

**APPROVED MINUTES
FOR THE
MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 13, 2021**

The Board of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) held a meeting on May 13, 2021 pursuant to notice duly given. The members present were Peter Leone, Board Chair, Michael Vu, David Domenici, James Forman, Jr., Cheryl Mills, Thomas White, Julie Johnson, Tanji Reed Marshall, Cheryl Chun, Alise Marshall, Denise Jackson-Kelly, Shemeka Pugh, and Darren Cambridge. Also present were Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Leah Lamb, Azalia Hunt Speight, Marvin Harden, Kari Smith, Garrett Mushaw, Joseph Marren, Katia Jones, and Jahleezah Eskew.

Dr. Leone called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm and began by acknowledging the work of the school leaders and the school staff on having a greater focus on social justice, while juggling student services.

Dr. Mendoza Davis began her presentation by quoting from her letter to the Board: “As See Forever and Maya approach a quarter of a century in pursuit of our mission here in D.C., two questions come to mind for me:

- How powerful is it that we have been part of a national movement to serve young people and their families in courageous and unconventional ways?
- How critical is it that, nearly three decades later, there is still a clear need for learning communities like us, that consider the strengths of opportunity youth and then leverage those to support them?”

She stated, “As we end this incredibly challenging school year and prepare for our twenty-fifth year of service, it is clear that we are entering an exciting, but more-urgent-than-ever season in our work.”

Dr. Mendoza Davis and the senior leadership facilitated a Q&A session focused on “Critical Highlights for Quarter 4”. These highlights included:

- COVID-19 related processes for the community being a priority and health services provided and implementing actions to protect the safety of our staff and students;
- Responding to the mandate initiated by the Mayor that all students will physically be in school 5 days per week beginning this Fall;
- Our commitment to resolve the outstanding alternative funding and residential funding issue which will benefit our educational programs;
- Submission of proposals to provide education services at Youth Services Center and D.C. jail sites; and
- Commencing Facilities Renovations.

Furthering our advocacy efforts, Dr. Mendoza Davis stated the Maya Schools' leadership is initiating the following:

- Collaborating with other school leaders across the city to enact legislation that includes adult charter schools in COVID recovery and other funding that is usually reserved for K-12 schools only.
- Continuing to represent our schools and students as PCSB seeks input regarding its strategic plan, accountability policies and practices, and other supports it can provide to adult and alternative schools as our authorizer. We've specifically advocated for policies that are more inclusive of opportunity youth - for example, continuing to focus on student growth over time rather than year-end attainment of academic and other goals.

Mr. Forman congratulated the team for moving forward on the two new projects. Mr. White commented on the basic economics of starting 2 schools. To which Dr. Mendoza Davis stated "Maya would be considered a contracted educational provider, this status is similar to the Maya Angelou Academy presently."

Mr. Harden, Managing Director of Operations, reported out on the projected renovations stating the teaching kitchen design, as originally planned, would be too expensive, so the plans to build a commercial kitchen have been changed. Students will still be able to learn the culinary trade, however, in the hopes it will lead to employment opportunities. Construction will start mid-September 2021 and run through mid-March 2022.

The meeting continued with Mr. Marren, Accounting Contractor, giving an overview of the organization's finances. He recommended approval of the 2021-2022 budget.

Ms. Lamb, Chief of Institutional Development, gave an overview of fundraising activities to date including funding from grants and corporate partners. She shared two videos; one a "Thank You video" with appreciative words from our students and the second one which acknowledged our "Maya Speaks 2nd Essay Contest". This contest also included essay, poems, and lyric submissions and students from other high schools were invited to participate. She also mentioned the upcoming "Miles for Maya Virtual 5K Race" with 50 people having registered so far. She expressed appreciation to the Board members who have agreed to participate.

Ms. Lamb also noted we will be celebrating our **25th Anniversary** in 2022. "Maya Angelou Schools is proudly one of the oldest charter schools in the District of Columbia. We are planning a year-long celebration at the school level, however we will begin planning what our public celebration will be."

Ms. Hunt Speight, Chief of Schools and Ms. Smith, Deputy Chief of Policy, Performance, and Advocacy, gave a brief update on school specific information, i.e., enrollment targets and 2021 graduation ceremony details. Ms. Hunt Speight stated that one of leadership's goals is to expand the online learning system in order to recoup credit recovery. Also, there is a new COVID-specific nurse on board for the schools and the athletics program is resuming in the fall.

Ms. Jones, Director of Post-Secondary Transitions, joined the meeting along with one of our upcoming graduates to share what her future plans are. This Ward 7/8 scholar attended Maya for 4 years and is off to college with a full scholarship! Ms. Jones stated Maya is anticipating 50 graduates from the high school this year. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

The newly formed Maya Board of Directors Committees each gave a report-out on their current activities:

- **Finance Committee:** Mr. Harden, Mr. Vu, and Mr. Marren stated the committee is exploring various financial strategies because every dollar allocated towards renovation allows us to get rent abatement from the DC government. Also our 401K is an issue experiencing challenges, they are working on that as well. Mr. Marren stated that Maya is recruiting for some new positions: a Director of Technology, an Assistant Principal for The Academy, and two HR positions.

The Finance Committee asked the Board to consider approving the 2021-2022 budget based on their detailed discussion.

- **Fundraising Committee:** Mr. Domenici and Ms. Marshall stated the committee is diversifying outreach efforts for strategic engagement in terms of raising funds.
- **Maya Angelou Academy Support Committee:** Dr. Johnson stated the committee continues to develop their relationship with counterparts in PCSB. The issue of students only receiving partial credit once they enter DCPS is a major issue. The Committee plans to testify in support of this effort.
- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Dr. Mendoza Davis and Mr. White shared this group is collaborating with the Maya Staff Strategic Planning Working Group to gather input from employees, students, families, and long-time partners of Maya's strategic direction in the form of surveys and focus groups. There is a report forthcoming which will cover all the main points.
- **Board Development and Engagement Committee:** Mr. Forman brought a document to the attention of the Board which provides current information on each Board member. He asked them to review and send any revisions to the See Forever Office Manager. He also reported out that Dr. Leone's tenure is coming to an end and he has accepted an extension until next year.

Dr. Leone proposed a resolution for voting and approval by the Board: A motion was presented to approve the 21-22 program budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Dr. Leone opened the meeting up for Public Comment; there were no responses from the public in attendance.

Finally, Dr. Leone convened an Executive Session and the meeting officially adjourned at 3:01 pm.