

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 16, 2014

9:00 a.m.

#### I. Call to Order Call to Order

Jeffrey McGee, Director of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, called the meeting to order.

#### II. Introductions

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality, (listed in alphabetical order by locality).

#### Present:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. Kevin Hazzard, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Mr. John Montgomery, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools  
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools  
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools  
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools  
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools  
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools (late arrival)  
Dr. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell City Public Schools  
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Jonathan Lewis for Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools  
Mr. Jeffrey McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Mrs. Megan Rainey, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

#### Absent from Meeting:

Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell City Public Schools  
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

**Also present:**

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis– **Administration**

Hal Waller, Bill Yates and Burt Hazelwood - **GS Foundation**

Jane Scheibe - **PTSA President**

Marianne Macon, Anne Hayes and Laura O'Brien– **PTSA Advocacy Committee**

Paul Fleisher and Genevieve Siegel-Hawley – **Richmond Peace Ed. Center**

Chamie Valentine – **SAC (School Advisory Council)**

Dr. Jim McMillan - **VCU**

Virginia Chambers (Henrico), Grace Headinger (Chesterfield) and Ben Bowers (Hanover) – **MLWGS Students**

David Hillgrove, Anna Shore, Karen Hoover and Deborah Snagg – **Faculty**

Wendy DeGroat – **Librarian and Faculty Liaison to the Regional School Board**

Numerous – **Parent Community**

**III. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley; the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

**IV. Election of Chairman**

Nomination: Kevin Hazzard by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Barbara Crawley. On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Dianne Smith, Kevin Hazzard was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman for 2014 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. After congratulations, the Director turned the gavel over to Mr. Hazzard.

Mr. Pritchett was presented with a Gavel Award in commemoration of his service as the outgoing Chair of the Regional School Board.

**V. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Nomination: John Axselle by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett. On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Cora Armstrong, John Axselle was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2014 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Axselle.

## **VI. Election of Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk**

Director's Recommendation: Barbara Marshall for Board Clerk and Megan Rainey for Deputy Clerk. With no other recommendations, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley; as recommended by the Director, Barbara Marshall and Megan Rainey were unanimously approved to serve as the 2014 Clerk and Deputy Clerk respectively of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board.

The Chairman congratulated the Clerks.

## **VI.b Announcement from the Superintendent's Steering Committee**

Per agreement among the Superintendent's, Dr. James Lane will serve as Chair of the committee for 2014 and Dr. Jamelle Wilson will serve as Vice-Chair.

## **VII. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Cora Armstrong, minutes as submitted for December 12, 2013 were unanimously approved.

## **VIII. Recognitions**

- ***Dr. Patrick Kinlaw***, on his appointment as the Henrico Superintendent of Schools, January 9, 2014
- ***Dr. Jamelle Wilson***, Superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools, as a recipient of the 2014 YWCA Outstanding Women Award.
- ***Model Congress Club*** for their success hosting the WMC Conference January, 10-11, 2014. The student spokesperson for the club was Deputy Director ***Grace Headinger*** ('15-Chesterfield) and sponsor ***David Hillgrove***.
- ***Dr. Jonathan Lewis***, outgoing Interim Superintendent for Richmond City Public Schools, was acknowledged for his service to this Board.
- ***Dr. Dana Bedden***, on his appointment as Superintendent for Richmond City Public Schools.

## **IX. Public Comments**

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes (at the discretion of the Chairperson) to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes. Citizens must schedule their appearance with the Board's Clerk, no later than 10:00am on the last business day before the meeting at which they desire to be heard.

**The following comments are not transcribed verbatim:**

- **Wendy DeGroat**, MLWGS Librarian, addressed the Board regarding this unique program participating divisions have created here at MLWGS. Ms. DeGroat reflected on the expertise required of teachers in every subject who understand gifted learners. Collectively that represents fifty two master's degrees and nine PhD's. Twenty three have taught at the college level, twenty eight either grew up in or have lived in another country, covering twenty six countries across four continents, in nations with six different forms of government (Google Map visual aide was used to pin areas of faculty international experience).

