

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

Attendance

June 18, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Superintendents

Present:

Janet Crawley, Charles City County
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County
Stewart Roberson, Hanover County
Fred Morton, Henrico County
Richard Layman, King and Queen
Dr. Rick Richardson, New Kent County
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County

Absent:

James Victory, Petersburg City
Linda Underwood, Goochland County
Margaret Meara, Powhatan County
Yvonne Brandon, Richmond City
Jeffery Smith, West Point

Others Present:

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

Board Members

Present:

Roy Campbell, Charles City County
Dianne Pettitt, Chesterfield County
Ivan Mattox, Goochland County
John Axelle, Hanover County
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County

Absent:

Barbara Crawley, Charles City County
Robert Cox, Prince George County
Kimberly Gray, Richmond City
Dudley, Olsson, West Point

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

Thursday, June 18, 2009

8:30 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.

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Diane Pettitt, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the agenda was approved. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Diane Pettitt, the minutes of the June 18, 2009 meeting were approved. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments

"I am Arthur Almore representing the NAACP. I would first like to thank you for the hard work that is going into the Admissions Study. I would like to know after the report has been received what the next steps are. What the time line is, and some of the recommendations. NAACP would also like to offer its assistance if there is any type of a group needed to put together to assist in the implementation of the reports recommendations. Again we would like to thank the Board for undertaking this study. It is a very important initiative and we fully support the Boards efforts in implementing this study. Thank you."

"Good Morning, I am Lynn Reed and am the outgoing Faculty Liaison. I want to tell you what a privilege it has been to be sitting in on your meetings for the past 2 years. I have great faith that the incoming Faculty Liaison Ms. Sharon Parker is going to do a fine job as well. One of the things that I would like to encourage the Board to do as well as the Faculty Council is to make greater use of the position to improve the already good communication between the faculty at this school and this decision making body. I had hoped that Ms. Parker would be able to be here, but was unable to come. You may already know her as the Mentorship and Seminar Coordinator for the school. Sharon is also the Class of 2010 sponsor and so I am going to take off my hat right now and put on my Class of 2009 sponsor and speak to you about one other thing. I am sure that Mr. Hunt is going to want to

go into detailed information during his report, the many successful events of graduation season. I wanted to share with you that it was filled with joy, excitement and gratitude. I have bought extra graduation programs for those of you who were not able to attend. Please browse through and see the achievements of the students. I do have one concern or maybe just a request for information that I would like to seek your help with. I do bring this question to you from the class of officers and that has to do with the expense of graduation. As it stands 100% of the cost of the reception the PTSA pays for. The school does not have a budget line for graduation. I would like to gather information to see what is standard. For example the Landmark is a beautiful facility and we are so happy to be there, but the cost jumped \$1600.00 from last years cost. So that is something I think we may want make sure it is exactly what we want going forth. So what I would like is to help Sharon find out if this arrangement is customary for most of the divisions. Thank You."

Mr. Chairman thanked Mrs. Reed for all her service and commitment since he has been on the Board and we all appreciate her efforts.

VI. Renovation Foundation Report

"I'm Sally Mooney, representing John Herzog and Bob Mooney, co-chairs of the Renovation Foundation. We wanted to give you an update on the final financing piece of the renovation.

As you remember, the renovation of Maggie Walker HS as a permanent home for the Governor's School was a public private partnership. The school districts each made a commitment at the beginning of the renovation project to make proportional payments to provide for approximately 1/3 of the renovation cost. Some smaller districts made a lump sum payment and the larger districts extended their payments over various time periods up to 20 years.

From the beginning, every district has made their payments on time every year as scheduled. No payment has ever been missed.

The only remaining capital debt held by the Renovation Foundation is the loan with Wachovia bank that is being paid off by these remaining locality payments.

This debt was restructured in 2004 and recently again in April 2009. Given the uncertain financial markets at this time, Wachovia agreed to extend for one year the current principal balance of \$2.14 million and reduced the interest rate from 6.35% to 5.5% with the understanding that the loan will be restructured for a longer term in March 2010 when interest rates have stabilized.

