

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

Attendance

August 21, 2008

4:00 p.m.

Superintendents

Present:

Janet Crawley, Charles City County
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County
Fred Morton, Henrico County
Richard Layman, King and Queen
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County
James Victory, Petersburg City
Yvonne Brandon, Richmond City
Becky Alexander, Hanover (substituting for Stewart Roberson)

Absent:

Margaret Meara, Powhatan County
Linda Underwood, Goochland County
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County
Stewart Roberson, Hanover County

Others Present:

N. Douglas Hunt, Director
Crystal C. Charity, Clerk
Barbara Marshall, Deputy Clerk

Board Members

Present:

Barbara Crawley, Charles City County
Dianne Pettitt, Chesterfield County
Ivan Mattox, Goochland County
John Axelle, Hanover County
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City

Absent:

Robert Cox, Prince George County
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County

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

Thursday, August 21, 2008

4:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Ivan Mattox, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order and requested a moment of silence in honor of Mrs. Joyce H. Charity.

II. Introductions and Recognition

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Item H was added, Request for an exception to the participation on marching band at the home school. On motion by Dianne Pettit, seconded by Barbara Crawley the agenda was approved as amended. Motion was carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Corrections by Lisa Dawson to item, one on page 8, Mrs. Dawson at the very top not Mrs. Lawson and on page 10 at the top second sentence he stated there are two pieces not there is two pieces of information and third from the bottom line again on page 10 should be "D" for Dawson. On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the minutes of the June 19, 2008 meeting were approved with corrections.

Public Comments

None

VI. Director's Report

Being the director I think I will let some others carry the weight for me today. Mr. Hunt introduced Mr. Hal Waller, previous Chair of the English Department and continued by saying he is now in a new Chair position with the Foundation. He spent about 12 hours a day during the month of July when he was not under contract getting that moving and is doing a great job. Hal is here to present the yearly report on behalf of outgoing chair, Sharon Fuller.

Mr. Hal Waller - Reported that this was a very successful year for the Foundation. The number of donations went up to 570. Also important, is alumni participation is up 12% which is an all time high. We have purchased eTapestry software which allows us to keep track of our donations. What I am enjoying right now is what I call Thank-a-thon. I am calling people up to say "Thank you" for your donations and that is so gratifying because I am speaking with alumni and speaking with parents and they are telling me what a great experience their children are having or have had at the GS and how much it has meant to them.

Mr. Hunt – Everyone, please take time and look over the information given. It's well done and the Foundation is becoming a major player in the next few years. Down at the bottom of the third page you will see some proposed slate of officers that will be voted on next week. We have some really shakers and movers that want to take this to the

height that it should be and be a real asset to our school. We are really excited. Sharon has been a tremendous force in our school for many years and we will invite her back in September where we can duly acknowledge her contributions to our school.

Mrs. Patricia Taylor; Coordinator of Curriculum will give us some insight on what the teachers/staff have been going through today during Professional Development.

Mrs. Patricia Taylor - We have been working throughout the last school year on our school improvement plan and goals around curriculum and efficiency based assessment. Both in the relationship with the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William & Mary and out of that work this last year came what's happening now and will be continuing. Our faculty was immersed today with Joyce Van Tassel-Baska who wrote the book on Curriculum for Gifted Students that all of our teachers have studied including me. She is the Executive Director for the Center Gifted Education as well as the person who created that center and bought it to the College of William & Mary. She has worked in all 50 states. Her last work was in Singapore a few months ago. She worked with our teachers in small groups today on assessment for learning and looking at building assessment tools to guide and enhancement. She took all their butcher block group work home with her and will send feedback regarding what our next steps should be.

The Guidance Department was immersed by Dr. Carol Tiesco from the College of William & Mary kicking off our work on "Guidance thru Counseling for the Gifted". We had hoped this was going to grow into a course with 12 people that were needed to make it a course for William & Mary. Tomorrow they will be immersed with Bruce Bracken who is one of the National International Leaders in creating assessment devices. He will build a house. How do you build a house? How do build a test tied to your curriculum and make sure that it does different types of testing modules. We are looking at a new kind of alternative assessment bringing us back to the more traditional.

The Foreign Language Department is going to be immersed with Fay Rollins-Carter. A year long process to culminate instruction is scheduled next year. We have had first class professional developmental days for the first time. The consultants said today "Cut my fee in half for these two days" because we need to do this partially for service. None of this is coming out of the school budget. It is all paid for by grants through the Foundation." So today was an exciting day. Mrs. Taylor also gave words of appreciation to Patti, Phil, and all others who have helped her since her assistant left. Mr. Hunt reported he was proud of the faculty and the efforts.

