

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

Thursday, April 24, 2014

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order Call to Order

Kevin Hazzard, Chairman of the Regional School 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 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
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
Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George 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
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Jeffrey McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Ms. Megan Rainey, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent from Meeting:

Dr. Deborah Marks, **School Board**, Hopewell City Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell City Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat, Sharon Parker, Lisa Williams – MLWGS Faculty
Hal Waller, Burt Hazelwood, Bill Yates – GS Foundation
Jane Scheibe – PTSAs President
Peggy Feldmann – Athletic Boosters
Chamie Valentine – School Advisory Committee
Bryce Lyle, Amy Weiss, Faith Alejandro – GS and MLWGS Alumni
Bob Goodman – Community
Samantha Schwartzkopf, Feline Lucas – MLWGS Students
Sidney Bland, Ben Lewis, Terri Purcell, Rosemary Vieira and Doug Scheibe – MLWGS Parents

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda provided for this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dianne Smith, regular meeting minutes from March 20, 2014 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

- **Model UN** officers Samantha Schwartzkopf ('15-Henrico) and Feline Lucas ('15-Richmond) presented a pictorial report of the club's trip to Istanbul, Turkey that was approved by the Regional School Board and thanked them for this opportunity.
- In lieu of recognition for the **MLWGS Robotics Mech Tech Dragons** (team was competing at world championship) a brief video created by the Chamber of Commerce was played of team activities.

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.

The following comments are not transcribed verbatim:

Mr. Bob Goodman, retired school head that served the Richmond area for 14 years and has remained active in the community of professional educators, addressed the Board regarding the value of diversity and internationalism.

Mr. Goodman stated he was recently introduced to MLWGS via a group of visiting Russian high school students that were hosted by the Richmond Shakespeare Company and housed with Walker students. These introductions lead him to investigate MLWGS and the school's mission. Today Mr. Goodman was here to speak on two issues he feels strongly about; 1) efforts to promote diversity among the student body and teaching ranks, and 2) internationalism.

Mr. Goodman stated he introduced internationalism to his school in 1977 as a programmatic feature. Continuing, he declared that early on it was difficult for some to understand that an international perspective was relevant to student learning. However, as we now know, it has become part of the basics of education in the 21st century and beyond. Closely linked to internationalism is diversity, which Mr. Goodman believes supports educational excellence.

In closing, Mr. Goodman asked the Board to remain strong in the face of forces that suggest that diversity in some way lowers standards or quality...all forms of diversity; i.e., cultural, racial, political, etc., support excellence. Mr. Goodman said he believes that by promoting global citizenship and diversity, MLWGS can become even more of a leader, setting its sights on being one the best schools in the world.

Mr. Burt Hazelwood, GS Foundation Chairman, addressed the Board while distributing a year-to-date 2013-2014 Enhancement Grant Report from the Foundation to the school totaling \$125,000; adding that Foundation funds combined with contributions from the booster groups and the PTSA ends up averaging \$260/student coming from outside sources, which 'we' think is an impressive, big number. Outside funding supports education grants, graduate course work, workshops, staff development, student clubs and activities, field trips and instructional activities. Compared to a division with 30,000 students, said division foundation and booster groups would need to raise \$7.8 million dollars for an equivalent enhancement.

Mr. Hazelwood referenced the public/private relationship between the school and the Foundation, one that was founded with the school and continues today. However, for the Foundation there have been some requested changes in that relationship and 'we' are a little concerned that that relationship would be challenged. Mr. Hazelwood remarked that the keystone to some of the Foundation's fund raising and improvement efforts is having a 2-sided relationship between the entities. In some cases, the Foundation is almost the face of the school in regards to business leaders and alumni, which leads to money being brought in to enhance operations.

Mr. Hazelwood stated that the Foundation is being asked to take on an employee that was previously shared between the school and the Foundation, and bring that employee totally within the operation of the Foundation. If that is the Regional Board's decision, that means the Foundation and its volunteer board which was informed of the total employee contract

issue in February/March, will have to request, receive, evaluate and contract for a benefits package and setup HR policies with a short turn-around.

Also, Mr. Hazelwood requested that running rules be devised as the Foundation needs to know what part it will play with the Regional School Board and the school, such as if the Foundation will be invited to faculty meetings, does it have access to the school, etc. A big key is that the Foundation had been reimbursing the school for its (Foundation) employee but now must take that on. Stating: "I just want to give you an idea of what that does to the Foundation as a small organization with a volunteer board and how it will impact timing." Usually in April the school comes to the Foundation with a list of items it wants; that list goes to the Executive Committee for review and approval then moved on to the full board in June for approval, resulting in money almost immediately released to the school to facilitate expenditures in July/August for teachers who have taken graduate course work. This year because we don't have the ability to find out what our budget is going to look like for next year as a result of not knowing what employee benefits are going to cost, the Foundation may not be in a position to follow this format. So Foundation Enhancement Grants may not be approved until September of this year, and may put the school in a position that if it does not have money to provide for graduate course work, teachers are not going to be able to move forward.

