

Board of Trustees Meeting August 10, 2026 (In-Person)
Marion P. Thomas Charter High School of Culinary and Performing Arts
125 Sussex Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

August 10, 2026 | 6:00 PM ET

Zoom:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – Open Public Meetings Act - 6:12 PM

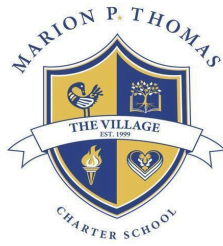
- The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act ("Act") was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of, and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Marion P Thomas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

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	☒	☐			

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

** Motion Seconded



3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

- Chairman Gilchrist gave an update.

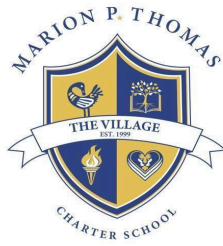
4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Ms. Mincy and team gave a presentation update.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations & Finance Committee

- Good afternoon, everybody. Alright. Good afternoon. So, first, I'll shout that we have a new school business administrator. It's a new firm that we're really excited about, as we moved on from our old SBA, and so because of the transition, which is still occurring, we do not have all the normal financial reports at this time, but we will make sure that they are prepared according to the rules. We have up to 60 days to get the reports filed. So, I'll start with an update just on enrollment. We have currently 1,235 students enrolled at Marion P, and that's across all of the campuses. We have 72 at Sankofa Academy, which is a big increase from a year ago, or even 2 years ago. We have 502 students at the high school, 314 at PAC, 341 at STEAM, and then there's another 6 that are on the report as out of district. I'm not sure exactly which campuses they're landing at, but that total is 1,235. And if we take away preschool, that's 1,130 students enrolled. Our budget was for 1,100, so we were about 30 students over what we budgeted. We ended last year at about 1,150. So we're about 20 students lower than at the end of last school year, but we are in the process of enrolling more families. We have about 67 students who are currently partially enrolled, and we are actively working to get them through to full enrollment. We also spent a lot of time just reviewing the enrollment pipeline. We have a really great system now for tracking the process of getting students enrolled, and sort of an action plan for how to make sure we move them from their initial interest all the way through to enrollment. We also reviewed the number of students who decided not to return. I will say that in reviewing the data, most of the families did not return because they moved away. Not all, but most moved away, some inside the state of New Jersey, some outside of the state of New Jersey. Next, we reviewed technology. And one of the big things that we're working on is just making sure that all the devices, all the Chromebooks, the charging, they call them charging carts, are all in working condition and just ready for when the scholars return. We are moving to a new system called Chromebook Flex, which will help our staff just to be more productive. These devices have longer battery life, more security, more cloud-based productivity features as well. We then took a look at facilities, and some of the things that have happened with regards to facilities. Within PAC, we converted our girls' restrooms to an ADA-compliant restroom. Within STEAM, we've installed a cooling station for our server room, reducing our temperatures dramatically. Within STEAM, we replaced damaged flooring and completed plumbing repairs across 3 locations. In PAC, we serviced all the window AC units, replaced lighting, repaired toilets, secured radiator covers, and replaced 2 doors. Within STEAM, we replaced lighting, ceiling tiles, switches, covers, serviced the AC units. Within STEAM, we also restored plumbing for the gym sinks. In the high school, we installed wall guards, replaced lighting and ceiling tiles, repaired walls, and began painting. So there's a lot that we've been working on with regards to facilities, and I just applaud Mr. Collins and his crew for just



getting all this work done over the summer while the scholars are on break. Finally, we reviewed our bills list. And we just kind of went literally line by line just to make sure with the new SBA that all of the bills are in order, no duplicates, and nothing that we had questions about. There was one bill that we did hold up, and I'm not sure if that'll be presented today on the bills list, but that's the sum total of our Finance and Operations Committee meeting. (Boomer)

Personnel Committee

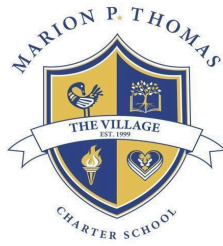
- So, the committee met on July 30th. All committee members were present. We talked about the current vacancies that we have, for non-instructional and instructional staff members by campus. There's been a significant movement on vacancies. The committee's just digging deeper. We want to be very forward-looking, so we're going to be putting together, year by year, a list of vacancies and make sure we're properly mapping to, you know, why people transition from the village. And then just ensure that we're growing and meet the needs of the district. Additionally, we had a vendor request that was motioned to the Executive Committee for review, and we came to adjournment. That's it, so I have a motion to pass the agenda and minutes for the Personnel Committee. (Covington)

