Board of Trustees Meeting June 22, 2026 (Virtual)
Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts
125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

June 22, 2026 | 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 June 2025.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Member	Present	Absent	Board Member	Present	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☑	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☑	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☑	☐	Toni Ince	☑	☐
Allan Boomer	☑	☐	Daryl Stewart	☑	☐
Anthony Covington	☑	☐	Kristine Baffo	☑	☐
Vincent Rouse	☑	☐			

- Arrival of Mr. Valdivieso & Dr. Towe at 5:10 PM.

Non-Voting Board Members Present	
MaLiyah E. Griffiths (Board Secretary/Administrator)	Tina Jalloh (Board Attorney)
Angela Mincy, Chief School Administrator/Superintendent	Brian Falkowski (School Business Administrator)

**: Motion Seconded

3. CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

- Chairman Gilchrist gave an update.

4. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

- Ms. Mincy and team gave a presentation update.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations & Finance Committee

- Good evening, everyone. Give me a moment, just opening my notes here. OK, great. So, we met on June 15. First, we went over from a tech perspective. We went over incident IQ, which is the system that tracks I'm going to call it open tickets. And these are typically tech items, things like, uh…you know, let's say there's a laptop that isn't working, or a Chromebook that isn't working, things like that. For the school year, we've had over 1,434 tickets submitted, 1,419 have been fulfilled, only 15 were open as of the end of the year. We kind of went through CyberNut, which is a system that it gamifies a way to track and identity emails that might be cyber attacks, things like that. Since we've been using the system only a few months, we've had 22 mass deletions of emails. We've marked over 335 emails as spam. And we've quarantined 3 emails that would have been threats if we had someone had clicked those links. We're in the process on the tech side of… we've collected all the Chromebooks from the students, and we're just making sure that they are in good working order for the start of the next school year. We spent a lot of time just looking through the enrollment pipeline. We've had a number of families that have enrolled. A number are actively going through registration. We, of course, lost a few families. And that's attrition that happens every year. We looked at intent to return data as well. And bottom line, we're looking like our enrollment is trending towards a similar number to where we are now, which is really good news for finance, because we all know that we're projecting a deficit next year. We did assume an enrollment decline. And if we can hold on to the enrollment count that we're at right now, we should be able to come closer to breaking even in the next school year. Moving on, we looked at our treasurer's report, going to our financial items. We reviewed our cash balance, which is about $4 million less than where it was a year ago, but some of that is just due to, I'm going to call it, timing differences of funds that just haven't been paid out yet. We did review our debt budget to actual, and we are projecting a deficit of about, we're looking at about $3 million for the current school year. Moving along, we did review the next year's budget as well. I just had a really robust discussion around that. And just making sure that we have a good understanding of our budget position for next year. The thing that helps us to endure years like this current year is just that we do have a pretty robust Fund balance that we can draw on in times when we're at a deficit, and that's kind of what's keeping us going right now. We are, just from a financial perspective, we are well above the levels that we're required to maintain. So we are required to have only about 60 days worth of expenses on hand. We have about triple that. So that is really, really strong. I'm going to call it balance sheet financial position that we're in right now. We did review areas where we went over budget and under budget. We did find that we spent a little bit more on tech services than what we budgeted, but also a little bit less on salaries. And we did ask the SBA to dig a little bit more into that information as well. Finally, we went over a few just cybersecurity issues, different apps and things, and, you know, ways to just keep our students safe and whatnot. We reviewed our NJSLA score release schedule. And I know we heard a lot of NJSLA data today as well. So that is pretty much everything. I want to open it up and see if there's any questions. We also, of course, reviewed our bills list as well. I'll open it up to see if there's any questions. If not, I'll give it back to you. (Boomer)

Personnel Committee

- The Personnel Committee met on June 11th. I chaired that meeting. That was my first meeting chairing it. Thank you to the Marion P Thomas staff for working with me on that. We reviewed a number of items: the Delta T contract, the leadership framework, and just the teaching and learning frameworks. Additionally, we had an extensive conversation around vacancies, how we're tracking. One of the things that was brought up is just looking at month over month where does our vacancy rate end up, and how are we trending up or down. I was pleased to hear that there was significant additions in terms of staff being brought in, so filling that vacancy rate. And where we had openings, we are having other members from the village step in and support. So thank you to those members as well. And I think that's all I have for the report. (Covington)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