Currently only 3 districts (Chesterfield, Henrico and Petersburg) still have payments to be made as follows:

- 2009 and 2010 \$385,000 per year*
- 2011-2018 \$211,700 per year*

- 2019-2020 \$11,700 per year

We will continue to keep you updated as we work on the final refinancing.

Thank you for your continued financial support.”

VII. Admission Review Report

Mr. Hunt stated that today we have with us Dr. Callahan and Dr. Moon to present the Admissions Review Report.

Good Morning, I am Carolyn and we are going to try to condense a years worth of work and a very long report into a brief summary of what we are recommending. All this information that we are reporting today can be found in the report you have. We choose just this morning to give you a brief overview of what we did and then immediately to recommendations. We are happy to answer any questions about how we got to that point. It seems to us that the most important thing to come out of this is a direction for people to move. We are going to focus on that direction. In the full report the background in terms of those things that we found commendable about what is happening at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in the areas of recruitment, identification and retention of diverse population of students are laid out and the issues that we identified. So I will begin and speak on the issues of recruitment and retention, and Tanya will come in the middle with the identification comments. Before we get into the specifics of that about what we did in order to get to the point where we could actually make some recommendations. We started out by doing a very thorough literature review of the Standards for Gifted Education Identification. The literature review on the process and procedures of strategies that are used in recruiting, identifying and retaining students from diverse populations. We looked at everything that we could find at the high school and college level that seem to collaborate the kind of things that were already the identification standards and came up with those standards that we use as we went through the identification, recruitment and retention review. We collected descriptive data from school divisions on forms that included faculty, student representation, identification procedures used at the various schools. Everything that we could gather that we thought would have an impact on the diversity of the population here at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. We then conducted stake holder's focus group interviews and individual interviews. We did a couple of interviews online with people who would rather email us than speak with us. We did three different kinds of interviews. We also looked at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School documents and data that was provided to us. We did a national survey of comparable high schools to see what they were doing in these areas as well in the recruitment and retention of students. We took all of that qualitative data and looked at what was going really well and the areas that we thought improvements could be made. I'm going to start with just three major findings. The first one addressed is Maggie L. Walker Governor's School can not attack this problem by itself. This is a Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and school division program, so it should be a Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and school division process to address the issues that are raised. They extend

throughout all the collaborated school districts and will need to be addressed by the Board here, and the districts Superintendents and their Boards. The second recommendation is as all of you know perceptions are as important as reality. There are many, many good things that Maggie Walker do that people are not aware of. There are many things on paper that people are not hearing. So one our big recommendation is working on public perception and get people to understand what is really happening here. The third thing which Tanya will speak to you about is one of the ways the identification process and procedures are in fact working against the identification of students from diverse populations. So some recommendations are to have the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School official mission statement is not known. We need to get the word out about Maggie Walker to the middle school counselors, so they can be familiar about what we do here. We also need to let people know about the website and have some of the achievements of our diverse students placed on the website. Expand the student ambassador program. They are very popular with a certain population of students. Advertising may have to go into another direction. Maybe newspaper ads and emails are passé. Have a focus group among the students and ask them how are they getting information?

Hello I am Tanya and the identification process is one that is built upon every step along the way and if there is a weak link in one part of it, it makes the whole system weak. This is a very technical process. One of the recommendations is that individuals responsible for the decision making regarding the process of identification be familiar with those technical issues. Another is being careful of the instruments you use. One thing that we do know is that in order to make valid decisions based upon test results, those test need to support that purpose. None of the test which are being used supports the purposes for which they are being used here in the identification process. With this being said, there is not a gifted test. So you have to set up systems, which is the third recommendation. That will allow you to collect the data over time to say are these instruments giving us the type of kids that are going to be successful here at Maggie Walker. Not all test are secure for example, your Olsat is a secure test. It is used all over the country. The test publishers won't sell that to just anybody. But there are other tests that you can get a hold of because they are not used in accountability. I will make the statement that one of the recommendations that we have made is drop the Naglieri from the identification process. Really be mindful of what it is you really want.

All of the information we have talked about can be found in detail in the UVA Diversity Study.

After the presentation there was a short Q & A period.

Mr. Chairman thanked Carolyn and Tanya for coming in and for all of their hard work. This report will also be available on the website following this meeting today.

