an update.

### 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Ms. Mincy gave a presentation update.

### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Noted: Not all committee meetings met this month, so only 2 committee reports.

#### Operations & Finance Committee

- Good afternoon, everybody. I'm so super excited to talk to you all about the Operations and Finance Committee. But also I want to talk to you all about the village awards, which is our 25th anniversary gala. It doesn't exactly fall into operations. It kind of does. But we formed a committee really designed to plan out all the activities of our gala. I am sharing that committee. And we're making some great strides towards celebrating the village. And this being our 25th school year in operations. It's gonna be a great affair. It's going to be held at the school. We thought holding it at the school would just be a great way to celebrate the village. A great way to really highlight to folks that don't get a chance to walk the halls every day to see firsthand what's happening at the village. So October 23rd mark your calendars. But additionally just be on the lookout for our sponsorship deck like we are. Our goal is to raise \$125,000. And this is money that's going to be used for 3 purposes. One for scholarships, and this would be for graduates of Marion P. Also, the second would be for STEAM programs and initiatives for hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math education opportunities. And then, finally, our capital building fund, which will be a chance for us to create and upgrade the spaces that our scholars need access to in order to thrive. And so this is one of those seminal moments you don't get but really you get one opportunity to celebrate a 25th anniversary, and we're super excited about that. So we are underway with that. I'll jump into our committee meetings. We met last week. As you all know, we talk about technology facilities, operations and finance in our committee meeting. So on the tech side first, I'll highlight the thing that also Mr. Shanker touched upon the fact that we received a donation of 17 Chromebooks carts from Monmouth Regional High School. These carts will sit in the classrooms. The dollar equivalent if we had to go out and buy those Chromebook carts would be about \$28,000. We were able to procure those items in their good working condition without having to spend \$28,000, which is really good. Next, moving on to facilities. We use what I'm calling the off season which I'm sure no one at the school calls it that, because clearly they are in the midst of training and working, and just getting revitalized to be able to roll into this new school year. But in what I call the off season, meaning students aren't in all the buildings every day as many hours as normal. We're using this as an opportunity to do a deep cleaning of our school facilities. And so we've completed about 90% of the school facility cleaning at this point including work that we're doing to clean our kitchen hoods which really makes it just cleaner, safer, and also ensuring that we're not creating any sort of fire hazards moving forward, and the summer is a great time to kind of get caught up on some of those projects. We're also working on roof repairs in Pac. And in Sankofa we're working on a playground for our preschoolers which they'll be very excited to see when they return next month. Moving on to operations, the school is implementing an initiative that's part of something called the Sandy Hook



Promise which is a school safety system. That allows for monitoring of any threats to our campus 24/7. It's a monitor and response system. We also are going to put forward something we've got a vote on today, which is a half day on October 23rd, the day of our gala. It's a change to our academic calendar. And then finally, we'll be voting on a change to our sunscreen policy to allow 6th graders through 12th graders, access to be able to apply sunscreen to themselves at any time, and these measures are really spelled out in your board packet. Moving on to enrollment. We are currently sitting at 1,350 enrolled students for this upcoming school year. That is just shy of our goal of 1,400 students. So we're super excited about that. Additionally, we have 105 students enrolled in our preschool program, and preschool, we know, is one of those early pipelines into the rest of the village, so we're excited to be over allocated in preschool. Moving on to finance, the first thing I'll point out is, we had gone into this school year expecting to be in a budget deficit meaning we'd be losing a little bit of money because we knew we were getting Sankofa online. And we also knew that we weren't planning to fully pack that building with students. And so we anticipated being in a deficit position. At the beginning of the year that deficit was going to run in the range of about a million dollars. Where it stands right now we are on the verge and I say verge, because we won't have the numbers fully until we close out our books and do all of our reconciliations. But at present we are on the verge of breaking even for this past school year, which means we're potentially almost a million dollars higher in revenue, or you could look at it like a million dollars lower in expenses versus what we budgeted. So that's really good financial performance for this school year that just ended. And then, finally, when you look at our cash position today, we have about almost 2 million dollars more in the bank, cash on hand than what we had one year ago. You look at our cash balance versus 2 years ago, we're about 4.3 million higher than where we were 2 years ago. And if you look at us over 3 years, we're about 7.4 million dollars higher than where we were 3 years ago. So all that to say operations are going well. The facilities are going well. I will say in our town hall that we had a few months ago, we heard a lot of discussion about cleanliness, about facilities, and I will say that we've taken all that feedback and we are really working on as a unit, as a village getting some improvements done that we think both the staff and the parents, and the young children and older children, that they will all sort of appreciate as we get back into this school year. So that's our presentation from the Operations and Finance Committee. (Boomer)