- Good afternoon, everyone. And first of all, before we get into, I think we have about five resolutions that we will present momentarily, but I would like to first say that I appreciate the presentation today, and I am so excited about the increase in AP courses for our students, thus allowing them additional opportunities and exposing them to vigorous instruction and learning. And so I kudos to you for that. And so first on our agenda. The committee met on, I believe it was the ninth, and we have five resolutions for tonight. And the first one being is this new partnership that the district has established with Essex County College. It is a dual program where our students get college credits, they take the courses. And it's rigorous and it's involved. And at the end of it all, our students could possibly get associate degree credit, which certainly they can transfer going forward. Keeping in mind that they maintain a C average and so forth and so on, but we are excited about that as well, and I made that known to the committee when we met, so we look forward to that. So that is our first resolution that we will vote on tonight, but I would add that there are very, very clear guidelines for what the college will be responsible for, as well as what the district is responsible for. And, we did review those, and so we seem that everything is in line with that. The second item that we do have is the home instruction, and basically, each month, we do have students on home instruction. And this time, I think we actually have one student. And the date actually has passed, so hopefully that student has been released from home instruction, The next one, the next item of resolution has to do with the math program, the services that we have contracted with, and it is the HMH program that we're looking at, and I did… I'm sorry, I did take notes on all of this, but it has to do… it will be covered with print and digital training for one year in grades K through…A1, and there's a whole program or possibility if you want to review that. We reviewed that in our meeting. And then we have the approval of the Essex Regional Educational Services under the four speech contract. And as I understand it, that as those services are needed, that those individuals will come in and work with our students. And the final approval is the educational services for the CST contract team, meaning we won't have…a permanent team, but we will have access to people coming in to assist us with our students, with whatever needs that are necessary. So, with that in mind, if you don't mind, then we would like to bundle all of these, if you like, or we can take them individually. And at that time, this time out. Your pleasure. (Towe)

Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee

- Good evening, everyone. So, we met on June 9th. It was supposed to be the first meeting that I was chairing, but unfortunately, I was feeling under the weather, so luckily, Malia was able to step in and help coordinate the meeting. But I did have a couple of takeaways. So, the committee is currently looking at the BCT report that was done by Dr. Randall Pinkett and team to see if there's any implications for the school community, and we're looking to then establish a resolution to help continue to further the culture and climate at Marion P. We are also have the opportunity, Brianna and myself to meet with Mr. Shanker and team just to go over a supplemental survey as well with students. And so the one just want to thank the team for pulling that together and giving us a high-level overview. And I'm looking forward to seeing how that information will be aggregated. But once that is complete, we will also be taking a look at that report and seeing how we can implement some of the feedback from the survey. So, very brief update, but very looking forward to working with everyone. (Baffo)

Safety Committee

- Hi, everybody. So the safety committee met again. Again, safety is paramount. Kids got to feel safe before they can feel that they're able to learn. So we — this new significant incident policy that we put into place has been very helpful. We were able to quickly cover three events and review basically what things that our village has in place that were favorable when these three different events happened. Actually, four, because we looked back at the one that we had covered before. We were able to look at things that were good for us, that were favorable, conditions that were not so favorable that we could potentially improve on, an honest consideration of possible things that we could do in the future to improve. We look at it both from a pure safety standpoint and from a student discipline standpoint, because this committee covers both. So after going through all three of those events, we actually came up with a policy that we'll be asking you all to vote on tonight, and it's a very simple policy. Again, we keep our policies from the board at a high level so that the administration can implement them through a regulation that we need to see back before the board for approval. But what the policy says is that for any gathering in the future at the school, at any school, any part of the village of 40 or more people, that there should be a safety review conducted. And of course, the details of all of that, we have left it pretty open. If you look at the text of the policy, for the school to implement this in a way that carries the spirit of the policy, which is just to make sure that every single event involving a lot of people is looked at for you know, from a safety perspective. Again, we have an amazing safety director who has been lauded by some other prestigious safety experts in the state. So, you know, again, the intent of this is just that he's utilized as to what is reasonable and how to best and most efficiently do that. Again, we're hoping the school will come up with a regulation that will be a good way to implement it. We also, from those discussions, took away we covered a technology that we're adding to the school that does not require board approval, and that's why we're not going to talk about it in depth here, again, because Part of the safety measures and the success of technology and security measures is the element of surprise to some extent again, technology that is very easy to implement, and it would make a big difference if it ever had to come into play, which I hope it will not. Other things that we quickly covered with everything going on in Delaney Hall, we just want to do a check-in at the committee to see if there was any fallout from that, and none was reported. We took a look at the — there was a spike in suspensions in the village over the last couple of months with some possible discrepancies that the committee was taking a look at the time. Unfortunately, we didn't have somebody there that could answer those, but that's something that we're looking into, and we'll continue looking into going into the next school year to improve procedures and improve reporting. And with that, I conclude the report. I'll take any questions, or we can move to passing the next, um, or passing the sole resolution that we're pulling out of the committee at this point. (Valdivieso)

