MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Q1

September 2, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools Board of Directors was called to order at **10:03 a.m.** by Board Chair Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy. The meeting was recorded as a public meeting.

Roll Call

Present:
Dr. Cheryl Chun, Thomas White, David Domenici, James Forman, Dr. Cheryl Holcomb McCoy, Ernestine Brock, Michelle Brown, Makeba Clay, Joi Hayes-Scott, Crystal Carpenter, Darren Cambridge, Cheryl Mills, Chelsea Coffin, Michael Stratton

Absent:
Reginald Belle

Staff Present:
Dr. Felecia Hayward, Aaron Cannon, Nora Shetty, Leah Lamb, Dr. Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Dr. Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Azalia Speight, Reginald Galloway, Surya Sriranangarajan, Moshe Maziels, Dr. Cyril Pickering, Dr. Ashley Mickey, L'Tanya Holley, and Vicky Mitchell

II. Opening Remarks

Dr. Holcomb-McCoy welcomed board members and members of the leadership team and expressed appreciation for the team's preparation for the meeting and for its work launching the new school year.

The Board recognized Maya's 29th year of service and reflected on the organization's continued commitment to students and families. The year's theme, "Maya Thriving: We Are the Difference," was described as both a celebration and a call to action, emphasizing the role of caring adults, strong systems, courageous decisions, and the Board's responsibility to support Maya's mission and strategic direction.

Dr. Holcomb-McCoy also highlighted the importance of the upcoming charter renewal process and encouraged the Board to remain focused and forward-looking as Maya approaches its 30-year milestone.

III. Opening Board Reflection

Clarisse Mendoza Davis led an opening reflection focused on two questions:

1. What is one hope for the Maya mission during this period of the organization's journey?
2. What area of Board practice should be improved or explored further?

Board members and staff participated in breakout discussions and shared reflections with the full group.

Key themes included:

- Expanding successful Maya models, including consideration of how the housing model might serve additional student populations.
- Using Maya's extensive longitudinal data to establish benchmarks and communicate what is possible for the populations Maya serves.
- Strengthening Maya's local and national thought leadership.
- Increasing engagement with DC policymakers and community stakeholders.
- Improving Board onboarding and ensuring Board members have the data and information necessary to serve as effective ambassadors.
- Exploring the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence in Maya's work.

The leadership team noted that these themes align closely with the organization's strategic plan, particularly the goals related to academic success, well-being, scaling effective programs, and local and national leadership.

IV. CEO/Executive Leadership Reflection and Evaluation Follow-Up

Dr. Mendoza Davis reflected on feedback from her leadership evaluation and outlined priorities for the coming year.

She reported that the organization has strengthened its internal culture, professionalism, use of data and evidence in decision-making, and day-to-day operations. She indicated that the leadership team is in a strong position to allow her to place greater emphasis on external responsibilities, including stakeholder engagement, partnerships, advocacy, and fundraising.

Dr. Holcomb-McCoy commended Dr. Mendoza Davis for her thoughtful reflection and emphasized that the evaluation should be viewed as part of a continuous-improvement process, particularly as Maya prepares for charter renewal.

V. Strategic Plan – Journey to 2030

Dr. Mendoza Davis reviewed the organization's five-year strategic plan and noted that Maya is entering Year Two of the "Journey to 2030."

The Board reviewed the strategic domains and key priorities, including:

- **Academic success and instruction** as the core of Maya's work.
- **Well-being** as an outcome that should increasingly be measured quantitatively.
- **Scholar transitions**, including transitions between Maya schools, post-secondary transitions, and successful transitions back to the community.
- **Human capital and talent**, with continued emphasis on recruiting and retaining effective, mission-driven staff.
- **Stakeholder connection and organizational sustainability**, including financial stewardship, external positioning, thought leadership, and national convening.

The organization is developing key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure strategic progress and provide the Board with more quantitative information. The Board discussed the importance of focusing on the most meaningful indicators rather than becoming overly focused on the volume of data.

VI. Student Well-Being and Transition Services

The Board discussed Maya's comprehensive well-being framework and the goal of demonstrating measurable student growth in areas such as relationships, belonging, strength, and hope.