Mr. Hunt – Regarding the process concerning the GS Admissions' Policy and process study: The contract was sent to us by Henrico County that worked with GS through the RFP and then sent to Pat Lacy. Pat made the necessary changes and it is ready to go out and I hope to send it out tomorrow. It will be contract P-69456. It will be paid in two parts. Half due on the conclusion of the day the gathering occurs, and the other half at the presentation of the report to this Board. It will have the four UVA signatures, my signature and the Board chair will also sign.

Mr. Maddox - Stated he does not think that there is a need to vote on it, but just want everyone to view it before we send it out.

Mr. Hunt - The last thing is the Director's Search Committee. Mr. Axselle would like to make some comments.

Mr. John Axselle – I met with the Superintendent Steering Committee and I would like to make a report back to you and open up the floor for discussion. At this time for

recommendations on proposals for the Directors' Search Committee. In working with the Superintendents, several things became apparent to us in looking at the position of director here at the GS. One, the position is not a Superintendent position, but then again, it is not a principals' position. There are not many principal's which have two Boards consisting of 11 board members each that they are responsible to. On the other hand, not too many Superintendents govern one school. It is a unique position where normal searches for principal ship really don't work; searches for Superintendent Ship really don't work. You really need a combination type of approach. That is what we hope we have come up with thus far. What we are recommending to the Board is to create a search committee consisting of two Board Members and up to five Superintendents for a total of seven members on this committee, and look to the Superintendent Steering Committee for most of the due diligence from the standpoint for example, getting out the advertisement for the position, human resources type things. Mr. Newsome, thank you very much for volunteering Chesterfield and their Human Resources Department if the Board agrees, to work with us in getting the notice out; receiving applications, resume', and sorting them out. We also in our discussion would develop and use a survey tool to survey all stakeholders in the community, students, parents, teachers, planning committee, members through out the community. Part of that we can do as a survey. We would recommend that we have community meetings. The committee would actually meet with teachers, parents and student representatives. Our proposal is for the committee to begin its work in September with the survey and community meetings happening between September thru November. November, announce the position. At that time we feel that we will have a job description to release to applicants. Do the initial interviews and narrow down from January through March then make a recommendation to the Regional Board in March. This will give us 90 days before Mr. Hunt's departure to have that person selected. Superintendents, if I did not represent that or if I forgot anything, please chime in and make sure that I didn't miss anything that we had discussed.

Mr. Newsome – I would like to bring up the question that was proposed about transition and having someone come in an earlier timeframe as discussed. The Superintendents who were part of that discussion all said that we would not have any Superintendents who could make that type of transition and we felt they could come in and meet the expectations of the Board. Also, it is not typical that principals would have that type of transition, although on occasion you may have an assistant principal who will transition and get promoted to that position, so that is the reason that we felt the timeline was appropriate and allow for us to go back should the Board not be completely satisfied with the recommendation and would allow us to go back thru the process.

Mr. Mattox - The two Board Members to participate in that process, are they going to be part of the committee?"

Mr. Axselle – Yes, one is my self and Ms. Pettitt has agreed to participate.

Mr. Mattox - Have we identified the five Superintendents yet?

Mr. Axselle - We have not and my first reaction is to ask the Superintendents from the standpoint of volunteering, but also secondly within that same line is to try and pick five Superintendents that give a broad representation of our community. Mr. Axselle also stated that if the board feels they would want more superintendent representation or activity, I would not have a problem with that. The only concern would be getting them all in one place at the same time.

Mr. Mattox - As Chairman of the Board, I think it is important that the Board Members have an active role in the decision making of the individual who is selected. If the

committee goes through a process and comes back with three candidates that you feel are appropriate for what we are searching for, then I think that the Board Members need to have a role in making the final decision.

Mr. Axelle - Thank you Mr. Chairman. Everyone on the committee and Superintendents realize the Regional Board will be making the final decision. One thing I was remiss in not saying is that thru this process, I do in vision, with the Board's approval some closed meeting discussions to share with the Board where the committee is and seek direction from the Board if they do not agree with where the committee is. One of the concerns that I have (now this is me and not the committee, so forgive me committee if you disagree with me) is depending on the numbers of candidates, how effective multiple interviews at the Board level would be versus a very strong direction from the Board; a very strong process which will maybe bring us top two, top three at most. I am concerned from a logistics aspect and effectiveness aspect if it gets too large in numbers that it would be difficult for this body to conduct it efficiently. This is my opinion I have not discussed this with committee.