Executive Committee

- All right. We have a lot of resolutions coming out of executive committee. Some standard business, we're re-approving some contracts, making some changes to some other general contracts. Um, one of which is we're renewing our board secretary, our policy writers, you know, standard business, so…If anyone has any questions, let me take a quick look if there's any specific one I need to speak to. Alright, it doesn't look like it, but…I'm sure the board had a chance to review the resolutions that's come out of executive committee, because one of the things that we have been doing is trying to get this agenda out on time, so does anybody have any questions about any of the resolutions? (Rouse)
    - I have a question about Z. (Mincy)
        - There's no disagreement here. We're not making a decision about that right now, but according to our contract, we do have to give 90 days notice, and at this point we feel comfortable that there's at least a few other people. I also sent over another person, so what I'm saying is that we've proactively begun this process, and we're confident that in the next 90 days, the administration, you guys, and us can find a solution that works for everybody. (Gilchrist)
            - I just wanted to go on the record to just say, and it's been very hard to secure an SBA. And just in the absence of us finding that, I do have hesitation about terminating something without a solution. But the board will, you know, you will do what you will, but I wanted to just go on the record and just make that clear. (Mincy)

6. RESOLUTIONS

I. [2026-6-22-A: Approval of the June 22, 2026 Regular BOT Meeting Agenda]

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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II. 2026-6-22-B: Approval of the May 26, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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**: Motion Seconded

III. [2026-6-22-C: Approval of the May 14, 2026 Reorganization Meeting Minutes]

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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IV. [2026-6-22-D: Approval of Regular 4-year Term MPTCS BOT Member]

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe**	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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**: Motion Seconded

V. [2026-6-22-E: Approval of June 26' Finance Report]

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:
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VI. [2026-6-22-F: Approval of Regular Utility/Vendor Bill Payments Between Board Mtgs.]

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe**	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:
- Just to explain this to the board members who may be unfamiliar, there are a couple of vendor payments that are, I'm going to call it essential to the operation of the school, things like paying our electric utility bill, our water bill, like things that if we don't pay them, then those services get cut off. Because we review all payments on a monthly basis, there may be times when we won't have a chance to pay, let's say, PSE&G, and so this motion is to just make sure that we're in compliance by allowing, just for a really limited number of vendors. For our bill payment folks, our accounts payable team, to be able to make those payments, in lieu of or before we get a chance to vote. (Boomer)

**: Motion Seconded

VII. *PACKAGE G - J: Motion: Covington - Valdivieso** | Approved*
2026-6-22-G: Approval of June 26' Personnel Report
2026-6-22-H: Approval of the Delta T Contract
2026-6-22-I: Approval of MPTCS Leadership Framework for Building Based Leaders
2026-6-22-J: Approval of MPTCS Framework for Teaching & Learning

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist**	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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VIII. *PACKAGE K - O: Motion: Towe - Rouse** | Approved*
2026-6-22-K: Approval of Essex County College - Dual Enrollment Partnership SY 26-27
2026-6-22-L: Approval of Home Instruction Students
2026-6-22-M: Approval of Into Math Services Agreement for SY 26-27
2026-6-22-N: Approval of Essex Regional Educational Svcs. Comm. Speech Contract
2026-6-22-O: Approval of Essex Regional Educational Svcs. Comm. CST Contract

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist**	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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**: Motion Seconded

IX. *[2026-6-22-P: Establish a Safety Review Req. for Large Gatherings for Onsite Events]*

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo**	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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X. *PACKAGE Q - Z: Motion: Covington - Ince** | Approved (Exception of Line Item X)*
2026-6-22-Q: Approval of the Strauss Esmay Contract (renewal) for SY 26-27
2026-6-22-R: Update to MPTCS BOT Standing Committee Roster(s)
2026-6-22-S: Amend Existing Contract, Appoint Board Secretary & Approve Contract for SY 26-27
2026-6-22-T: Approval of the CSA/District Goals for SY 26-27
2026-6-22-U: Approval of the MPTCS BOT Goals for SY 26-27
2026-6-22-V: Approval of the Emergency Virtual Plan
2026-6-22-W: Approval of MPTCS Chain of Command Structure
2026-6-22-Y: Approval of the MPTCS BOT Annual Evaluation for SY 25-26
2026-6-22-Z: Notice of Termination of School Business Services Agreement with SBO Management LLC

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist**	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

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**: Motion Seconded

XI. 2026-6-22-X: Approval of the CSA/Superintendent Annual Evaluation for SY 25-26

Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐						

Discussion:

- Ms. Mincy discussed questions regarding her annual evaluation.

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

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. CLOSED SESSION - 7:46 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: 7:46 PM ET Covington - Baffo** | Approved

Respectfully submitted at: 6/22/2026
Submitted by: MaLiyah E. Griffiths

**: Motion Seconded