Curriculum & Instruction Committee

- Good evening. I'm a little hoarse, so bear with me. We have a couple of contracts to be renewed. We have the approval of the Delta T contract, the approval of the Learn Well contract, and approval of the Liberty Center contract. This contract, as well as the approval of the student tuition contract, are still under board approval. I'm not sure if they, if the, I mean, not board approval, the attorney review? Has that been done? Regarding which contract? The student tuition contract and the Liberty Science Center contract. I'll confirm. So those two, and then we have approval of our regular field trips that we normally have, approval of the IDEA grant for basic and for the preschoolers. So, what I would like to do, the contracts, if you can approve them pending the review, and so if there's any additional changes, but my understanding is that they were reviewed, but I will confirm that for you before the evening is done. Okay. Malia, do you have any insight there? We have confirmation? No, that would come from J&J, but they were all shared, so depending on who on the team took it, so I would defer to Muhammad. Alright, thank you. Are you finished, Madam Chair? Is she satisfied? I'm all finished. And then we have the dual enrollment programs with Montclair State and Montclair State University and Hudson County College, and so we're looking, we're excited about that, that we will have, I think one of them is the culinary program where students will be taking college courses there. And as you know already, it's not here tonight, but we also have the approval for the program, the dual enrollment program with Essex County College. So our students are being exposed to very different areas, and we certainly are excited about that. So, that having been said, I guess we can go ahead and package all of them, but there are no questions regarding either one of the programs. Thank you, Dr. Tao. (Towe)

Culture & Climate + Alumni Committee

- Good evening, everyone. I'm going to, if that's okay, do both the Culture and Climate Committee and the Alumni Committee together. So the school has worked really hard on establishing an annual membership with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, and we are looking to continue that membership by way of the resolution that's presented here today. So just before we move into voting, by way of background, this helps the school establish and adopt certain policies and regulations to align with this organization, and it's something that we are extremely proud that the school has put forth, and we're looking forward to renewing this again with further pending



approval from the Finance Committee, which will review as part of the bills list for this upcoming month. Just wanted to briefly turn to see if Dr. Abbaleo has any comments towards this end. (Baffo)

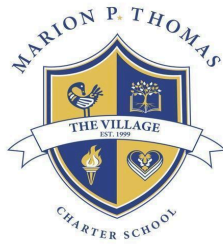
- No, just with this adoption, it basically says that we'll abide by all the rules that are set forth by NJSIAA, which we've done in the past, but it should be an annual resolution that is adopted by the board, and Ms. Baffle and I discussed just doing it at the reorg meeting each year in May. (Abbaleo)

Safety Committee

- Hi, everybody. And our safety committee covered many items. The ones that you're gonna see up for you today are two resolutions. One is for the funding of a, it's a pro, it's basically, they take a satellite imaging of the school, and then they're able to use that to better help to respond to calls for when we have a safety issue. So that was, that's on the agenda for your approval today. That should be the, that's the critical, the CRG, the critical resource group, and the other one just has to do with the defibrillators in the school, and making sure that we keep them running. Those are the two major items that we're passing. Again, the other items that we talked about are mostly safety related to ensure the continuing safety of the school. Because of the sensitive nature of some of them, I won't go into detail about them now, but another shout out to Mr. Williams, our safety director, for, he's on top of a lot of these items, and that committee, we covered a lot of different aspects of safety, so just looking forward to keep working this year and make sure that we're on top of it. Thank you. (Valdivieso)

Executive Committee

- Good afternoon, good evening now, everyone. The Executive Committee did meet Tuesday of last week, and it was a pretty long meeting. We went over time. A lot of the things I cannot report out on, as they are legal and confidential, but I can say that, you know, we are coming together to work really hard to make sure that we are collaborating and fostering a sense of unity that starts at the top. And so, we are committed to that, and I would love to see how that rolls its way downhill. Ain't that what they say in politics? It just rolls downhill? But I just can't wait to see how that actually shows up in the actual classrooms and all the work that we're doing. One resolution that has come out of that committee is the organization chart approval, and so we ask that you vote in the affirmative for the organization chart, so everyone can know who they need to talk to when they need to talk to those particular people. So, thank you. (Rouse)



6. RESOLUTIONS

I. [2026-8-10-A: Approval of the August 10, 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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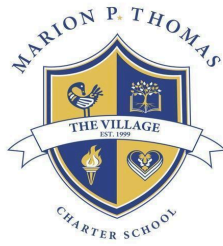
II. [2026-8-10-B: Approval of the June 22, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes](#)

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. [2026-8-10-C: Approval of the June 30, 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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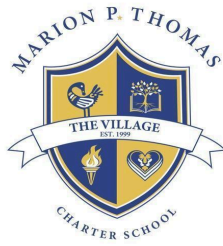
IV. *APPOINTMENT OF MS. SLATER: Motion: Gilchrist - Ince** / 100% in the Affirmative / Approved*
[2026-8-10-D: Approval of Appointment/Election of Parent Representative](#)

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:

- Multiple members of the board stated their reasons they are supporting Ms. Sha'Dira Slater's appointment as parent representative.
- Ms. Slater was sworn in with the oath of office.

