

**APPROVED MINUTES  
FOR THE  
MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

The Board of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) held a meeting on September 8, 2020 pursuant to notice duly given. The members present were Peter Leone, Michael Vu, David Domenici, James Forman, Jr., Cheryl Mills, Thomas White, Julie Johnson, Alise Marshall, Tanji Reed Marshall, and Lewis Goss II. Also present were Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Leah Lamb, Azalia Speight, Marvin Harden, Nathan Yufer, Joseph Marran, Khendall Beale, Anne Schoolcraft, Mayank Palak, Garrett Mushaw, Enje Brown, and Jahleezah Eskew.

Dr. Leone called the meeting to order at 12:17 pm and began by thanking everyone for attending and gave some opening remarks. Dr. Leone presented a Resolution to approve the Updated Handbook presented by the HR Staff. He moved to approve this Resolution, and it was seconded and approved with no opposition.

Dr. Mendoza Davis began the Senior Staff Team reports stating how the organization will move, as a collective, from *rising to thriving*. She stated, “Thriving requires us to elevate our organization’s practice and performance so that we are well-prepared to take on the next set of challenges that lie ahead of us.” She continued this description as having two essential questions that will drive our work:

- How will we intentionally **evolve our programs and services** to better meet the needs of our students and families?
- How will we intentionally **evolve our practice** to make sure we are well-positioned to fulfill our mission?

And lastly she talked about “Three charges will help us move from ideas to action”:

- **Be your best** so you can **bring your best**.
- Evolve to **elevate your own practice**.
- Commit to a **culture of collaboration**.

Dr. Mendoza Davis then presented some updates on the school’s responses to the COVID-19 epidemic being implemented at all schools:

- The MAA Team is teaching on site. Our charters are operating in distance learning mode, but our campuses are open during regular school/business hours so we can meet student needs as they arise.
- All students at our charter campuses have Chromebooks and hotspots. Our scholars at the Maya Angelou Academy (MAA) have Chromebooks on campus and will soon have access to these devices if they must remain on the living unit for health safety purposes.

- We are providing IT Help Desk support for our students and families through a hotline and email address.
- Our staff has been flexible and responsive as we have rolled out additional health and safety measures, including mandated COVID-19 testing for all employees.
- The mobile clinic we have partnered with has served 100+ students across the High School and YALC, providing access to the health screenings and vaccinations needed for enrollment. The MAA Team is teaching on site. Our charters are operating in distance learning mode, but our campuses are open during regular school/business hours so we can meet student needs as they arise.

Dr. Mendoza Davis stated there are also a couple of Charter Sector Updates which are important; one of the updates is the Continuous Education & Recovery Requirements (Office of the State of Education [OSSE]). OSSE has required all charter schools to submit detailed plans for SY20-21 that adhere to a set of rigorous academic quality standards, as well as health and safety standards. The second one is that PCSB is holding schools harmless regarding the SY19-20 goals, performance management framework tiering, and annual school quality report.

Mr. Harden gave a brief overview on the renovations that are currently going on at the high school. He also gave a brief description of various processes being implemented, including a LEED certification. Part of that project includes an energy study to determine if we are “going green”. The solar paneling on the roof will be a plus for the new LEED certification. He also introduced the new Director of Finance, Mr. Garrett Mushaw.

Mr. Marren presented on the financials for the organization. Some of the highlights of his presentation included:

- Based on our pre-audit preliminary financials, Maya closed out FY20 in a strong financial position.
- The strong position was primarily driven by higher enrollment than budgeted (369 versus budgeted 330) and receipt of unbudgeted funds from government programs.
- Expenses were lower due to staff vacancies and scaled back operations due to COVID-19 in the last few months of the year.

Ms. Lamb commented on the fund-raising efforts currently being implemented including assessing external foundations for potential grants. Maya is seeking private grants to buy technology for students and food supplies for them and the community.

Ms. Speight gave a brief overview of the student progress reports regarding our Charter goals. She also highlighted the start of school activities at each of the campuses noting that our students are participating in virtual learning using Zoom videoconferencing and Google Classroom for their lessons.

Dr. Leone continued the Board discussion centered around Board recruitment. Two individuals were proposed for approval to become Board members, including another parent member. Both potential candidates are enthusiastic about our students and the schools’ educational programs. A motion was entertained, moved, seconded and unanimously passed. Dr. Forman made a good

suggestion and that is for the Board to be intentional about the on-boarding of new parent members in particular, so that their interest in serving on the Board can be sustained over time. Dr. Leone opened up for discussion the proposal to change the By-Laws to support parent members by providing a monetary stipend for their service. Discussion ensued and Dr. Leone asked the Board to entertain a motion to change the By-Laws to provide a stipend to Parent Board Members as part of their service. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Dr. Forman presented the possibility of forming an Advisory Board. This larger group would serve as a resource to the Maya Board in terms of sharing their expertise but would include people who are unable to commit to actually serving as a Board member. Dr. Forman, Dr. Leone, and Dr. Mendoza Davis agreed to conduct further discussion on this idea in terms of staffing, leadership, and clarity of the role of an Advisory Board and to share their thoughts to the Board at the next meeting.

Lastly, Dr. Mendoza Davis briefly discussed the Board's involvement in Standing Committees. The intent is to have at least 2 members on each committee. The names of these committees are:

- Finance Committee
- Development, Partnerships, & Advocacy Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Board Development & Engagement (formerly Board Recruitment Task Force)

Board members also expressed an interest in a special committee this year that is focused on advocacy efforts for Maya Angelou Academy.

A report-out will be presented at the next Board meeting in December.

Dr. Leone opened up the Board meeting for Public Comment; there were no public comments. He then convened an Executive Session and the meeting officially adjourned at 3:00 pm.