Mr. Mattox - That is just my input on things. You are all going to sit down and go thru the process and may streamline the matrix of things you are looking for and may automatically disqualify three individuals. Whatever that process is ultimately I want that power to be with the Board.

Mr. Axelle - That is understandable and understood from the beginning

Mr. Mattox - Superintendents, Board Members if you have any comments right now or if you want to wait until we get closer to the formation of the committee, I would like to open the floor before we go to the next agenda item.

I would like to share a comment that may not need to be stated but I am going to state it anyway. One of the most important components of a search is confidentiality and it is critical to get the best candidate to maintain confidentiality and if there is ever any breach then we threaten the integrity of the process and the potential for getting the best candidate possible. So when we talk about the time frame for coming to the Board I understand that once you do come to the Board even though they are in Executive Session the greater the risk is for confidentiality breaches as well as to protect the Board members in the process to make sure you maintain the integrity of the process.

Mr. Hunt - One more thing that is to remind Mr. Axelle, Mr. Mattox and Dr. Crawley they will be with us on Monday August 25th from 2:30 to 3:30 to talk with our faculty. This was started last year and it was well received. Our faculty is most appreciative of the time and the personal contact to speak with some of our Regional Board Members about what is happening today and what happens every month as well as talk a little about the director's search.

Ms Pettit - In this process that you just described and the timeline that is recommended, this would come before this Board in March?

Mr. Axelle - That's the goal.

Ms. Pettitt - Does this mean that in the April meeting the Board will take a vote or when would the actual selection and vote be?

Mr. Axelle - The plan would be up for final vote April, I take that back, excuse me since this is a personnel issue March... Ms. Pettitt I will check and get back to you.

Mr. Mattox - After the committee gets formed they will come out with a better calendar of when things need to occur. Going through the process and understand what needs to occur and when it needs to occur. I am quite sure there will be some adjustments when the Board has finally put things together.

Mr. Axelle - Thank you Mr. Chairman and our goal, and this is just a goal to have everything completed by March.

Everyone was in agreement and moved to the next item on the agenda.

VII. Action Agenda Items

a. Invitation for Bid Approval – Replacement of Brick Shelf Angles

You had already approved this and the work is complete. This is just completed information. On motion by Diane Pettitt, seconded by Barbara Crawley the Board approved the bid report. Motion carried.

b. Lowe's Grant Acceptance

We have been very fortunate under the leadership of Jeff Hall our Department Chair for Fine Arts, Pat Taylor our Curriculum Coordinator and Mark Edwards the three of them have worked hard to secure a Lowe's Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 and we were successful. Introduction of our guest by Pat Taylor.

Pat Taylor - We actually involved the Foundation who helped put together this grant. It started out being a Fine Arts Grant, but at Dr. Edward's suggestion we explored the giving priorities of Lowe's, took it more to a renovation of the Multi Media Lab. This lab was basically equipped when we opened the school and our Digital Video class has had to operate on the equipment of the teacher because we had grown past what our equipment was doing for us. We do it in partnership Jeff, Mark and I, along with our Lowe's partner Kenny Fowler. He is the manager of our neighborhood Lowe's where we visit frequently and comes to you on behalf of Lowe's to say a few words. Lowe's had to see momentum before they would consider giving the money for this first part of the project. So the momentum came from \$2,500.00 from the parents, \$2,500.00 from the Foundation, Mark Edwards got \$2,000.00, Jeff Hall contributed \$2,000.00 in software that he received for doing some work and then the school put together \$2,500.00 to actually get us to the point that we could show momentum. We would like also to recognize Patti Chappell. She is the one who really drives the Technology Department. Had it not been for a substantial amount of work on her part, this came out to be ten times better and actually fit the giving priorities of Lowe's and the total need of the school package. So when you accept the gift, I hope it will be with the knowledge that she has been instrumental in planning this project. With that said Mr. Fowler would like to say a few words.

Kenney Fowler, Manager of Lowe's Home Improvement - "I am here to represent Lowe's to let you know what a wonderful opportunity for us to partner up with the local education system. Lowe's called me a few months back and asked for my approval and I just said before I give my approval to you, I need to find out what this is all about. So I called Pat and spent a few hours with her. She took me through the history of the GS. I'm from New Jersey so I did not have a clue what the GS was, but I tell you I was really overwhelmed with what this school does for our community. She walked me thru where the money would go. She took me on a tour of the school and the existing computer lab and soon as I walked in I said "WOW", this is what your students are working on. When I went back and gave my

report I felt very, very confident that this was something that was much needed and I gave my blessing. I hope I have helped convince Lowe's that it was a worth while endeavor and something that would definitely show a greater improvement between us, the community and school system. As store manager of that facility, a lot of students that have come through this educational system, I have employed, employed now or will employ in the future. Anything that I can do or we can do as Lowe's to give back to the educational system is very worth while. I hope that if it has not been approved you will be approving it shortly." Lowe's and myself will continue to do volunteer work with this school. I will volunteer my time and any volunteers I have in my facility would be more than happy to come over for projects, help paint whatever the case may be to help this school.

