

MINUTES

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

Thursday, April 14, 2011

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Dianne Pettitt, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, 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 Pettitt, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mrs. Lisa Marshall, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Teresa Lindsay, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point Public Schools
Mr. Ed Walent, Director of Instructional Support for Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Linda Underwood, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Stewart Roberson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Mr. Eric Jones, Ex. Director for Secondary Education for Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Lorianne Smith, Director of Human Resources & Instruction for Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Alvera Parrish, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools (late arrival)
Mrs. Linda Minor for Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point Public Schools
Mr. Fred S. Morton IV, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Megan Marcinkevich, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mr. Ivan Mattox, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Robert Cox, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Patti Chappell – MLWGS Administration, Sarah Dwelle – Faculty, Karen Hoover – MLWGS, Anne Napps – PTSA President, Angela Dews – REA (late arrival), Rob Comet – BCWH Architects, and Hal Waller - GS Foundation.

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Lisa Marshall, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the minutes as submitted for February 24, 2011 and March 17, 2011 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

English Department Faculty – Kerry Sheppard, Awarded 2011 NEH Summer Institute Grant. Ms. Sheppard is one of 16 teachers awarded this grant allowing her to study Dante Alighiere's *The Divine Comedy* for six weeks (June 24 – August 5) in Siena, Italy.

English Department Faculty – Lisa Williams, 2011 Longwood University Jefferson Professional Achievement Alumni Award Recipient. This award recognizes a graduate who has distinguished themselves with significant contributions to their profession, who stand above their peers, and who are recognized within their profession as leaders and role models for future generations of citizen leaders.

National Merit Scholars: Senior Counselor Susan Eschenroeder presented certificates to the following student scholars:

Jason Kong – Chesterfield (not in attendance)

Olivia Baumann – Henrico

Baltej Dhillon – Henrico

Spencer Pigg – Hanover (not in attendance)

Brooke Nancekivell – Hanover

McKenzie Osborne – Chesterfield (BB&T Scholarship from NMSC)

Elizabeth Surma – Chesterfield (Wyeth Scholarship from NMSC)

Mrs. Eschenroeder noted that approximately 8,400 scholarships are awarded from among approximately 15,000 finalists with the Director remarking that it is extraordinary to have one school produce seven scholars.

Visiting Students from Armenia, Colombia, S.A. Mrs. Barrett Brown, International Languages Department Chair, introduced student hosts and guests **Anna Cline** (Chesterfield – hosting Maria Fernanda Estrada), **Maria Jose Araujo** (Henrico – hosting Michelle Bedoya), **Abbey Childs** (Chesterfield- hosting Stephanie Rodriguez) and **Caitlyn McMahon** (Henrico – hosting Tatiana Vega). These guests will shadow their host student at MLWGS through April 15, 2011.

2011 National Scholastic Writing Key Winners: Mrs. Denise Yagel, English Department Chair, introduced **Niccolo Seligmann** (Richmond) – winner of a Silver Key for Poetry and **Elizabeth Ballou** (Richmond) – winner of a Gold Key for Short Story.

2011 National Scholastic Art Key Winner: Mr. Jeff Hall, Fine Arts Department Chair, introduced **Jennifer Hynson** (Hanover) winner of a Silver Key for Drawing.

German Awards: Dawn Grois, International Languages Department Faculty, introduced **Alexis Xu** (Chesterfield) who received an AATG/PAD Study Trip to Nurnberg, Germany this coming summer from her placement on the National German Exam. Alexis is one of forty students nationwide selected for this prestigious award.

Virginia History Bowl Winners: **Tommy Casalaspi** (not in attendance) and **John Roach** (not in attendance), both students from Chesterfield, are the first-ever winners of the new Virginia History Bowl Competition, with the Maggie Walker team besting schools from across the state of Virginia. The team has advanced to the national competition.

Metro Richmond Science Fair Winners: Mr. Jeremy Clark, Science Department Faculty, introduced MLWGS student winners from the recently held Metro Richmond Science Fair: **Samantha Marquez** (Chesterfield) was the Grand Prize Champion for her Bio-Engineering project. As the top winner, Samantha will represent the Metro competition at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held this May in Los Angeles, CA. **Robert Jones** (Chesterfield) won 1st Place in Physics and was chosen to be the 1st Alternate at ISEF.

Six other MLWGS students placed at the Metro Richmond Science Fair: **Daniel Leibovic** (Henrico) – 1st Place in Computer Science, **Harry Hoke** (Henrico) – 1st Place in Environmental Science, **Conan Zhao** (Henrico) – 2nd Place in Microbiology, **Saumil Bandyopadhyay** (Henrico) – 2nd Place in Physics, **Sameer Sarkar** (Henrico) – 3rd Place in Biochemistry and **Johnny Mac Yates** (Richmond) won 3rd Place in Environmental Science.

Future Problem Solvers State Bowl: Mrs. Celie Boswell, English Department Faculty, introduced the newly re-started team which took the State Bowl qualifying round by storm, eventually winning 3rd Place Team and 3rd Place for **Jesse Zhao** (Henrico) in individual competition. 3rd Place team members who have qualified for international competition include: **Darice Xue** (Chesterfield), **Eileen Wang** (Henrico), **Will Payne** (Chesterfield), and **Reid Deckebach** (Chesterfield).

VI. 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.

There were no public comments.

