

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MARCH 26, 2023**

The Board of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) held a meeting on March 26, 2024, under notice duly given. The members present via Zoom were Alise Marshall (Board Chair), James Forman, Jr., David Domenici, Julie Johnson, Cheryl Chun, Lewis Goss II, Michael Stratton (Vice Chair, Financer), Darren Cambridge, Cheryl Mills, Thomas White (Board Secretary), Cheryl Holcomb McCoy and Michelle Brown. Absent board members: Reginald Belle and Melanee Gragg. Clarisse Mendoza Davis introduced Maya staff: Leah Lamb, Azalia Speight, Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Aaron Cannon, Felecia Hayward, Reginald Galloway, Elise Seth, L’Tanya Holley, Sheryl Eastman, Allan Clyde, Jasmine Groce, Micah Stewart, Anteria Gross, and Vicky Mitchell. Absent staff: Nora Shetty.

Ms. Marshall called the meeting to order at 11:06 am and began by welcoming the board members and the Maya staff to the meeting. She also acknowledged that this is her last meeting as Board chair. Ms. Marshall opened by stating that the objective of the Board’s guest series is to provide a more comprehensive perspective of Maya’s role in the various systems and advocacy coalitions as well as provide direction with respect to strategy and broader support for Maya and the leadership team.

Dr. Mendoza Davis acknowledged and thanked Ms. Marshall for her service and leadership to the board. In honor of Maya Angelou’s birthday, each board member will receive a “Good Disruption” sweatshirt signaling the direction Maya is headed. Dr. Mendoza Davis introduced the guest speakers Gene Downing and James Carpenter, Co-Chairs with Thrive Under 25 Coalition, highlighting Maya’s role, and partnership with the coalition and how the members are not education organizations, but how their work touches and influences Maya’s work. Gene Downing was arrested at 19 and sentenced to 82 years to life. However, through a DC Local Law, the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act, Gene received a second chance at life and decided to join the fight to help those still incarcerated. James Carpenter, arrested at 17, served 24 years, and released 4 years ago, is an Incredible messenger and collaborates with justice-involved youth. He also works with the youth at two of Maya’s secured sites, New Beginnings, and the Youth Service Center. It was incumbent upon him to fight and advocate on behalf of justice-involved youth. In addition to advocacy, legislation, and public education, Thrive Under 25’s mission and vision is to be a transformative coalition to end racial bias, create housing opportunities for returning citizens, and expand educational opportunities within the workforce: access to programs.

The speakers said that Maya is the end all, be all and the work is paramount inside and outside. They encouraged Maya to continue advocating for the youth concerning equitable education change and to keep pushing for the implementation of life skills as they re-enter society. They

also suggested that we stop making assessments with the youth without interacting with them and engage them on a deeper and more critical level.

Dr. Mendoza Davis presented one resolution for Board approval: An Amendment to the Charter Agreement with District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB): Update Mission Statement & Expand Virtual Instruction Criteria at High School Campus. The purpose of this is to update the mission statement. Maya is one of the few schools in DC that offers virtual instruction for medical or other health reasons, safety reasons, court, and probation reasons. The proposed amendment will provide safe passage and avoid fear within the school setting. There was a motion proposed, it was seconded. There was no opposition, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

The meeting continued with the financial report. A new EdOps colleague, Kiril Johnson, was introduced. Mr. Johnson has been assisting Reginald Galloway, Director of Finance, with planning the 2024-2025 School year budget. Highlights presented are through January 2024. Overall, Maya continues to be in good financial standing

Dr. Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Deputy Chief of Student Support Services shared that after the recent suicide of a fellow employee, there was a spike in the Employee Assistance Program and how the staff is pulling together and holding each other accountable. There will be another Health Fair in May. There is a teacher crisis not just locally but nationally.

Dr. Mendoza Davis shared about the revitalization of Maya's partnership with Teach For America and the Petey Greene Project to help address the staff shortage. Maya is formalizing the agreements with both organizations. Per the Mayor's office, it has been a tough fiscal climate.

Azalia Speight, Chief of Schools, shared that the South African experience was a transformative trip. They learned so much about SA and their educational system. They had the opportunity to visit the Hope School and were amazed at how engaged the scholars were and their excitement about learning. The experience with Hope School was like the start of Maya: Unconventional, alternative, and grassroots.

Aaron Cannon, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on the construction Phase 10 project. Senior leaders and the operations team are looking to have a Project Manager, Building Hope, onsite for Phase 10. They have over 30 years of experience working with charter schools in the DC area and will assist with identifying a construction company. A cost estimate is forthcoming.

Leah Lamb, Chief of Institutional Development, reminded the Board to RSVP for the April 5<sup>th</sup> Funder's Breakfast. She also spoke about upcoming activities – The Virtual 5K, May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, and the "From Silos to Solutions" Convening, April 25-27, 2024.

Dr. Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Deputy Chief of Student Support Services, mentioned the Young Adult Learning Center's new pilot CTE Track and its progress, the upcoming graduations, and the end-of-year testing. He also mentioned that he is collaborating with Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) measurement, and they have found that there are gaps as it relates to young, adults, adults and those who are incarcerated. The research team, Dr. Cyril Pickering, our school psychologist,

and Ms. Shamette Franklin, Resident Clinical Expert from the YALC, will be working with Dr. Holcomb McCoy and her team.

Dr. Felecia Hayward, Deputy Chief of Secured Sites, shared a story about a young scholar at DOC @ DC Jail with 3 charges for a total of 6 years. He has been enrolled since October 2022 and has an IEP. Updates have been sent to his education attorney and they have been meeting regarding his progress. At his sentencing, the judge commented on his status, and because of his growth and motivation to succeed, the judge reduced his sentence from 6 years to four months and time served. He will be released in May. This is a great testament to the Maya team and what they are doing.

Ms. Marshall opened the meeting up for public comments and there were no responses from the public in attendance. She officially adjourned the meeting at 2:02 pm.