

**The Maggie L. Walker
Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional Board Meeting**

Attendance

April 17, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Superintendents

Present:

Janet Crawley, Charles City County
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County
Connie Foreman, Goochland County
(Representing Linda Underwood)
Paul Vecchione, Hanover County (Representing
Stewart Roberson)
Fred Morton, Henrico County
Richard Layman, King and Queen
James Victory, Petersburg City
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County
Harold Fitrer, Richmond City (Representing
Deborah Jewell-Sherman)

Absent:

J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County
Margaret Meara, Powhatan County

Others Present:

N. Douglas Hunt, Director
Joyce H. Charity, Clerk
Barbara Marshall, Deputy Clerk

Board Members

Present:

Barbara Crawley, Charles City County
Ivan Mattox, Goochland County
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City

Absent:

Dianne Pettitt, Chesterfield County
John Axselle, Hanover County
Kevin Foster, Prince George County

Minutes
The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional Board Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2008

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Ivan Mattox, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Introductions and Recognition

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality.

Mr. Hunt announced that the Class of 2009 (Sponsor Lynn Reed) was present to make a presentation:

The Co-Presidents of the Junior Class, Kameron Adams and Bailey Rose, extended an invitation to the Board to attend their Junior Prom on May 17 at the Renaissance.

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was accepted. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Lisa Dawson the minutes of the March 20, 2008 meeting were approved as presented. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments

Mr. Paul Fleischer, Richmond Peace Education

"Good morning everybody. I am going to pass some information down to you – many of you have seen this before. But I believe it bears a reminder. This is a summary of admissions and applications over the past several years. Maggie Walker serves a region with a population that is approximately 40% African Americans. Applicants to the school from that group are pretty close to that percentage. It is somewhere around – close to 30%. But, students accepted to this school from that particular group are no where near proportion. It is generally well below 10% of the population. In some districts, the figures are embarrassingly lower. Every year there are many qualified Black students who do not get into Maggie Walker. We need to figure out why that is happening. It's a pattern that is persistent. It happens year after year. There are slight variations but it is not going away. It's not going to go away by itself. For the families who are affected and for this school community at large, this should be a matter for urgent and immediate concern. The Board has recognized that this problem exists. It has an opportunity to attempt to rectify it to identify ways that we may correct it and to take the necessary action to do so. Yet, we are still waiting. The next step, selecting an unbiased research team to examine and analyze why this disparity occurs and what might be done to correct it, has been deferred now for four months. We had sincerely hoped that finally this Board would be ready to take the next small step towards equal access for all Richmond area students. This school is a model educational institution in many ways. It's well past the time to proceed down that path that will allow Maggie Walker to become a model of equitable educational access for all students. It's very

disappointing that the decision is being put off once again. The issue has been before the Board for several years. You decided to issue your RFP at the beginning of the school year to be selected by January. It is now April and again, this month you are not going to consider it. It has been put off again. The problem will not go away unless this Board takes action. Thank you!"

VI. Director's Report

Mr. Hunt recognized the following groups of students:

Penny Deck – Senior Guidance Counselor – Mrs. Deck recognized the following two students: Jordan Pridgen and Yu-Sung Huang. Jordan Pridgen (Chesterfield) is the Presidential Scholarship nominee. He was nominated by Maggie Walker Governor's School (GS) to represent the school and he made it to the finalist competition. The results will be received in May. Mr. Hunt mentioned there were 2,600 candidates out of 2.8 million graduating students in 2009. Out of the 2,600 candidates, there are 560 semi-finalists. Yu-Sung Huang (Henrico) is a recipient of the Jefferson Scholar at the University of Virginia. Yu-Sung has applied to 11 different schools and has received scholarships from Princeton, Rice University, Williams College, and Harvard, as well as offers from several other schools.