Ms. DeGroat urged the Board to consider at least a 2% raise for faculty to support the people that make it possible to fulfill the mission at Maggie Walker.

- **Anna Shore**, representing the School Advisory Council, addressed the Board regarding the excellent job Maggie Walker does of promoting students to reach their potential, a style particular to gifted learners, so that each can make a positive change in the world, region and community.

One of the ways the faculty promotes and supports your students is through community service and outreach linked to their curriculum. A few examples of community service cited: ASL students building a library in Guatemala, Spanish classes teaching Spanish to elementary students, and the Model United Nations Conference held at MLWGS for sixteen consecutive years, and more (Google Map visual aide was used to pin areas of service referenced).

Mrs. Shore asked the Board to continue this great work by helping to keep and recruit highly qualified gifted staff and to support a 2% cost of living salary increase. She concluded, "Continued salary stagnation may result in teachers leaving, not just from Maggie Walker, but from the teaching profession entirely."

- **Paul Fleisher**, Richmond Peace Education Center, extended an invitation to the Board to attend the 'Generation Dream' youth talent program presented at and partnered with Maggie L. Walker Governor's School on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The show is comprised of talented youth from around the region honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.
- **Phil Tharp**, Coordinator of Administration, read an alumni letter from Elana DeLozier, Class of 2000, regarding her brilliant experience as a GS student, but also speaks to the social and emotional needs of the gifted student. A copy of Ms. DeLozier's letter was included in the packet each member received.
- **Virginia Chambers ('16-Henrico)**, representing Club EduPac updated the board about the three pillars of club activities:

- 1) Learning: Ms. Chambers discussed activities regarding expanding club members' knowledge of education policy in the region,
- 2) Service: every Thursday a contingent of club members goes to Reid Elementary School and reads to students after school, and
- 3) Advocacy: in December the club sponsored a legislator's coffee and invited a legislator from every district represented by the MLWGS community. Seven legislators attended along with three legislative assistants to get a feel for what Maggie Walker is all about.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> the club will participate, along with students from other Governor's Schools across the state, in 'Capitol Day' where they meet with legislators to continue a push for statewide education support, but specifically for the 9/6 funding amendment regarding appropriations for Governor's Schools.

- **Chamie Valentine**, alumni parent, shared a few brief stories as described to her by John Wilkes (Social Studies Chair), of Governor's School early days that reflect upon the schools' can do attitude. One such story described a long bus ride organized by then Director, Dr. Steven Ballowe, transporting faculty out to Dinwiddie High School. Dr. Ballowe remarked to the faculty present: 'your students come this far every day – you make sure you make it worth their while.'

Mrs. Valentine asks the Board to enable Walker's teachers to make it worth their while by increasing teacher pay 2% without decreasing healthcare below 9% or VRS below 14.5%.

- **Marianne Macon**, PTSA Advocacy Committee, briefly updated the Board regarding the group's activity at the state level: two budget amendments are pending, one in the senate and one in the house that are based on the 9/6 proposal.

Chief 9/6 patrons on the senate side are Sen. Richard Saslaw (D) and Sen. Henry Marsh (D). On the House side Del. Thomas Greason (R) is the chief patron along with a number of co-patrons. Mrs. Macon stated she was proud to tell the Board that eight co-patrons visited MLWGS this year under the luncheon or coffee programs sponsored by the PTSA, Advocacy Committee and EduPac.

Working with representatives of the Appomattox Regional Governor's School Advocacy team, the committee meet with numerous cabinet level people and Governor's advisors regarding inserting the 9/6 plan into the budget. While unsuccessful at this time, they did obtain funding for a study to be conducted regarding Governor's Schools funding formula.

Mrs. Macon stated her hope was that this study will be of benefit to all Governors' School stakeholders.

The Chairman thanked today's public speakers.

## X. Director's Report

- **Admissions Testing:** Testing dates are January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> accommodating 1,186 prospective students.

