

**MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Q2**

**December 17, 2025**

The Quarterly Board Meeting of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (MAPCS) was held in person at WilmerHale on December 17, 2025, with proper public notice given.

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy, 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, Thomas White, David Domenici, James Forman, Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy, Darren Cambridge, Makeba Clay, Chelsea Coffin, and Joi Hayes.

**Virtual:** Cheryl Mills, Crystal Carpenter, and Michael Stratton.

**Absent:**

Michelle Brown, Reginald Belle, and Dr. Julie Johnson

**Introduction:**

**Dr. Clarisse Mendoza Davis**, Chief Executive Officer, introduced the MAPCS staff present, including Aaron Cannon, Azalia Speight, Dr. Felecia Hayward, Dr. Kamal Wright Cunningham, and Leah Lamb.

**Virtual:**

Nora Shetty, Reginald Galloway, L'Tanya Holley, Moshe Maizels, Anteria Gross, Shade Shonekan, Dr. Cyril Pickering, and Kiril Johnson (EdOps)

**Opening Context & Reflections**

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the work of the Maya Angelou Schools within a challenging national education environment characterized by funding uncertainty, workforce strain, and increasing student needs. The Board reaffirmed the organization's commitment to dignity, belonging, high expectations, and opportunity, noting that agenda items related to attendance, graduation, academics, and school climate reflected what is possible when students are supported holistically.

The Board celebrated the opening of the Maya Angelou Performing Arts Auditorium, recognizing its importance as a space for student expression, affirmation, and community engagement. Members reflected on the strength of student performances and the long-term value of the investment.

## **Governance Actions**

- **Agenda:** Approved unanimously
- **Prior Meeting Minutes:** Approved unanimously
- **Board Welcome:** Ernestine Brock was formally welcomed as a new Board member

Dr. Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Chief Executive Officer, welcomed attendees, confirmed the meeting as public, and previewed the agenda, including formal recognition of WilmerHale's more than 25-year partnership with the Maya Angelou Schools.

## **WilmerHale Partnership Recognition**

WilmerHale's partnership was formally celebrated through a presentation by Anne Bowie, WilmerHale Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, and reflections from Board members, staff, and alumni.

### **Key highlights included:**

- Over 25 years of unrestricted funding, pro bono legal services, and volunteer engagement
- Approximately 7,000 volunteer hours and 500 hours of pro bono legal support
- Tutoring, mentoring, career development, governance support, and enrichment experiences
- Strong alumni impact, including reflections from Chef Devonte Howard

Board members, David Domenici, and James Forman, as well as WilmerHale leadership, emphasized the importance of long-term, values-aligned institutional partnerships in advancing student outcomes and organizational stability.

## **Financial Performance & Fiscal Health**

The Finance Team reported strong financial performance:

- **Operating Cash Flow:** Positive
- **Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR):** 3.01 (well above the 1.2 covenant requirement)
- **Forecast vs. Budget:**
  - Revenue projected to be approximately \$1.7M over budget
  - Expenses projected to be approximately \$1.7M under budget

- Net cash change aligned with budget
- **Year-End Cash Forecast:** Approximately \$12.3M

All variances were attributed to timing factors, including grant drawdowns, insurance payments, and loan reimbursements, and are being actively monitored.

### **Capital Finance Update**

Leadership reviewed completed and ongoing capital projects, including:

- Parking lot expansion
- Auditorium renovation

Financing included loans from City First Bank (\$5M) and OSSE (\$2M at 1%), as well as organizational cash reserves.

An elevator modernization project, estimated at \$1.0–\$1.1M, was discussed. Leadership will determine whether to fund the project through cash reserves or additional borrowing following further financial modeling. No Board action was requested.

### **Budget Outlook & Planning**

Leadership discussed FY27 budget planning amid uncertainty related to:

- Per-pupil funding
- Facilities funding
- Educator compensation

Scenario-based planning is underway, aligned with strategic priorities and distinguishing between essential and discretionary spending.

### **Fraud Allegations Investigation Update**

Leadership provided a verbal update regarding alleged fraud involving the misuse of student incentive debit cards.

Actions taken included:

- Notification of law enforcement and oversight agencies
- Filing of an insurance claim
- Strengthening of internal controls
- Notification of external auditors

The incident was deemed non-material to the audit.

### **Well-Being Program Update**

**Presenter:** Dr. Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Chief of Well-Being

- Expansion of the well-being team and increased on-site support
- Structured programming for students, families, and staff
- Development of a custom SEL assessment tool for emerging adults
- Receipt of a \$225,000 grant to support SEL development and staffing

### **School Performance, Enrollment & Engagement Update**

**Presenter:** Nora Shetty, Deputy Chief of Performance, Policy, and Advocacy

- Enrollment exceeded targets across schools
- Graduation rates exceed peer alternative schools and approach district averages
- Attendance remains an area of focus, with engagement strategies underway
- Progress remains aligned with charter goals and PCSB expectations

### **Instructional & Operational Updates**

**Presenters:** Azalia Speight, Chief of Schools, and Aaron Cannon, Chief Administrative Officer

- AI-supported instructional planning with ethical oversight
- Strong staffing levels (95% staffed)
- Successful audit submission with no material findings
- Expanded facilities and community partnerships

### **Action Items**

1. Continuing SEL assessment development and piloting
2. Expand family well-being engagement efforts
3. Monitor staff well-being platform utilization
4. Compile data to support the 30-year charter renewal

### **Next Meeting**

- **Date:** March 25 (Virtual)
- **Focus:** School performance and charter metrics

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.