

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

**Attendance**

**December 18, 2009**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Superintendents**

**Present:**

Janet Crawley, Charles City County  
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County  
Peter Gretz, Goochland County  
(substituting for Linda Underwood)  
Stewart Roberson, Hanover County  
Fred Morton, Henrico County  
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County  
Yvonne Brandon, Richmond City

**Absent:**

Margaret Meara, Powhatan County  
Richard Layman, King and Queen  
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County  
James Victory, Petersburg City  
Jeffery Smith, West Point

**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 Axselle, Hanover County  
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County  
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County  
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City  
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County  
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City  
Dudley Olsson, West Point

**Absent:**

Robert Cox, Prince George County  
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County

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

**Thursday, December 18, 2008**

**9:00 a.m.**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Introduction s and Recognition

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

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Diane Pettit, the agenda was approved.  
Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting were approved.

Public Comments

None

VI. Director's Report

We have with us today the Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team who made it to the State Tournament this year. We are really proud of this team and were second in the region and went to Virginia Beach. They did not win however the effort of the team awesome. They endured really bad weather, rain came down in sheets and the game was delayed until the rain subsided. Paige Hawkins is one of our Co-Athletic Directors and long time Field Hockey Coach. She was also named Regional Coach of the Year. They make us proud every year and we wanted to recognize them. We will have a few words from Coach Hawkins and will have the students introduce themselves.

*Coach Paige Hawkins stated she would like to thank everyone for their support and it is always our goal to make State Championships and we are proud that we were able to do that being such a small school playing against such large schools. We have a great bunch of athletes. I am sure you are wondering why we have a boy on this team? Zane Underwood had done an article in Jabberwok about managers and how important they are to the team and without them I don't know how I would exist so that is why he is here. So the girls will introduce themselves:*

*Katelyn Dougherty on varsity for 3 years, playing field hockey for 4 years. I am a senior and from Chesterfield; Lauren Paul and I am a junior from Hanover and have been playing for 3 years; Kelsey Huffer from Chesterfield and have been playing varsity for 4 years; Amanda Watson a senior from Richmond. I have playing hockey for 4 years and been on varsity for 2; Frances Davenport a senior from Richmond and been on varsity for 3 years; Deirdre Gill a senior from Richmond. I have been on varsity for 4 years; Ellen Graham a senior from Henrico and have been playing for 4 years; Kelsey Sawyer and I am a senior from Henrico. I have been playing hockey for 4 years and this year was Player of the Year; Kerry Sawyer a Sophomore from Henrico and have been playing hockey for 2 years; Elle Donnini and I am from Hanover and have been playing for 3 years; Gillian Byles freshman from Richmond and have been playing for 4 years; Hanlu Ye from Chesterfield varsity for 2 years and have been playing for 4 years; Eleanor Muse a sophomore from Henrico and have been playing hockey for 2 years; Carly Spraggins a sophomore from Henrico and I have been playing hockey for 2 years; Virginia Young a junior from Richmond and I have been playing varsity for 2 years; Hannah VanPelt a senior from Chesterfield and I have been playing for 4 years and on varsity for 3; Rebecca Maguire a junior from Henrico and I have been playing hockey for 3 years; Mackenzie Tucker a junior from Henrico and I have been playing hockey for 3 years; Zoe Johannas a junior from Richmond and I have been playing hockey for 3 years; Alex Aldridge a junior from Chesterfield and I have been playing hockey for 3 years; Elsa Schultze a junior from Chesterfield and I have been playing for 3 years; Kaitlyn Riblett a junior from Chesterfield; Susan Ballentine a junior from Chesterfield; Zane Underwood a senior from Chesterfield. You have heard my story and I have been helping the team for 3 years.*

Mr. Hal Waller was asked for the reporters present at today's meeting to introduce themselves.