The Regional Evaluation date is February 19<sup>th</sup> with the PTSA graciously volunteering to provide a luncheon for evaluators.

- **Composite Score Update:** Pursuant to VDOE recommendation, the Planning Committee has reviewed rating and assigning of points to assessments and found what they believe is a flaw in the awarding of points. The Planning Committee's recommendation was then forwarded to the university community for review; Dr. James McMillan of VCU, long time educator and author, and noted expert in education measurement, education psychology, etc., spearheaded this study.

In lieu of protocol that is limited in nature regarding the awarding of points, the recommendation from the scholarly community, in line with the Planning Committee's review, calls for a full scale evaluation for students; meaning if a student scores at the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile, that student should get some points for their score, currently they get zero points. Example used: 1.5 points for 15<sup>th</sup> percentile and 9.9 points for 99<sup>th</sup> percentile. Previously only student's scoring above a cut score of 77 received points. When investigated by the Director he was told this cut score was an arbitrary assignment, but he believes an arbitrary score does not pass statistical or best practices muster.

Per Dr. McMillan, the full scale evaluation of awarding points is the most fair and equitable approach based on our current protocol.

Dr. James McMillan's data was shared with Superintendent's prior to this meeting. With their consent, the Director is pleased to announce that with this upcoming admission cycle, the Planning Committee will pursue a full scale evaluation and assessment of students.

Dr. McMillan's research was conducted for MLWGS pro bono and we extend our gratitude.

- **Board photographs** will be taken at February meeting.
- **Capitol Day:** Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Verizon Proposal.** Updates provided so the process does not have to be restarted. Mr. Tharp stated we are looking at a 20-45 day implementation with Fios; the proposal is progressing.
- **Night of the Dragon Auction, Go for the Gold:** February 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the signature fundraising event for MLWGS. Invitations were distributed to Board members.

- **Coming Events:** January 16, 2014 through February 20, 2014.

## **XI. Action Items**

### **a. Policy Approval**

The following policies presented at the December meeting are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for approval: **No. 1030** – Admission of Students, **Regulation No. 5060-R** – Reduction in Work Force and **No. 5070** – Family and Medical Leave. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

The Director recommends approval of the policies submitted.

The Chairman requested the Director to prepare for February's meeting an accompanying regulation for Policy No. 1030 that clearly outlines admission criteria. Also, it was noted that Policy No. 1030 contained a typographical error that will be corrected prior to publishing.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the Board unanimously approved policies 1030 (with correction), Regulation 5060-R and 5070.

### **b. Regional School Board 2014 Calendar of Meetings**

Submitted in December for review, the Director recommends approval of the calendar proposed.

Upon discussion, the Chairman requested that a budget workshop be added in January 2015 to reflect a pattern of meetings established within the last year.

On motion by John Montgomery, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved their 2014 calendar of meetings that will include a budget workshop in January 2015.

## **XII. Review Items**

### **a. Copier Contract #2013-C1**

Provided for review an RFP for new copier leasing (replaces current unit) that was advertised in the Richmond Times Dispatch on December 15, 2013 and the MLWGS website.

A recommendation for fulfillment of the Copier RFP will be submitted to the Board at their February meeting.

**XIII. Information Items**

- Legislators Meet with Students
- Finance Committee Minutes, December 5, 2013

**XIV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report**

Dr. Lane reported that no formal actions were taken as a result of today's meeting. The committee spent time discussing Maggie Walker's full-scale evaluation proposal along with the budget proposal and its impact upon divisions.

**XV. Closed Meeting**

None

**XVI. Certification of Closed Meeting**

None

**XVII. Announcements/Unfinished Business**

Ms. Armstrong thanked Mrs. Marshall for assistance with the new Google platform for Board packets introduced at this meeting.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Montgomery, seconded by Barbara Crawley, adjournment of this meeting was unanimously approved.

---

W. Kevin Hazzard, Chairman

---

Jeffrey W. McGee, Director

---

Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk