

APPROVED - Redacted

**MINUTES FOR THE
MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 11, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) held a meeting on September 11, 2019 pursuant to notice duly given. The members who participated were Peter Leone, David Domenici, James Forman Jr., Julie Johnson, Michael Vu, Cheryl Mills, Darren Cambridge, and Tom White. Also present were Robert Simmons, Leah Lamb, Azalia Speight, L’Tanya Holley, Katia Jones, Marvin Harden, Kris Turner, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] – two MAPCS students-- and Jahleezah Eskew.

Dr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 2:10pm and welcomed Dr. Leone as the new Maya Board Chair. He also introduced Mr. Harden as the new Deputy Chief of Operations and Mr. Turner as his new Chief of Staff. Dr. Simmons also informed the Board of the upcoming meeting dates, times, and locations. Before turning the meeting over to other presentations he announced the See Forever Foundation office relocation to the MAPCS/YALC campus. Mr. Harden and Mr. Turner gave a few more details on the move.

Dr. Leone invited Ms. Holley, MAPCS Family and Community Engagement Liaison, to give an update on her program. She stated that her focus is to increase family and community participation by working directly with the neighborhood. Ms. Holley mentioned the upcoming “Back to School Night” and invited the Board to participate if possible. Dr. Leone mentioned a possible collaboration with the senior center in the neighborhood and our students as potential volunteers.

The two student guests, [REDACTED], spoke about their recent experiences. Ms. [REDACTED] participated in a Service Learning Project in South Africa and Ms. [REDACTED] participated in an Early Learning Project in Biology at Spelman University in Atlanta, GA. They both shared some of the details from the project and stressed that there is so much potential at Maya and how students would benefit from involvement in more experiences like these.

Mr. White, Maya Board Secretary, asked about the request from PCSB to hold public meetings: how will the meetings be structured? Dr. Leone commented that perhaps having an open comments section towards the end of the meeting to allow hearing from the community might be a good idea. Dr. Simmons indicated that we will find out more information and have a pre-call with the Board before the first public meeting in December.

Ms. Speight, Deputy Chief of Schools, gave an overview of current enrollment figures in all of the 3 schools: high school is 192; YALC is 154; and The Academy is 34 students/scholars. The school leaders are working to exceed charter campus targets by at least 10 to 15 students before Count Day on October 4, 2019. Regarding the Residential Program enrollment, the school has 30 residential slots available across 6 houses and is actively recruiting to meet that goal.

Regarding the “High School Charter Goal Dashboard” Ms. Speight noted that the Writing Goal continues to be an issue. However, school leadership was able to provide opportunities for some of the teachers to participate in intensive writing professional development over the summer. They in turn will train other teachers and administrators in updated methods and strategies. OSSE provided training opportunities as well to teachers.

According to Ms. Speight the “YALC Charter Goal Dashboard” noted that the 10 students who did not pass their final subject for the 2018-19 school year have reenrolled for the new school year. School leadership is anticipating that they will be their “early GED passers” for the 19-20 school year.

Dr. Leone continued the meeting by speaking about the need for developing MAPCS Board Initiative Teams. The purpose of these teams would be to:

- a. Increase ability for board members to add value.
- b. Support priorities for the CEO and his team.
- c. Leverage strengths and assets of board members.
- d. Create clear ownership of board members to drive efforts out of meetings.
- e. Ensure momentum for tangible and demonstrable progress on high priority efforts between board meetings (rather than engagement at meetings only).

The Board has proposed three priority topics to start with: fundraising, “telling our stories”, and strategic planning. The goal is to have members join one of these teams, help develop its own purpose statement/charter, and organize its work-plan. The progress of these teams will be discussed in future board meetings.

Dr. Leone adjourned the meeting at 4:50pm to enable the Board members to take a picture with the beautiful new mural on the MAPCS building.