*I am Danny Yates a senior from Richmond. Presently I am covering the budget, the Diversity Consultant and the Directors Search. I'm Charles Condro a sophomore from Chesterfield and also here is Courtney Stewart concerned student.*

Mr. Hunt stated that Danny once the budget was released immediately called DOE and harassed them to the point they said "You are only a student. We can't release that information to you. He brings information to us and gives us leads on where to go.

Mr. Hunt also recognized Pat Taylor. Last Wednesday the National English Honor Society has renamed their chapter the Pat Taylor Chapter of the National English Honor Society. She was very honored by this and was left speechless. It obviously meant a lot to her and it was so very appropriate for someone who has put in the years and the effort she has to bring this school from an idea to where it is today.

Mr. Hunt stated he appreciated your responses on the slot information for next year. Some were up, some were down. The bottom line was a request for 4 additional slots which we can provide for.

One of the things we do that is not so pleasant is to say good-bye to one of our Board Members. Someone who has been very supportive of our school as a parent and as a Board Member. To say we will miss her will be an understatement. Her impact has been felt greatly on this board. The most recent thing would be the free lunch program which we just started. We have 3 students who take advantage of that. Lisa we thank you for that idea. At this time I would like our Board Chairman to present Ms. Lisa Dawson with a token of our appreciation for her service and commitment to this school.

Mr. Mattox, *"With Gratitude for your service Ms. Lisa Dawson, Regional Board Member Maggie L. Walker Governors School 2007-2008"*.

Mr. Roberson stated that this past weekend, I don't know how many of you had an opportunity to participate or to watch the Junior Olympics Cross Country Olympics which was held in Hanover County at Pole Green Park. We never need to go very far to look to celebrate Coach Holdren and the great work that he does. There were over 4000 youngsters from across the nation running the National Championships. The opening and closing ceremonies were held at Hanover High School and I had the opportunity to do the welcome. What I did was to stand back and watch the magic that Jim Holdren was performing with those families from Alaska, Hawaii and all the other states.

Mr. Hunt added that Coach Holdren is the President of the National Association and with tremendous support from the Sports Backers Association and Hanover County was able to entice the National Championships to Hanover. Previously the Olympics had been to Rhode Island, Nevada, New Mexico, San Diego, and all over. Mr. Roberson, Mr. Axelle that is a complement for Hanover County as well as the hard work and the efforts of everyone to make that a successful event and we are very proud of that.

I am Belle Bronner and I am MLWGS PTSA President and the boxes you see in front of you are from the PTSA and is our way of wishing you (I'm going out on a limb here) a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and thank you for all of your work.

Mr. Hunt added that the Poinsettia's you see all around the room were selected and picked up by Mrs. Marshall and Mr. Tharp. They work hard each year to select these for the Board Members and Faculty, so take one as you leave and think of us during the holidays.

## VII. Action Agenda Items

### a. Sponsorship Banners

Mr. Tharp indicated that this policy has been reviewed by Pat Lacy and he suggested was one change. That is instead of a log being submitted to the Business Manager at the end of the year, it should be ongoing so the Business Manager has knowledge of the activities. He also gave me a copy of the Virginia Beach policy which is more extensive than what we have, but what we have is fine. So if you want to adopt something at a later date that covers a broader range of things we have something to go by. That may be coming back to you in the February meeting to see if you want to add those additional pieces. What we have now will cover those types of request that the Athletic Boosters would like to go forward with. Also Richmond City has a partnership agreement which we are going to use to modify for ourselves when establishing our business relationships with the community.

Ms. Pettit suggested that the word ongoing be inserted in item B on the handouts since it is not indicated there. All agreed.

On motion by Valarie Ayres, seconded by John Axselle, the Board approved the Sponsorship Banners. Motion carried.

b. Personal Action

With regret; On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board approved the Letter of Resignation of N. Douglas Hunt. Motion carried.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

a. January Elections

The Superintendent Steering Committee Dr. Janet Crawley will continue but will need a vice chairman of the group because Mr. Morton will be moving on. Mr. Morton stated that he will finish out the year and Mr. Newsome has agreed to be the Vice- Chairman. Our current Officers are in place through the January meeting and then we begin our new Officers at that point

b. Calendar of Meetings 2009

Look that over and if there are any changes you would like to change, and then we will present it in to you.