Dr. Mendoza Davis reported that Maya is strengthening transition services, particularly at New Beginnings. A third student advocate was hired to support scholars transitioning from New Beginnings back into the community.

The organization also plans to strengthen coordination with DCPS and other system partners and hold an open house to help external educators and partners better understand the Maya educational experience and transition support.

VII. Human Capital and Staff Retention

The Board received an update on staff retention. Leadership reported that Maya's retention rate remains above 85%, while emphasizing that the goal is to retain effective, mission-driven, and professional staff.

VIII. Financial Sustainability

Reginald Galloway presented the year-end financial update. He reported that Maya ended FY26 in a financially strong position, with 123 days of cash on hand compared with the PCSB benchmark of 45–60 days. Operating cash flow was approximately $834,000, and the debt service coverage ratio was 2.22, compared with the required ratio of 1.20.

The Board reviewed FY26 financial performance compared with budget and discussed the organization's financial sustainability and long-term fiscal planning. Leadership noted that Maya remains financially strong while emphasizing the importance of preparing for future obligations, including the facilities debt balloon payment.

FY26 federal grants had been invoiced, with the remaining invoices expected to be completed by the end of September. Leadership also reported that the FY27 budget, previously approved by the Board, had been submitted to PCSB and received no pushback.

Leadership emphasized continued fiscal discipline, including building operating budget carryover, pursuing fundraising opportunities, and identifying opportunities to reduce expenditures while maintaining program quality.

IX. Charter Renewal

The Board discussed preparations for Maya's upcoming 30-year charter renewal with the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB).

Leadership reported that the renewal process is a major organizational priority. PCSB will consider whether Maya has met or exceeded its charter goals and, where goals were not met, whether the organization demonstrated year-over-year improvement. For the 2026–27 school year, Maya must meet or exceed its goals.

The Board discussed areas in which Maya's performance has been mixed, including certain academic assessment measures, social-emotional learning measures, and attendance. Leadership emphasized the importance of providing PCSB with appropriate context regarding the data and continuing to improve performance.

The organization has begun conversations with PCSB regarding potential charter amendments and revisions to certain goals. Leadership plans to continue these discussions and work toward having a clear pathway and application in place as the renewal process approaches.

Chelsea Coffin, Chair of the 30-Year Renewal Committee, expressed the committee's commitment to beginning engagement with PCSB early and supporting Board participation in PCSB meetings, hearings, school visits, and related advocacy activities.

X. Board Development and Governance

Dr. Holcomb-McCoy introduced Cheryl Williams, who will support both Dr. Mendoza Davis and the Board in the areas of leadership and governance.

Ms. Williams brings experience in corporate and nonprofit leadership, charter school networks, universities, and executive leadership. Her engagement will include individual meetings with Board members during the fall, followed by Board development workshops in the spring.

The Board Development and Engagement Committee will use feedback from the individual meetings to help develop the spring workshop series.

The Board was also reminded of forthcoming mandatory DC PCSB Board training and the annual Board calendar.

XI. Enrollment Update

Leadership reported that Maya is making strong progress toward its enrollment targets. Count Day is scheduled for early October, and school teams and principals continue recruitment and enrollment efforts.

Leadership stated that Maya is on track to meet its enrollment goals for the fifth or sixth consecutive year.

XII. Financial Presentation

XIII. Board Committee and Governance Updates

The Board discussed continued recruitment of prospective Board members and the importance of maintaining a strong candidate pool as current members approach term limits.

Board members were encouraged to recommend qualified candidates to the Board Development Engagement Committee for review and vetting.

XIV. Action Items / Follow-Up

The following follow-up items were identified during the meeting:

1. Continue preparations and engagement with PCSB regarding the 30-year charter renewal.
2. Develop and share the renewal timeline/pathway with the Board.
3. Continue work on strategic-plan KPI dashboards and reporting.
4. Strengthening Board members' access to data and information for advocacy and ambassador responsibilities.
5. Continue developing opportunities for Board engagement with local and national stakeholders.
6. Schedule individual Board member meetings with Cheryl Williams.
7. Develop a Board governance/professional-development workshop series for the spring.
8. Continue enrollment efforts leading up to Count Day.
9. Continue fiscal planning related to operating carryover, fundraising, spending efficiency, and future facilities debt obligations.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.