

Board of Trustees Meeting February 26, 2026 (Virtual)  
 Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts  
 125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

February 26, 2026 | 5:00 PM ET

Zoom:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – Open Public Meetings Act - 5:07 PM

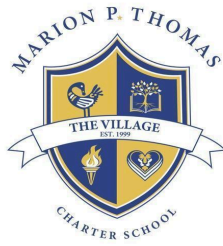
- The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (“Act”) was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Marion P Thomas 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 February 2026.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>			

Non-Voting Board Members Present	
MaLiyah 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.

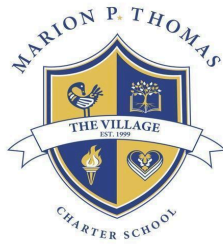
### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Operations & Finance Committee

- Good evening, everyone. I'll be brief. We started with a finance discussion this week. A couple of high-level points. You all know that we are projecting a deficit, a pretty significant deficit this year. We had an enrollment decline. Additionally, we've been hit with a few other changes, like a reduction in state aid and an increase in our healthcare costs. And so that deficit situation is pretty much unchanged. Thankfully, we have a significant cash balance on hand, so we're not at all concerned about our ability to endure the deficit, but just wanted to highlight that we spent a good amount of time talking about that. Next, we talked about our audit. We made it through our audit report with zero findings, and that's always good news. No news is good news when it comes to an audit report. We will be meeting with the auditor as a committee in March, but for now, we are comfortable with the report that was put out with no findings. Next, we talked, we spent a good amount of time just discussing we have an open insurance claim that we spent a good amount of time discussing. We also discussed our transition to a new candidate for the school business administrator position. I believe we will be voting on that new person today. We spent time discussing our health insurance broker. We are in the search for a new health insurance broker to try to help us to fight the big increase we're seeing in health care costs. Next, we did our enrollment and operation discussion. We had just updates about facilities, about IT, about enrollment, about cybersecurity. And that was it. We had one additional discussion point was just around just under the category of operations, just address and contact management. We talked about the need for really the usefulness, I'll say, for employees of the district to make sure that they've got, that they have updated addresses, updated contact information on file, emergency contact information and the like. And we discussed a policy recommendation of quarterly or twice a, I guess, 4 times a year, I should say, the school sending out reminders to the staff that they should be updating their contact information, realizing that it's up to them to do it. All we can do is ask. And we all agreed that we're in a better position if we have good contact information on all of our constituents and staff. And that concludes our committee report. (Boomer)

#### Personnel Committee

- Yes, good afternoon, everybody. We did meet on February 12th, myself, Vice Chair, Brianna Gilchrist, and Dr. Reese. And then a few updates that she had given us that the school is moving forward with making sure that the longevity and medical waivers are paid. They have been paid. Also, the recruiting for the 2025 - 2026 is on the way as well. They have been a part of the New Jersey School Jobs Virtual Fair, which was February 19th. And there will be one on April 16th and another on May 21st. Good to report about our vacancies that at our, first of all, our instructional vacancies at the Sankofa site, there's only one, which is a theater. At PAC, there are zero instructional vacancies. At STEAM, there are zero instructional vacancies. And at the high school, there are five instructional vacancies. The non-instructional vacancies per campus, Sankofa is 0, PAC 0, STEAM 1, and at the high school, there is four. Those are non-instructional vacancies, which the total vacancies across the



district is 12, which is much, much better than we have been in times past. We also talked about some personnel actions. And also we talked about, as Professor Boomers said, we also talked about in our meeting, the SBA position as well. And would like for everyone to vote in the affirmative for all of the personnel item actions that have taken place for the month of February. That is my report. (Rouse)

#### Curriculum & Instruction Committee

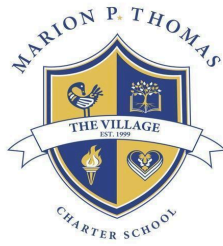
- Good evening, everyone, and happy African American History Month. And we welcome our new board members and look forward to working with you. I and I want to thank Mr. Abbelao for making sure that we are up to date on what's going on. He gave most of what we are covering in his report. So what we have, what we will do here is move to recommend those items that are here for us to vote on. So we have L through P the approval of the lift Grant and I commend you guys for the effort with that Grant it's a lot of money and we look forward to getting it, and I know that we will. M approval of the Teach for America summer partnership and we do this every year so we're doing it again approval of field trips there are 16 that will go through June so I guess if we have more but right now we have field trips at the various locations, and there are a total of 16. And we have the approval for home instruction. We had two students, one of whom has been eliminated from the list. So we now have one student that we're voting on, and that's item O. And then item P is the contract for the home instruction that we will approve or a vote on tonight. (Towe)

#### Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee

- No Report.