In conclusion, Mr. Hazelwood stated his remarks are intended to update the Board on the effect of this decision and how it may also affect MLWGS.

Mr. Bill Yates, alumni parent, addressed the Board about budget considerations going forward. As he began, Mr. Yates asked the Board to keep in mind that one of the things which make Maggie Walker so special is the array of classes offered. Maggie Walker is entirely unique in that it has all of the top classes of a specialty center but also has the unusual, quirky classes that broaden the curriculum and gives our students something that just can't be found in other places.

Mr. Yates asks the Board to try to fund the school at a level that allows for class variety which is critical to Maggie Walker. Acknowledging that it is great to add more sections of classes as the school gets bigger; additional sections of AP's and dual enrollments, parents don't want to see that coming at the expense of those unique classes. In the past two years Maggie Walker has lost Journalism, Architectural History and Russian III. This year there has been talk of more classes that might not have enough enrollment as numbers have to be pushed up to make the cut.

Today, Mr. Yates asks that the Board think about the importance of those [*unique*] classes and to try to help Administration budget enough that they can continue to offer those classes that make such a difference to our children.

Mr. Doug Scheibe, parent and GS Foundation, addressed the Board regarding Maggie Walker's budget. The following remarks were provided by Mr. Scheibe:

Chairman Hazzard, members of the Regional School Board, Superintendents, Maggie Walker administrators, faculty and staff; my premise is that the Board's lack of a strategic

plan for the last 6 years is harming the school's ability to deliver on its mission. Also, the Board and Superintendents are not acting as owners – the body appears to be a collection of provincial managers instead of the entrepreneurial unit your predecessors became to create innovative services for your gifted students.

I contend the objectives of a strategic plan already exist in the form of the recommendations from the audit by the Virginia Department of Education.

Since 2008, several challenges have become problems because there is no plan.

While college admissions become more and more competitive, the Maggie Walker diploma becomes more valuable, but the school's marketing efforts are losing traction. Also, there has been tremendous turnover within the ranks of the Board, Superintendents and school administration. And the school leadership has fewer resources to work with as districts have cut their budgets by an average of 5.5% while cutting the school's budget 11%. The excessive cuts have trimmed the curriculum unnecessarily.

Prior to 2010, applications to the Governor's school increased. During this time, the school administration worked year-round, along with an active student ambassador program, on outreach and relationships with the participating districts and their various schools and communities. Since 2010, applications have leveled off.

A variety of messages and approaches are needed to reach gifted students and their families that may not know of or understand the opportunities presented by the school. These various audiences include those that do not have access to gifted education in grade school or middle school, and those that live far from the school, and single parents that have transportation issues, and parents where English is a second language, and those from districts with just a handful of seats open every year, and racial minorities.

One way the school evaluates the effectiveness of its appeal is by tracking the race of applicants. Until 2010, the percentage of applications from black students ranged between 25-30%, which is similar to the black population of 31% across the 12 districts. After 2010, the percentage of black applicants has declined.

We must do more to encourage and enable black students and many other market segments to apply to Maggie Walker. There are hundreds of capable students that are not applying, and we need to reach out to them.

With a growing number of applications, one would expect the ability test scores of selected students to increase due to competition. That was true through 2008.

Since then, the scores of the selected students have decreased. The likely reason for this counter-intuitive trend is that this timing corresponds with some districts changing their admissions standards.

One reason given for changing standards is to encourage more racial diversity. However, changing standards is not only an insult to the intended beneficiaries, but as shown when viewing 6 years of data, it appears that changing standards has not correlated with a greater opportunity for diversity.

The next question becomes: will less-prepared students result in less-accomplished graduates?

A look at the SAT scores of graduates shows that those scores may have peaked exactly 4 years after the admissions ability scores began to decline.

The appetite for taking AP tests may also have peaked after growing rapidly from 750 to 1,100. So far the average AP test score for Maggie Walker students remains a point above the national average.

A continuing trend in lower test scores for selected students will likely result in...

1. More resources being used on basic instruction.
2. More dropouts and damaged relationships with families, friends and participating districts.
3. Fewer applications from qualified students as the school begins losing quality.
4. And it should be noted that students and families primarily choose Maggie Walker because its broad and strong curriculum offers a competitive advantage for college admissions, not because of the emphasis on government and international studies. When that advantage is no longer obvious, applications will plummet.

I recommend the following 10 steps be taken by the Board for strategic planning:

1. Pursue the existing Department of Education recommendations as the objectives a strategic plan. Start today.
2. Set high admissions standards and make marketing a priority.
3. Increase marketing efforts at grades 2, 5 and 8. One message to all 8th graders is too little, too late.
4. Make special appeals to various segments – we can't assume anyone truly knows about the school.
5. Establish a full-time Marketing Director to lead the outreach.
6. Use Maggie Walker's credibility throughout the region to partner with the participating districts to champion education in creative ways.