IX. Information

a. Feasibility Study

This is something we will bring back to the Board on a later date, but take time to review that information. This is something that is needed, but we can do without it. This was cut during the renovation due to the budget. This will

be of no cost to the Board, the PTSA and other organization will be doing the study and all the information will be presented to you.

b. Directors Search Verbal Report

Mr. Axselle has stated that the survey results are in and the committee is having a meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> after the Regional Board Meeting to review as a team and develop our interview questions for potential candidates. Also the Director's Search Committee is focused on the replacement of the Directors position and no other position. It has been brought to my attention that there is a rumor that the Assistant Director position will be also selected through the Search Committee as well. The committee considered that early on and the answer to that is no. We felt that the new Director who ever he or she may be should have a part of that process, of course with the guidance from the Board. Everything is going well. Lyle has done a fantastic job. Hats off to Chesterfield County for doing a tremendous amount of work. Phil, thank you for the web site set up and the information we have received from that.

Mr. Hunt added that the advertisement for the position will close on January 5<sup>th</sup>. I think at the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> would be to screen the candidates and get things ready for the interview process. We had talked in the Superintendent Steering Committee meeting last week about Pat Taylor's position. We would like to begin the process and not wait too late for that and possibly narrow it down to three candidates which the new Director would come in and play a part in that selection. The fear is if we wait too late in the season we would not be able to attract someone we may have had the opportunity to attract.

Mr. Axselle stated that he has not had an opportunity to discuss that with the committee and that is something we will bring up on in the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hunt also suggested that we speak with the Finance Committee regarding the Governor's release on the budget cuts. Right now we only have a guess and what we have found out is the Governor's School will be cut from \$13,815,916.00 to \$13,099,405.00 about a 6% cut. If you apply that to the amount of money we get per student and apply the composite index, it is roughly \$78,000.00 to \$85,000.00 deficit. So it is not as bad as it could have been. That will have an effect on us, but it is something we are prepared to deal with.

Mr. Roberson interjected saying the Superintendents would be coming to their School Boards with budget recommendations

Dr. Newsome added that the support around this table is unwavering. All of the districts support this school. We have had a similar discussion and when the community understands the critical cuts we will have to make we predict they will start finger pointing saying why are you continuing with this program while cutting that program. That discussion has already happened in Chesterfield County and I am just suggesting you be prepared with your facts and Q & A's on why they were cut.

Fred Morton also added that he had listened to the Governor's speech on yesterday and a couple of things concerned me about it. Obviously he is, as we are faced with tough decisions. He used the number 4 (billion) which was the first time he had used that. The numbers are usually 2.5 to 3.0. For the first time in my 30 years I heard a Governor first celebrate the stability of the state. Spoke as we are not going to operate as if the sky was falling. Recognized as having the best financial tools than most states in the country and will continue our analysis and are fully prepared to come back in February and make additional adjustments. That is a very open statement. It was done in the middle of his speech, and the press did not pick up on this. We have a Board Meeting this afternoon and are highlighting that for our Board. We are doing budget work right now. Our intent is to be careful of how much we drive staff and so we will have an initial budget we take to the Board with the clear understanding that before we do too much additional work we will have a sense of what the target is going to be. I will echo my peers comments, "We are facing truly the most unusual times".

X. Superintendents' Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Janet Crawley reported that they met with Lyle and he updated them on search status. There has been tremendous interest in the position and so far have 16 applicants.

XI. Closed Meeting

None

XII. Certification of Closed Meeting and any action if necessary as a result of closed meeting

None

XII. Announcement

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

XIII. Next Meeting: February 19, 2009 at 9 a.m. MLWGS Board 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

  
Ivan Mattox, Chairman

  
N. Douglas Hunt, Director