Motion to accept grant by Barbara Crawley seconded by Valerie Ayers. Motion carried.

c. Dominion Educational Partnership Grant

The next item is really from the initiative of one of our Chemistry teachers Anna Shore. Anna has been with us for three years now and is a parent of one of our students this year and we are please about that. She is an outstanding teacher and she has a guest with her Cindy Balderson. Anna would you like to tell us about this grant.

Anna Shore, Science - I am the sponsor of The Environmental Club. As we were looking for ways to impact the school, the students wanted to know of any grants that were available to them. They did some background research and discovered that infact the Dominion Education Foundation in partnership with a variety of institutions offers quite a few grants. Particularly this year the focus was on energy efficiency. I wrote a grant to try to obtain funding so that my organization and the children could do some of the things they wish to do. This particular program will involve drawing in a volunteer that will be helping me train the students on how to do an energy audit of the building. We will make recommendations and show ways to become more energy efficient both here and at home. We will implement in small ways some of those recommendations here at school. We want to take this much further and invite area school groups go through some of the things under the model of the Model Congress. Instructing them on how to do this and will have the students learn about the process so they can take it back to their schools to lower the energy demand. In your packet you should have a description of that. So we have Cindy Balderson from the Dominion Educational Partnership to say a few words.

Cynthia P. Balderson, Dominion Educational Partnership Grant - This is a timely issue and I truly believe this generation of students will make a difference. We have not, as a group been riding our bikes to work, we have not been turning the air conditioner down. This group of students are faced with those decisions and I think that they will do the right thing so while I'm here, this is just a little bit of seed money., I want to offer you encouragement that we gave 10 year olds in Chesterfield only \$1,000.00 last year to do something similar. They started sending nasty grams to teachers who left their computers on, and so on they saved \$10,000.00 for the entire year. I do want to offer you my congratulations; we received a lot of grant proposals and went through hundreds and picked sixty out of 400, then selected 16. Your proposal was one of the most creative and clever grants, so congratulations to you and here is you grant of \$6,000.00.

On motion by Mr. Axelle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board approved and accepted the Dominion Educational Partnership Grant. Motion carried.

d. Personnel Action

On motion by Lisa Marshall, seconded by Dianne Pettitt, abstained - Barbara Crawley the Board approved the personnel actions listed in the informational packet. Motion carried

e. Annual Board Authorization of Signatures

Phil Tharp in Doug Hunt's absence. Ms. Pettitt had mentioned that this is something that we might do at the first of the year rather than at this particular time so we will certainly look at and give consideration for it. On motion by Mr. Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board approved the authorization of signatures. Motion carried.

f. Certify MLWGS Crisis Plan

On motion to approve the certification of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Crisis Plan as presented by Ms. Ayers seconded, by Lisa Marshall. Motion carried.

g. Resolution of Gratitude

Resolution of Gratitude for Joyce Charity we would like to present this at our next meeting to her son, daughter, son-in-law and grandson a framed copy of the resolution which is in your packet with your approval. On motion by Barbara Crawley seconded by Ms. Pettitt. Motion carried.

h. Exception of participation at home school marching band

Mr. Hunt – I had a request yesterday and I felt like I needed to bring this to you. I haven't been totally receptive to this idea after I talked to the parents. I don't like the idea because I think it sets precedence, however the circumstances are if we were to ever do something like this I think this is one we would do it for. A Hanover County student was just accepted off the waiting list this week and had been involved in summer band practice. The mother has requested the he be able to remain part of the band through the end of the football season only. She feels that he is so invested in it and the band is somewhat dependent on him for his slot. If something of these circumstances occurred, not to this individual but to me, and the exception was done here, then we would have to do it down the road. So other than that I would not feel comfortable with it because I don't think this one situation should be looked at without looking at other situations. This Board previously denied request when folks have come to ask to participate in band or any other activity at their home school. This has never been requested for a one year period or even a half year period. So this is a little new than the other situations.