#### Safety Committee

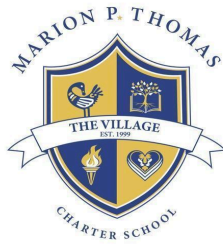
- Hi, everybody. We had a productive safety meeting. We are passing three new policies today. We went at them in depth and what they mean. We're still developing the regulations that are gonna be implementing them. So the policies are a very high level, but they basically deal with, the first one is the bias crimes policy. That's how we would deal with both crimes that involve bias, meaning an act that was, or a crime that was committed motivated by prejudice of some kind against a protected class. The next one would, oh, as well as bias-related acts, which would be acts that are not necessarily crimes, but which are still motivated by bias. So that policy would basically make sure that it's in line with the administrative code for the state of New Jersey, and it would ensure that the school is meeting all the requirements by statute. Again, we are fine-tuning the regulations to make sure that we both address instances when they do occur properly, but also do it responsibly. The next one is the cooperation with law policy and that again just mirrors what the New Jersey Administrative Code requires. And that sets forth how we would deal with law enforcement when they are needed to be involved, so what kind of instances we would involve law enforcement in, and then how we would go about cooperating with them. Again, the regulation itself is not yet ready because we're, again, fine-tuning it to make sure that we responsibly balance cooperation with law enforcement with making sure that we also protect our scholars and the village. And finally, the school security policy, again, in line with the New Jersey Administrative Code, basically reiterates that the school should adhere to the highest measures when it comes to school security and implementing safety procedures, and that we're gonna follow with the New Jersey Administrative Code dictates. So again, when you look at these, these are very, because these are policies, they're at a very high level. We are still fine-tuning with the assistance of our attorneys who have been actively involved as well, and our school safety director, who is very hands-on. We've had some very long productive discussions in terms of how to implement these things. You'll see that coming along



when we're ready to pass the regulations. But the policy is a good start. So that's it. I urge you to vote in the affirmative on the policies. (Valdivieso)

#### Executive Committee

- Yes, just want to present very quickly the handbook. We needed to make updates to our handbook for an orientation for our new board members. And just to be clear, if you didn't get a chance to go through it, the changes are the name of my name from Reverend to Bishop and the name of our board administrator to MaLiyah. Also, it updated the board rosters, your contact information. Some of you got that call today, may wanted to know why we need to get there. That's what we need to just make sure everybody's information was updated. Also, the committee assignments needed to be updated as well. And our annual board meeting dates and things needed to be updated. And also our most recent board goals as well. And also, we made it sure that the superintendent's goals were put in there from 2024 - 2025 for our new board members. All right. So that was this, that's the update. So that's what we voting on tonight. All of that stuff was updated so that when our new board members receive this, they're receiving current information. And thank you so much. I would like for us to vote in the affirmative for that. (Rouse)



6. RESOLUTIONS

I. *2026-2-26-A: Approval of the February 26, 2026 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"/>	Allan Boomer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Briana Gilchrist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	Daryl Stewart	<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"/>						

Discussion:

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II. *2026-2-26-B: Approval of the December 8, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	Daryl Stewart	<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"/>						

Discussion:

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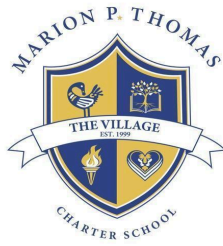
III. *Appoint & Nominate New Board Member Anthony Convington*

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 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"/>	Daryl Stewart	<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"/>						

Discussion:

- Anthony Convington, the new MPTCS board member was sworn in.

\*\* : Motion Seconded



IV. *Appoint & Nominate New Board Member Kristine Baffo*

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 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"/>	Daryl Stewart	<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"/>						

Discussion:

- *Kristine Baffo, the new MPTCS board member was sworn in.*

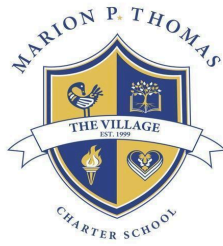
- V. *PACKAGE C - J: Motion: Boomer - Valdivieso\*\* | Approved*  
[\*2026-2-26-C: Approve the Removal of Joshua Solow as SBA\*](#)  
[\*2026-2-26-D: Approval of Brian Falkowski as the SBA\*](#)  
[\*2026-2-26-E: Approval of February 26' Finance Report\*](#)  
[\*2026-2-26-F: Approval of Amended FY26 Budget & Submission to NJDOE\*](#)  
[\*2026-2-26-G: Approval to Accept FY25 ACFR & AMR Audits & Submission to NJDOE\*](#)  
[\*2026-2-26-H: Approval to Accept COACH Grant\*](#)  
[\*2026-2-26-I: Approval to Accept Arman Roy Foundation Robotics Grant\*](#)  
[\*2026-2-26-J: Approval of the Horizon Site Agreement\*](#)

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 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"/>	Daryl Stewart	<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"/>						

Discussion:

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\*\* : Motion Seconded



VI. [2026-2-26-K: Approval of February 26' 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	Daryl Stewart**	<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"/>						

Discussion:

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- VII. *PACKAGE L & P: Motion: Towe - Stewart\*\* | Approved*  
[2026-2-26-L: Approval of LIFT Grant](#)  
[2026-2-26-M: Approval of Teach for America Summer Partnership](#)  
[2026-2-26-N: Approval of Field Trips](#)  
[2026-2-26-O: Approval of Home Instruction Students](#)  
[2026-2-26-P: Approval of the ERESC 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"/>	Allan Boomer**	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	Daryl Stewart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>						

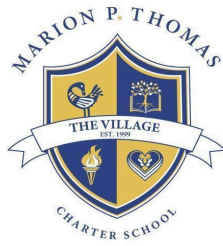
Discussion:

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VIII. [2026-2-26-Q: Approval of Policies](#)

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 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"/>	Daryl Stewart	<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"/>						

\*\* : Motion Seconded



Discussion:

- I have a question: these are draft copies, so are we just voting to move forward on them? (Towe)
  - Yes, that is correct. (Valdivieso)

IX. [2026-2-26-R: Approval of MPTCS BOT Orientation Handbook Updates](#)

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 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"/>	Daryl Stewart**	<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"/>						

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 Speakers

8. CLOSED SESSION - 6:34 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: 6:34 PM ET Rouse - Towe\*\* | Approved

Respectfully submitted at: 2/26/2026  
Submitted by: MaLiyah E. Griffiths

\*\* : Motion Seconded