- Questions on sunscreen policy lead to clarity that sunscreen policy is just first look and second look will include more details such as no aerosol or spray sunscreen due to asthma. (Valdivieso)

#### Personnel Committee

- God bless again! Here we go, the personnel committee. So appreciative again of our time to share some great reporting out for our personnel. Thank you to Ms. Migosi and our vice chair, who was there at the meeting. So our vacancies at Sankofa are 0. Instructional vacancy at pac is one at steam is 2. At the High School there is one. Non-instructional vacancies: Sankofa for 0, Pac for 2, Steam for 2, and the high School one. As of our meeting, the total vacancies were 9, so I predict that may have changed a little bit since our meeting, which is a big plus. Hooray! It's been years since we've been at that point and so we appreciate that. Today in our personnel action to be voted on is our personnel committee, we have 24 appointments, 12 instructional, 12 non-instructional, 5 reclassifications, 5 resignations, and 1 co-curricular activity to vote on for tonight. So I ask that you would please vote in the affirmative, as we continue to move forward. This is a great report to start out the school year of 2025 - 2026. That's my report today. Thank you. (Rouse)



6. RESOLUTIONS

I. [2025-8-11-A: Approval of the August 11, 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"/>	Allan Boomer	<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"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daryl Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

II. [2025-8-11-B: Approval of the June 23, 2025 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"/>	Allan Boomer	<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"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daryl Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

III. [Moved Vote Until After Personnel Report: Motion: Boomer - Valdivieso\\*\\* | Approved](#)  
[2025-8-11-C: Approval of August 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"/>	Allan Boomer	<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"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daryl Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Discussion:

- Removing double payment for \$55,000 to void. Gained clarification on some other transactions before proceeding. Not approving check 5512 being held and 5509 being held due to duplicate transactions. Requesting a new format used in excel to highlight bigger checks and sort in that way for standard format moving forward. (Boomer)

\*\* : Motion Seconded



- IV. *PACKAGE D - J: Motion: Boomer - Valdivieso\*\* | Approved*  
[\*2025-8-11-D: Approval the 1st Reading of Sunscreen Policy\*](#)  
[\*2025-8-11-E: Approval of the Revised School Calendar\*](#)  
[\*2025-8-11-F: Approval of the PreK Waiver\*](#)  
[\*2025-8-11-G: Accept the Donation of Chromebooks Carts\*](#)  
[\*2025-8-11-H: Accept the Calming Kids Grant for \\$1,000.00\*](#)  
[\*2025-8-11-I: Approve New Bid and Quote Thresholds\*](#)  
[\*2025-8-11-J: Approval of Sandy Hook Promise MOU\*](#)

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"/>	Allan Boomer	<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"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daryl Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Discussion:

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- V. [\*2025-8-11-K: Approval of May 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"/>	Allan Boomer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daryl Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julio Valdivieso	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Discussion:

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\*\* : Motion Seconded



VI. *PACKAGE L & M: Motion: Rouse - Valdivieso\*\* | Approved*  
[2025-8-11-L: Approval of the Hold Harmless Agreement](#)  
[2025-8-11-M: Approval of the SY 2025-2026 MPTCS Board of Trustee Goals](#)

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"/>	Allan Boomer	<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"/>	Toni Ince	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Princess Towe**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daryl Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julio Valdivieso	<input 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.

- K. Little

8. CLOSED SESSION - 6:38 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: 6:38 PM ET Rouse - Towe\*\* | Approved

Respectfully submitted at: 8/11/2025

Submitted by: Elijah D. Griffiths

\*\* : Motion Seconded