Mr. J. Roy Geiger – I go back a long time and this has been an issue that has always been there and this Board has been consistent in upholding what we have done when this school was put together. The students has got to make a decision; if you are going to participate in this wonderful program and it is praised by everybody from the Governor to Lowe's, you are in all the way. We have other opportunities to make exceptions, so my sense this could happen at anytime someone is on the waiting list. If someone is here they are full fledge students here and they need to emerge themselves in this program. I would say this is no different than any other situation and I would strongly urge the Board to stay with the precedence that has been established by this Board.

Ms. Lisa Marshall – I want to add that as a mother of a child who was accepted here years ago and just could not come because she did not want to give up some of the

other activities that were offered at the home school. It was an awful struggle to make a decision. It would be hard for a child to say if I could have participated in something at my home school I really would have liked to have gone to GS. It is just another aspect of what you all were saying.

Dr. Crawley – Like Roy I go back a long way. Charles City fought that battle for a long time with students wanting to come here but wanted to participate back at the home school. We even have parents now who say they should participate in graduation. If you choose GS you take what they offer.

Mr. Hunt – When I am out recruiting, I make a big point in telling people, “If marching bands, football and cheerleading are a big part of your life we are probably not the school for you.” If that is something that you don’t want to let go, you must choose one or the other and I think they know that. I think the difference here is that it wasn’t known back in the spring they just found out this week.

Ms. Pettitt – Not only that, I think it would interfere with the young person’s assimilation and orientation involved with this school. If they became ambivalent about participating here or deciding to drop back, you would lose a slot. The student should be able to without holding back or not to be able to for some reason pursue it the way they would have if they acclimated themselves fully by not keeping the attachment back home.

Mr. Hunt – I agree that is an excellent point. When the time came in November they may say I don’t want to give this band up and I will just go back to my home school and you lose a slot.

Mr. Mattox – I guess I sort of hear ...

Mr. Hunt – Do you want me to withdraw the request?

Mr. Mattox – I agree with all the comments that I have heard.

Motion by Ms. Pettitt, seconded by Barbara Crawley to turn down the request for band participation as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Hunt – I will call the parent after this meeting and let them know of the Board’s decision. So they can fill the slot.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

New Course Proposals for Health & PE – Science Department

Pat Taylor – The intent was to bring in three courses for the proposed addition to the 2009 – 2010 catalogue, however I have two. The first is a Fine Arts Course which is tied in with the new Multi Media Lab. Jeff and I got down to the wire right before the Planning Committee met in June and we had to either submit the grant or find the course proposal. We did the grant and we are taking this course to the Planning Committee to their first meeting in September and bring the third course in October. The two I bring to you today are Health & PE. It is an advanced course for our junior, senior population to focus on making healthy lifestyle decisions and developing that lifestyle pattern. Looking in-depth at nutrition, physical fitness, developing a physical plan looking at the outcome of that physical plan. In today’s world and the crisis we face for our teenagers, this is a

very positive direction to offer that opportunity to our students. We have a wonderful fitness lab and can really get in and do some intense training. The second course that we bring today is in Chemistry. We have worked very closely with Dr. Jeremy Lloyd in Chesterfield County and have picked up their model. We started out looking at Forensic Chemistry as the way that we wanted to go. We also know that as we look at the rapid progress in the sciences today we might have another topic that emerges and focus on real world applications of the science. Dr. Lloyd encouraged us to look at the Chesterfield approach which was a topics course in Chemistry that is written so to meet all the requirements to count as a state required science course for the advanced diploma. Chesterfield was very gracious in sharing their curriculum with us and build a relationship between our teachers and the first course we'd like to pilot is Forensic Chemistry. One of the most popular senior seminars was a Forensic Science Seminar ran several years ago. That caters to a small group of seniors and independent research and this would open up the study for the broader community. These are the two courses we bring before the Board.

Mr. Hunt – We also have five clubs and we will have people here at the next meeting so please look them over and if you have questions they will answer them at that time. They are listed on page 37.

Mr. Mattox – Any questions regarding the presentation or clubs at this time? None

IX. Information

a. Copy of Lombardy Place Letter on page 58.

X. Superintendents' Steering Committee

XI. Closed Meeting

None

XII. Certification of Closed Meeting


None


XIII. Announcement

Update on Jeff Hall fall – He was sent to Chippenham Hospital for observation per Phil Tharp.

There being no further business to discuss, Motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Valarie Ayres, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

XIV. Next Meeting: October 16, 2008 at 9 a.m.
MLWGS Board, 2nd Floor


Ivan Mattox, Chairman


N. Douglas Hunt, Director