

APPROVED MINUTES
FOR THE
MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 29, 2022

The Board of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) held a meeting on March 29, 2022 pursuant to notice duly given. The members present were Peter Leone, Board Chair, David Domenici, James Forman, Jr., Thomas White, Julie Johnson, Cheryl Chun, Lewis Goss II, Alise Marshall, Shemeka Pugh, Denise Jackson-Kelly, and Darren Cambridge. Also present were Clarisse Mendoza Davis, Leah Lamb, Azalia Hunt Speight, Marvin Harden, Joseph Marren, Felecia Hayward, Jerry Crute, Kamal Wright-Cunningham, Shantelle Wright-Cunningham, Sean Yisrael, and Jahleezah Eskew.

Dr. Leone called the meeting to order at 11:07 am and began by welcoming everyone and stating that he wanted to start the meeting off by sharing reflections on engagement. Some examples of descriptive phrases included “connections”, “resilience”, celebration, i.e., Dr. Angelou’s birthday on April 4th”, “growth”, “evolution – personal and at Maya adapting to eternal needs; new ways of contributing”, and “continuing to focus on serving our students; awestruck by staff and scholars work and feeling the need for advocacy around the students at Maya.” Other directors added their thoughts.

Dr. Leone and Mr. Forman continued the meeting by nominating Ms. Alise Marshall as the new Board Chair. Her credentials and experience were discussed and how she will bring strategic vision to the Board. The motion was entertained and a resolution was introduced to elect Ms. Marshall. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously, beginning June 2022. Ms. Marshall was then told of the motion carrying and she expressed her excitement to be nominated as the new Chair.

The Board had the opportunity to hear reflections from the Class of 2022 Graduating Seniors from MAPCS and from the Career & Technical Education Scholars from the YALC. Students shared what their majors were and what were their plans after graduation and certification. The Directors agreed it was uplifting to hear about their next steps either going to college or entering the professional arena.

Dr. Mendoza Davis asked the Board to participate in a thought partnership discussion centered around “How can we articulate who Maya is as we approach 25 years of service? How can we get really clear regarding our mission?” She asked the Directors to consider participating in future discussion regarding a “Maya Refresh”; they enthusiastically agreed.

Mr. Cambridge asked “How can we do this in a way that will figure out what works? Empirical feedback? What does the process look like? Mr. White asked if this effort would tie into the Strategic Plan (process)? The answer was yes. Dr. Johnson added that leadership and the Board were asking all the right questions. Dr. Chun went on the ask if Maya is trying to be a leader in advocacy work or focus on the academic programs?

A spirited discussion ensued around the questions previously mentioned and Dr. Mendoza Davis facilitated the discussion by stating they “should be intentional with our model – collaborating together with the question being how students can still have a coherent experience.” She stated that there needs to be an evaluation of the mission and “a refresh” in order to build better awareness in why you should invest in Maya.

There was another resolution discussed to nominate Mr. Reginald Belle as a new Board member. The group reviewed his resume and shared the conversation that Drs. Mendoza Davis and Leone had with him. The resolution was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried to welcome him as a new Maya Board member, effective June 2022.

The meeting continued with the Maya Board of Directors Committees giving a report-out on their various activities:

- **Board Development and Engagement Committee:** Mr. Forman stated there are other potential candidates to be nominated to the Board; conversations are proceeding with these candidates. He also stated there were new attempts to introduce a new format to the Board meetings and asked for feedback on the new format.
- **Finance Committee:** Mr. Harden shared a synopsis of the auditorium renovation project and how costly it is. It has been determined that the renovation is extremely costly. This committee would appreciate any comments about this project. Mr. Domenici requested a meeting with the Maya Senior team, Board members, and the Board Finance Committee to discuss this project.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Ms. Lamb touched on potential funding grants that the DevComm are working on. She also mentioned upcoming events of importance to the Maya community, i.e., celebrating Dr. Angelou’s birthday on April 4th, the final stages of the Maya Speaks Writing Competition, and preparing for the Annual Funders and Partners Breakfast.
- **Maya Angelou Academy Support Committee:** Dr. Johnson and her committee are focused on teacher recruitment – beginning to “train up” individuals for work at secure sites and also a student-first strategy at the DC Jail. The committee asked for the Maya advocacy position description to be shared.
- **Strategic Planning Committee:** Dr. Mendoza Davis noted the discussion on the mission refresh for Maya as a key part of their committee’s discussion.

Dr. Leone opened the meeting up for Public Comment; there were no responses from the public in attendance. He officially adjourned the meeting at 1:45 pm, again reiterating his welcome to Ms. Marshall as the new Maya Board Chair.