VII. Director's Report

Updates:

Approximately 450 students will participate in the Picasso Exhibit field trip experience to the Virginia Fine Arts Museum on April 15, 2011. The Director thanked Mrs. Barrett Brown for coordinating this event and Dr. Brandon and Richmond Public Schools for their help with student transportation.

MLWGS faculty visits to other educational institutions have begun, with the first group observing and learning from instructors at Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax on Tuesday, April 12th.

AP and SOL testing in May – see Coming Events schedule for exact dates.

20th Anniversary Review – The Director thanked Mr. Hal Waller, Mrs. Pat Taylor, and Mr. Phil Tharp for their work to organize the Thursday evening Gala on March 31st and the Alumni Showcase on Friday, April 1st. He also thanked Mrs. Dianne Pettitt and Dr. Marcus Newsome for their participation. Mr. Morton shared insight from a current MLWGS junior about how valuable and topical the Alumni Showcase experience was for those who are about to make college and career choice decisions.

MLWGS music students (unofficial pep band) played for VCU at the Siegel Center during the NCAA Final Four game because the VCU band had traveled with the team to Houston.

1st Robotics Regional Competition was held last weekend at the Siegel Center where MLWGS ended in 12th place out of 100+ teams and qualified for finals. MLWGS also won the "Coopertition Award"- designated for the team that reaches out to help others.

Mr. Morton shared information learned from a discussion with a representative from Princeton University regarding regional student acceptance rates: 14 were offered acceptance with six coming from MLWGS.

In conclusion, the Director detailed his recent AASA meeting in Washington, DC, with an Under-Secretary of Education regarding the Federal Department of Education data requirement for student grade reporting by course and teacher. During this meeting the

Superintendent's group was able to obtain clarification that the data requirement is coming from the Federal Department of Education, who mandated the states gather the data. It is the opinion of AASA that this level of data request is over-burdensome and intrusive.

If this mandate stands, regional programs such as MLWGS will be required to break all student data and grades down by school division, send that data back to their localities to submit to the state. The state processes the data, sends it back to the localities, who then report it to teachers to see how student grades and successes correlate to the previous year.

Members attending the Denver AASA meeting were told this new data gathering requirement was incorporated in the one-time stimulus monies; however, this is a life-long requirement unless it is changed either through regulation or legislatively. The Superintendents are awaiting a letter of clarification from Secretary Duncan.

Kimberly Gray and Gwynn Litchfield left the meeting.

Coming Events - See Pages 33-34 of the Board packet.

VIII. Action Items

a. Authorization of Pavilion Contractor:

See page 36 for correspondence from Rob Comet of BCWH recommending Norman Company as a qualified contractor and as the lowest bidder.

The Director thanked multiple groups and individuals for their fundraising efforts for this project.

After brief discussion on motion by John Axelle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the recommendation to approve Norman Company for the athletic pavilion construction was unanimously approved.

The Director remarked that Pat Lacy, Attorney, has been asked to review the final contract before execution. Mr. Morton anticipates ground breaking in late May (based upon the architect and general contractor's recommendation) and a ribbon cutting/naming ceremony in the fall.

b. 2011/2012 Operating Budget

The Director reminded the Board this proposal was presented and reviewed at their March meeting. In summary, MLWGS is submitting a balanced budget proposal for FY2012 that is approximately \$125,000 less than the FY2011 budget, with level locality funding but a funding reduction from the State. Also noted: capital improvement projects are built in as part of the budgeting process as MLWGS does not have any bonding ability.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Lisa Marshall, the budget proposal submitted for 2011/2012 was unanimously approved.

c. Personnel Contracts for 2011/2012

In conjunction with approval of the FY2012 operating budget, the Director is requesting annual authorization giving him the authority to apply human resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dudley Olsson, authorization for the Director to issue contracts to faculty and staff was unanimously approved.

d. One-Time Only Compensation Adjustment

The Director is requesting a one-time only 2% adjustment out of FY2011 resources to be re-aligned and distributed to staff and faculty prior to July 1, 2011. The dollars identified resulted from a VRS holiday that totaled approximately \$100,000 in savings that have been held in an account for added support if necessary. Mr. Morton has discussed this action with the Finance Steering Committee.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Teresa Lindsay, authorization for the Director to issue a one-time only compensation adjustment to faculty and staff was unanimously approved.

IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Approval of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Foundation Board of Directors Per the Bylaws, Article 1, Directors

Candidate names are still being finalized and will be available for the Regional School Board's May meeting. Action will be requested at that time.

b. Yearbook Contract for 2012-2014

Phil Tharp reviewed pricing from the three vendors provided on Page 48 and based on their quotes he is recommending contract renewal with our current vendor Herff-Jones. Action will be requested at the Regional School Board's May meeting.

X. MLWGS Informational Items:

- Student News:
 - MLWGS Junior Makes Humanitarian Trip to Haiti
- Alumni News:
 - Will Roberts (Class of 2008) Pitches Perfect Game for UVA
- Event News:
 - RTD Coverage of 20th Anniversary Events

- 20th Anniversary Event Programs for March 31 and April 1, 2011
- African & Latin American Studies Scholars Assembly Program, March 31, 2011
- Bridging Boundaries International Public Lecture Program, March 29, 2011
- Pictorial Coverage in Richmond Free Press, MLWGS Building Used

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

None

XII. Closed Meeting

None

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

XIV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, this meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

May 19, 2011 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

Dianne Pettitt, Chairman

Fred S. Morton IV, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk