

MINUTES

MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MARCH 4, 2025

The Board of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) held a virtual meeting on March 4, 2025, under notice duly given. The members present were Dr. Cheryl Chun, Dr. Julie Johnson, Thomas White, David Domenici, James Forman, Michelle Brown (Parent), Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy, Darren Cambridge, Lewis Goss, and Michael Stratton. Absent board members: Melanee Gragg, Reginald Belle, and Cheryl Mills.

Dr. Clarisse Mendoza Davis introduced Maya staff: Aaron Cannon, Anteria Gross, Azalia Speight, Dr. Felecia Hayward, Dr. Kamal Wright Cunningham, Nora Shetty, Leah Lamb, L’Tanya Holley, Russell Waller, Kewanna Wade Wooten, Moshe Maizels, Jamela Love, Eustace Alexander, and Vicky Mitchell.

Dr. Julie Johnson, Interim Board Chair called the meeting to order with a quorum at 1:05 pm and began by welcoming the board members and the Maya staff to the meeting with roll call.

Dr. Johnson also highlighted the upcoming graduations and encouraged attendance.

Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Chief Executive Officer, provided successes as well as challenges while emphasizing the focus on “Maya Thriving” and the importance of love and rigor in the organization. Also discussed was the importance of mid-year graduations, and that Maya celebrated a 50% higher graduation rate compared to other alternative schools.

Aaron Cannon, Chief Administrative Officer, provided financial updates that revealed a projected net income of over \$1 million and an expected cash position of \$10 million by year-end. The parking lot is completed, and the auditorium is at 65% completion, with a target date of May 8, 2025.

Two loans were acquired: \$2 million from OSSE and \$5 million from City First Bank.

The projected net income is over a million dollars, with favorable per-pupil and contract funds variances.

Dr. Clarisse Mendoza Davis discussed the importance of community engagement and the impact of recent federal changes on funding and curriculum.

Maya continues to outperform enrollment targets and is planning for potential funding reductions.

The mission remains critical, and Maya will continue to serve its community authentically.

Dr. Mendoza Davis also highlighted the need for flexibility and additional support for scholars facing multiple job responsibilities and other barriers.

Guest Speaker, Chelsea Coffin, Director of Education Policy Initiative with the D.C. Policy Center, presented findings on career assets and career and technical education.

The report highlighted the importance of building career assets for lifelong success and the need for a comprehensive system of opportunities.

Ms. Coffin discussed the current state of the outcomes for DC young adults and the importance of post-secondary enrollment and career preparation.

The report also identified barriers to participation in career asset-building opportunities, including lack of awareness and eligibility requirements.

Ms. Coffin emphasized the importance of having a post-secondary plan, deep exposure to the workplace, and strong partnerships. Discussed the importance of work-based learning and dual enrollment for students, emphasizing the need for educators to be informed about job demands and career readiness.

Some suggestions from Ms. Coffin:

- More work is needed to engage parents and families in understanding the future of work and supporting their children.
- Engage students in middle school around college and career guides and develop partnerships with feeder schools
- Make work-based learning and dual enrollment official requirements for graduation, balancing higher requirements with accessibility.

Dr. Felecia Hayward, Deputy Chief of Secure Sites, discussed the mid-year graduations and the partnership with the Washington Trade Construction Union for a full CTE program at New Beginnings.

Nora Shetty, Deputy Chief of Performance and Advocacy, provided an overview of the charter dashboard metrics, highlighting areas of progress and areas for improvement. She discussed college and career metrics, noting the high percentage of students choosing employment over post-secondary education, highlighting key partnerships and the success of the CTE programs at the high school. Encouraged the school to track monthly data on out-of-school suspensions and incidents of violence to monitor downward trends

Dr. Kamal Wright Cunningham, Chief of Well-Being, provided updates on the well-being program, including one-on-one meetings with staff and plans to hire a director of well-being.

Leah Lamb, Chief of Institutional Advancement, highlighted recent and upcoming funding opportunities, including our anonymous foundation, which gave us \$1.4 million—and receipt of an extra \$100,000 from the Morris and Gwendolyn Foundation specifically for the auditorium. We are continuing our efforts to cultivate new funders. On the radar is the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego which is interested in young people in secure settings

The Maya Schools documentary has been entered into several film festivals and accepted in five. It has been shown in DC, Miami, and Atlanta.

We have applied for the Building Hope Impact Summit Awards for the opportunity to showcase the work being done at Maya.

Azalia Speight, Chief of Schools, highlighted Maya's current work-based learning and dual enrollment offerings and sought advice on expanding these opportunities.

Dr. Mendoza Davis recognized and thanked the board for refreshing the list of prospective board members. She mentioned the comprehensive report from the Public Charter School Board and the importance of verifying the accuracy of the data. She encouraged the board members to reach out with questions or feedback and the importance of continued engagement and support for the school's initiatives.

Dr. Julie Johnson opened the meeting up to public comment; there were no responses from the public in attendance. She asked the Board of Directors if there was any new business to discuss. There was none. The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 pm.