

MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Q1
September 3, 2025

The Quarterly Board Meeting of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (MAPCS) was held in person on **September 3, 2025**, with proper public notice given.

The meeting was called to order at **10:13 a.m.** by **Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy**, newly appointed Board Chair, with a quorum present. She welcomed board members, MAPCS staff, and members of the public. A roll call confirmed the presence of the following board members:

Present:

Dr. Cheryl Chun, Dr. Julie Johnson, Thomas White, David Domenici, James Forman, Cheryl Mills, Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy, Darren Cambridge, Michael Stratton, and new board members: **Crystal Carpenter, Makeba Clay, Chelsea Coffin, and Joi Hayes**

Absent:

Michelle Brown, Reginald Belle

II. Introductions

Dr. Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Chief Executive Officer, introduced the MAPCS staff present, including Aaron Cannon, Azalia Speight, Dr. Felecia Hayward, Dr. Kamal Wright Cunningham, Leah Lamb, Nora Shetty, L'Tanya Holley, Moshe Maizels, Anteria Gross, Shade Shonekan, Shantelle Wright-Cunningham, Dr. Cyril Pickering, and Vicky Mitchell.

Dr. Holcomb McCoy acknowledged and thanked **Dr. Julie Johnson** for her service as Interim Board Chair.

III. Community Building Activity

Dr. Mendoza Davis facilitated a “Community Building” exercise to strengthen relationships and alignment across stakeholders. Attendees were paired and asked to reflect on:

1. Their “why” for serving on the board and supporting the mission
2. Hopes for MAPCS for the 2025–26 school year
3. How they plan to contribute to those aspirations

IV. Guest Speaker Series - Guest Facilitator: Don Fraser, Jr., Senior Vice President, Design & Innovation, Education Design Lab

Topic: *Evolving Practices for Career and Technical Education for Emerging Adults*

Key Takeaways:

- **Durable Skills:** Fraser discussed the shift from “soft skills” to “durable skills” like communication and critical thinking, and the importance of recognizing these through micro-credentials.
- **Reframing “Career”:** Fraser challenged the traditional concept of a career, proposing a model of dynamic “employment journeys.”
- **Opportunity Youth:** Approximately 71,000 youth in the DC region (ages 16–24) are out of work or school. Fraser stressed that disinterest, not lack of skill, may be the more significant barrier.
- **Engagement Drivers:** Success hinges on supporting youth with Growth, Belonging, and Agency.
- **Workplace Culture:** Employers must foster environments where youth feel safe, valued, and supported.
- **Entrepreneurial Aspirations:** Many youth, particularly those with justice involvement, aspire to entrepreneurship over traditional employment.
- **Strategic Questions:**
 - Should organizations broadly raise awareness of all opportunities or deeply partner with a few key employers?
 - How can programs address varied motivations and aspirations?

Julie Johnson emphasized segmenting support based on learner profiles (e.g., high school vs. adult learners). Fraser’s remarks will inform MAPCS’s strategic direction and partnerships.

V. Financial Report

Presented by: Aaron Cannon (CAO), Reginald Galloway (Director of Finance), and Kiril Johnson (EdOps)

FY24 Financial Highlights:

- **Net Income:** \$1.56M surplus

- **Revenue Variance:** +\$2.24M (from enrollment, DOC contract, interest income, and private grants)
- **Expense Variance:** +\$680K (driven by employee benefits, PD, insurance; partially offset by vacancies)
- **Ending Cash Balance:** \$11.13M (~133 days of cash on hand)
- **Operating Cash Flow:** \$2.68M
- **New Loans:**
 - OSSE Loan: \$2M, interest-only for 2 years
 - City First Loan: \$5M approved; \$1.5M drawn

MAPCS ended FY24 in a **strong financial position**, providing a solid cushion for FY25–26.

VI. Strategic Planning Deep Dive - Presented by: Dr. Clarisse Mendoza Davis

Review of Previous Strategic Cycle:

- **Green:** Fully achieved
- **Yellow:** In progress
- **Red:** Not achieved (e.g., participation in DC’s education adequacy study)

New Strategic Plan Overview:

- **5 Strategic Domains:**
 1. Instruction
 2. Mental Health & Social-Emotional Wellness
 3. Career and Technical Education
 4. Human Capital
 5. Maya as a Thought and Advocacy Leader

Ambitious Focus Areas:

- **Domain 3: Transition**
 - Includes post-secondary planning, campus transfers, and reentry support
- **Domain 5: Thought Leadership**

- Positions Maya as a leader in education for justice-involved and opportunity youth

Breakout Group Reflections:

- **Group 1:** Need to clarify outcomes; suggested a Board-level Strategic Planning Committee
- **Group 2:** Highlighted budget and staffing needs for transition work
- **Group 3:** Focused on Domain 3 transitions and Domain 2 wellness
- **Group 4:** Emphasized learner-centered strategies and alumni engagement

Strategic Planning Insights:

- Emphasis on equity, realistic stretch goals, and resource alignment
- Chronic absenteeism identified as a key metric
- Acknowledgment of the challenge in balancing ambition with sustainability over a 5-year horizon

Next Steps:

- Optional office hours will be scheduled for deeper engagement
- Continued refinement of goals, KPIs, and resource planning

VII. Public Comment & Adjournment

Dr. Holcomb McCoy opened the floor for public comment. **No comments were received.**

No new business was raised by board members.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.