

APPROVED MINUTES
FOR THE
MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

The Board of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) held a meeting on September 14, 2021 pursuant to notice duly given. The members present were Peter Leone, Board Chair, Michael Vu, Vice Board Chair, David Domenici, James Forman, Jr., Thomas White, Julie Johnson, Cheryl Chun, Lewis Goss II, Alise Marshall, Shemeka Pugh, and Darren Cambridge. Also present were Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Leah Lamb, Azalia Hunt Speight, Marvin Harden, Joseph Marren, Felecia Hayward, Dean Weeks, Sean Yisrael, Maurice Milline, Darrlyn Harrington, Russell Waller, Nora Shetty, and Jahleezah Eskew.

Dr. Leone called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and began by thanking Mr. Vu, Mr. Goss, and Mr. Harden for all of their efforts preparing for the renovations to the school building and managing the safety of students and staff.

Before the discussion with the school leaders, Dr. Mendoza Davis acknowledged that the schools and organization continue to thrive as we head into our 25th year of service to the DC community. Mrs. Hunt Speight then facilitated a discussion with the school leaders – Dr. Yisrael, Mr. Weeks, Dr. Harrison, and Mr. Milline. Some of the highlights included the following: scholars at The Maya Academy are learning coding; the staff at the DC Jail and the YSC are preparing for the start of school on October 1st by developing their mission statement, course catalog, and schedules; consideration of implementing a young adults program at the DC Jail; the Maya high school students are excited to be physically back in school, indicated by the enrollment numbers increasing; and the YALC students seem to be more focused on their aspirations, again indicated by the enrollment numbers increasing. Mrs. Hunt Speight introduced two new positions that have been filled; Deputy Chief of Secured Spaces – Dr. Felecia Hayward and Deputy Chief of Student Support – Dr. Kamal Wright-Cunningham. Dr. Hayward stated that she is focused on getting the YSC off in the right direction and supporting The Maya Angelou Academy and Dr. Wright-Cunningham reiterated that he and his staff will focus on providing support to the staff and students at the secured locations.

Dr. Mendoza Davis gave her report stating that she and leadership are doing everything to keep our learning communities safe and healthy while keeping school open five days per week. This includes weekly testing for all staff and students across the organization; mandated vaccination for all staff; two additional on-site vaccine clinics for students and staff in September and October. This effort also includes using technology to continue remote learning/services for all students and staff in case of quarantine; in-house contact tracing and testing; and real-time adjustments on the part of Maya’s COVID Response Team to communicate and implement rapid evolving guidance for schools from the DC Department of Health.

Dr. Mendoza Davis also highlighted the expansion of Maya Schools' impact with a network of five schools. This now includes the Maya Angelou Academy @ Youth Services Center (YSC) and the Maya Angelou Academy @ the DC Jail. The goal is to help incarcerated students have some sort of future beyond the penal system. Some challenges currently being addressed are: teacher staffing, operational handoff from outgoing education provider, support/services for special education students, and data and record sharing.

The meeting continued with Mr. Marren, Accounting Contractor, giving an overview of the organization's finances. He stated we are in the process of closing out FY21 books, what he calls a "soft close" which will allow the finance staff to make changes as needed as they prepare for the audits that are forthcoming in November and December.

Ms. Lamb, Chair of Institutional Development, gave an overview of fundraising activities to date including funding from grants and corporate partners. She shared that COVID relief and reentry funding is still a priority among government agencies and philanthropic organizations, however, the DevComm team continues to send out multiple requests for a myriad of programs and other key areas of need. The DevComm team have also been working with school leaders and other staff to support our enrollment and staff recruitment efforts. Looking ahead, we are beginning to plan for "Giving Tuesday" and also a celebration for our 25th Anniversary in 2022.

Mrs. Hunt Speight gave a brief overview of the Maya Schools' performance as follows: MAA – had a successful start of school on August 30th and in the upcoming weeks, girls will be transitioning from the YSC to MAA; MAPCS also had a successful start on August 30th, athletics and after-school programming are being implemented to support student engagement and enhance school culture; and the YALC successfully started its program on September 7th. They are expanding their workforce programming and tutoring students to ensure successful earning of GED credentials.

Ms. Shetty, Director of Performance Management gave an extensive data-focused presentation on "Preparing for our 25th Year Charter Review". She briefly gave some historical background, discussed PCSB's COVID-19 Policy which will guide accountability decisions, details of schools' performances, and provided some details on what to expect next in the process.

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

Dr. Leone convened an Executive Session and the meeting officially adjourned at 4:10 pm.