Mr. Chairman had a special presentation, along with the artist Miss. Molly Cook a portrait of Mr. Hunt standing in front of the school. While unveiling the portrait, Jeff Hall stated that Mrs. Marshall came to him a year ago and wanted to do something

special to honor the longest acting director and how better to do that than with a piece of a student's work. We will be getting a reproduction made that will live here at the school.

Mr. Chairman did one more presentation "For Gratitude For Your Services Dr. R. Frances Moore, Superintendent Steering Committee 2006 – 2009 Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Richmond, VA".

Mr. Moore stated that it has been an honor. I have to say this; we were one of the small players in Prince George with the number of students. I built a lot of great relationships with everyone here. It is fun to sit around a group of people like this in a relaxed atmosphere but it is serious business that we do. I really appreciate this and thank you all.

VIII. Director's Report

Mr. Hunt called your attention to something in the coming events on page 16 is that we will be going to our 4 day week starting next Monday and it will go through Thursday Aug 20th. We are also taking July 6 for the July 4th holiday as opposed to that Friday. The last item listed there is incorrect, it should be August 19th Wednesday, and you changed that some time ago.

Mr. Hunt thanked everyone for having this opportunity to work with you. We had a good time doing it, but it is serious work that we do. We are very proud of the faculty and the students of this school and this is all possible because of your support. Personally I am overwhelmed by the presentation and it will always be very special.

Mr. Hunt also wanted to thank Belle Bronner our outgoing PTSA President for all of her hard work, and dedication to our students, staff and our school. Joan Yates will be the incoming President and that is about the only thing she has not done at this school, so we welcome her.

IX. Action Agenda Items

a. Student Fee Schedule 2009 - 2010

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Valarie Ayres the Board approved the Student Fee Schedule. Motion carried.

X. Materials for Board Review

a. None

XI. Information

Please see the Newsweek 2009 article in the back of your packet.

XII. Superintendents' Steering Committee Meeting

None

XIII. Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2) of the Code of Virginia, I move that this Board go into closed meeting to consider the admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a Maggie L. Walker Governor's School student. On motion by Lisa Marshall, seconded by Kimberly Gray. Motion Carried. We are now in Closed session.

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

The Regional Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. On motion by Lisa Marshall, seconded by Kimberly Gray. Motion Carried)

On motion by Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Mrs. Valarie Ayers, the Regional School Board in Student Case No. 080809 will not uphold the Director's recommendation for expulsion, but instead approves a modified expulsion through the first semester. Student Case No. 080809 may apply to this board for reinstatement to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School after the first nine weeks of instruction is concluded with the following stipulations; must attend professional counseling specific to the offense, must complete 40 hours of community service related to the offense, and must provide proof of successfully completing the academic plan of studies for Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for a nine week modified expulsion term. Student Case No. 080809 may not participate in any school or school sponsored activities for 45 school days, or the length of the modified expulsion, whichever is greater. Finally, Student Case No. 080809 must appear before this board prior to re-entering Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. We have given you a huge opportunity and hope that you will learn a lesson from this and will return to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.

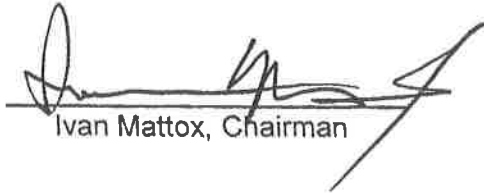
Let the record reflect that Mrs. Lisa Marshall, School Board, and Mr. Fred Morton, Superintendent, both from Henrico County Public Schools, did not participate in the closed session for Student Case No. 080809.

On a vote of (7) yes, and (1) no (by Mr. John Axselle), the Regional School Board approves the action from the closed session described above.

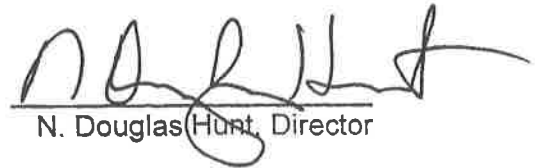
XV. Announcement

There being no further business to discuss, Motion by Roy Campbell, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

XVI. Next Meeting: September 17, 2009 at 9 a.m. MLWGS Board 2nd Floor.



Ivan Mattox, Chairman



N. Douglas Hunt, Director