**.: Motion Seconded



- V. PACKAGE E - X2: Motion: Boomer - Stewart** | Approved
[2026-8-10-E: Approval of August 26' Vendor's Bills List](#)
[2026-8-10-F: Approval of NJIT Staff Convocation Contract](#)
[2026-8-10-G: Approval of Legacy Studios Contract \(pending Legal final review\)](#)
[2026-8-10-H: Approval of the PreSchool Budget Narrative & NJDOE Submission](#)
[2026-8-10-X1: Approval of Amendment to PRCSS Contract to Include Payroll Svcs](#)
[2026-8-10-X2: Approval of PRCSS as MPTCS Registered Agent and Authorization of New Jersey Department of the Treasury Filing](#)

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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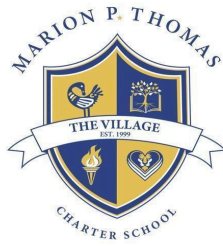
- VI. [2026-8-10-I: Approval of August 26' Personnel Report](#)

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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**.: Motion Seconded



VII. *PACKAGE J - X3: Motion: Towe - Stewart** / Approved*

[2026-8-10-J: Approval of the Delta T Contract](#)

[2026-8-10-K: Approval of the LearnWell Contract](#)

[2026-8-10-L: Approval of Hudson County College Dual Enrollment Agreement 2026-8-10-M:](#)

[Approval of Montclair State Univ - Dual Enrollment Partnership](#)

[2026-8-10-N: Approval of Student Tuition Contract \(Pending Attorney Review\)](#)

[2026-8-10-O: Approval of Liberty Science Center Contract \(Pending Attorney Review\)](#)

[2026-8-10-P: Approval of Field Trips](#)

[2026-8-10-X3: Approval of IDEA Grants for Basic and PreSchool](#)

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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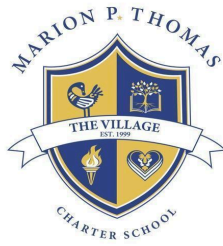
VIII. [2026-8-10-Q: Approval of the NJSIAA Annual Membership & Enrollment for SY 26-27](#)

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. *2026-8-10-R: Approval of Critical Response Group Agreement*

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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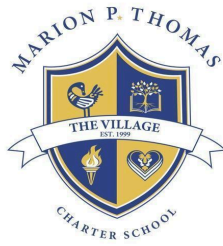
X. *2026-8-10-S: Approval of Team Life's AED Service Agreement*

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. [2026-8-10-T: Approval of MPTCS Central Office Organization Chart for SY 26-27](#) with change from superintendent to CSA and executive director to a title that is mutually agreeable

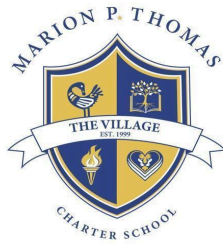
Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Briana Gilchrist	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Dr. Princess Towe	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Julio Valdivieso	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	Toni Ince	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Allan Boomer	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Daryl Stewart**	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Anthony Covington	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Kristine Baffo	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Vincent Rouse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

Vote To table this resolution.

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:

- Mr. Valdivieso expressed the desire to change the titles of some of the positions as he feels they are fitting more into a public school framework and not a charter school.



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.

- Mr. Kason Little - Topic: Everything

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:33 PM: Motion: Covington - Ince** | Approved

LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:59 PM: Motion Gilchrist - Stewart** | Approved

XIII. [2026-8-10-X4- Accepting Oral Investigation Reports & Adopting Governance Recommendations](#)

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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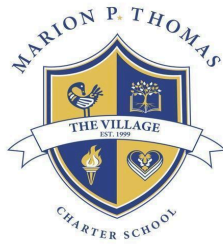
XIX. [2026-8-10-X5- Authorize a Written Response to Questions Raised during CSA Evaluation during 6.22.26 MPTCS BOT Meeting](#)

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



8. CLOSED SESSION - 10:10 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: 10:11 PM ET Gilchrist - Valdivieso** | Approved

Respectfully submitted at: 8/10/2026

Submitted by: MaLiyah E. Griffiths

**.: Motion Seconded