Annual Pursuit of Perfection Leadership Awards, sponsored by Lexus of Richmond – Paige Hawkins Athletic Director and Field Hockey Coach

The award is sponsored by Lexus of Richmond and Mr. Whitlow for high school seniors who have academic excellence along with athletic excellence. Each week one person who is picked by the selection committee is nominated. A teacher, guidance counselor, principal or coach nominates the students. After being nominated and selected, the students are interviewed on WRVA and FOX News does a segment on them. The students are also given a gift certificate to Ruth Chris Steak House and are eligible for the \$20,000 scholarship (which is an increase this year). Amarachi Eseonu (Chesterfield), Sarah Burcher (New Kent), Carly Beckner (Chesterfield); Natalie Davis (absent) were all weekly winners of the award and are now eligible for the overall award. A banquet will be held and the 30 winners, their parents, athletic directors, and principals are invited to a dinner with a featured speaker and presentation of the award.

Jeff Hall – Art Teacher and Chair of the Fine Arts Department
Sarah Thrower (Richmond) recipient of a National Gold Key Award at the Scholastics Competition for Photography and Apparel Design. The dress Sarah designed will be on display in New York in June. She is in the top 1% of the art students in the country. Others introduced were: Ben Swartz (Richmond) for winning first place in the region and fourth in the state for regional orchestra; Kiran Moghe (Chesterfield) received an award for being involved with the senior regional orchestra for the past 4 years, winning seats from 4th chair to 8th chair.

Debate Team – Dan Brown – Coach

The Debate team won the state championship. Individual first place winners are: Public Forum – Mitch Caudill (Chesterfield County) and Shannon Huennekens (Richmond); Public Safety – Ashley Kummerlove (Chesterfield) and Dahlia Mignouna (Chesterfield). Mr. Hunt publicly thanked Mr. Brown for his leadership.

Destination Imagination – Mr. & Mrs. Burke, Sponsors (parents)

Winners of first place at the Southside Virginia regional Competition and qualifies for state finals. Students recognized: Rachel Burke, Michael Guiffidia, Bernice Chu and Yu-Sung Huang.

Model UN – Sarah Dwelle – Sponsor

Mrs. Dwelle reported the students did a marvelous job hosting the Model UN conference at the GS. Sixteen schools were present with over 350 students and 80 governors' school students. They sponsored the Invisible Children Project and were able to raise over \$3,000 in donations and had a guest speaker with the organization to come from California to speak.

VII. Action Agenda Items

a. Fiscal Year 08 09 School Calendar

On motion by Lisa Marshall, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board approved the Operating Calendar for 2008-09. Motion carried.

b. Personnel Action

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Lisa Dawson, the Board approved the personnel action. Motion carried.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

a. New Clubs/activity

It was recommended the Board consider the requested addition for approval at the May's meeting.

b. Request for Proposal - Custodial Management Services

It was recommended the Board review the specifications and approve the Director's recommendation for a contractor at the May's meeting.

c. Request for Proposal – HVAC Services

It was recommended the Board review the specifications and approve the Director's recommendations for a contractor at the May's meeting.

d. Yearbook Contract FY 09-11

It was recommended that Herff Jones be awarded a three year contract, subject to annual review, for the publication of the school yearbook. It was felt that Herff Jones provided the best value for the cost of the contract. Board members are to be prepared to vote at the May's meeting.

e. Scoreboard for Athletic Field

It was recommended that the Board accept the scoreboard donated by the Athletic Boosters and be prepared to vote at the May's meeting.

IX. Information

None

X. Superintendents' Steering Committee

None

XI: Closed Meeting

None

XII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XIII. Announcement/Adjournment

Mr. Hunt announced the RFP Admission's Process will be concluded next week and a recommendation will be forth coming at the May's meeting.

On motion by Lisa Dawson, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the meeting adjourned.
Motion carried.

XIV. Next Meeting: May 15, 2008
MLWGS Board, 2nd Floor



Ivan Mattox, Chairman



N. Douglas Hunt, Director