7. Add extra-curricular options to increase the appeal – like: football at a student’s home school.
8. Grow the curriculum to broaden the school’s appeal – offer an African language or a class on agriculture and online resources that recover lost classes or provide new ones while enabling creative scheduling. That flexibility helps the football players we do not currently have and the world class ballerina and ice skaters we already have.
9. Re-staff the Technology Lead position. An entire section of the VDOE recommendations deals with technology.
10. Fund the school at a reasonable level. You’ll never get to the VDOE recommended 15:1 classroom ratio at this rate. Invest like you own the results, because you do.

Mrs. Chamie Valentine of the School Advisory Council read a Planning and Stability Resolution adopted March 12, 2014. A partial reading follows:

Whereas the Maggie Walker Advisory Council wishes to recognize the many important contributions to Maggie Walker’s success, including the Maggie Walker Superintendent’s Steering Committee and the Maggie Walker Regional School Board,

Whereas the Maggie Walker Advisory Council wishes to also recognize the many contributions made to Maggie Walker by the faculty, administration and staff with regard to Maggie Walker’s success,

Whereas the Maggie Walker Advisory Council has identified planning and stability challenges that currently inhibit the ability of Maggie Walker to plan effectively on a short term and medium term basis, and which potentially unnecessarily put Maggie Walker’s operations and future success at risk,

Whereas one planning and stability challenge is that Maggie Walker can have a substantial reduction in its funding caused by a school district substantially reducing or almost entirely eliminating its Maggie Walker student enrollment with no notice to Maggie Walker,

Whereas a second and similar planning and stability challenge is that Maggie Walker can have a substantial reduction in its funding by a school district entirely eliminating its student enrollment with only one year’s notice,

Whereas such reductions in funding caused by little or no notice could jeopardize the success achieved by Maggie Walker as one of the top high schools in America and defeat the many years of contributions made by past and present school board members, regional school board members, superintendents, supervisors, city council members, educational leaders and other community leaders,

Whereas the Maggie Walker Advisory Council believes it’s in the best interest of Maggie Walker to resolve these planning and stability challenges,

Whereas the Maggie Walker Advisory Council believes there are straight forward, simple solutions that can be implemented that would remove these challenges to future success and solidify its planning and stability as a Governor's School institution, and

Whereas the Maggie Walker Advisory Council respectfully submits for Maggie Walker's Regional School Board consideration and action the following resolution:

Now therefore be it resolved that 1) the Maggie Walker Regional School Board propose and implement a solution to these challenges for Maggie Walker to satisfy the identified planning and stability concerns, and 2) Maggie Walker's School Advisory Council is prepared to assist in developing options to deal with these challenges if requested to do so by the Regional School Board.

Finally, Mrs. Valentine reported that the Council had created and distributed a survey to faculty and staff as a means to share constructive concerns regarding the school. Said survey being recently completed and results will be shared with the Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Bryce Lyle, alumni Class of 99 and GS Foundation member, reported on recent alumni activity on behalf of Maggie Walker Governor's School.

Mr. Lyle described an event which occurred on April 4th called the Alumni Showcase where over forty alumni returned to the school to talk with current students. While many alumni were local residents, some came from as far away as NYC, LA and New Orleans.

Alumni were placed on panel discussions and each gave presentations to different audiences of students. The event showcased an excellent array of professions. It was an exciting day with overwhelming positive feedback received from participants, with many stating a highlight was getting to meet Walker's students.

Mr. Lyle stated that the Alumni Steering Committee is working to get more alumni at these meetings [Board] then thanked the Board for its support of the school all hold so dear.

Ms. Peggy Feldmann, Athletic Boosters President, address the Board regarding the school's athletic budget and to share concerns about its transportation.

Beginning, Ms. Feldmann called Board attention to the fact that the entire line item for athletics in the school budget is \$17,000 and is less than 0.2% of the total school budget. This year 433 athletes, or nearly 60% of the student body, participated in sports. Ms. Feldmann stated this amount was totally inadequate to provide even a modest athletic program that includes field maintenance, equipment, uniforms and officials; said officials alone costing approximately \$20,000/year. Adding, historically in order to carry on the athletic program here at Walker, the Boosters have raised and provided \$36,000/year. This year with assignment to the AA classification (VHSL), the Boosters are providing \$45,000 to help with increased transportation costs.

Today, Ms. Feldmann wants the Board to fully understand the picture regarding athletic transportation. As part of the new reclassification, athletic transportation costs for games will increase \$10,000-\$15,000 annually for bus rentals. This increase does not include transportation for competitions and showcases by other groups, including academic teams, music, drama and art, of which the entire transportation budget is less than 0.2% of the budget [*refers to separate transportation line item of \$12,000*].

On behalf of all booster groups, Ms. Feldmann asks the Board to adequately fund transportation costs for activities for its students at MLWGS; estimating the cost at \$40/student. Currently, even with booster support, student athletes drive to many away games and to all practices and home games where our teams do not have on-site facilities. This adds unnecessary risk to the school and to the Board. Over the years Maggie Walker has been fortunate to avoid serious accidents and speeding/parking tickets have been few. Ms. Feldmann shared an emotional story from her own high school years of five student swimmers lost in an accident on the way to school and how it affected the whole school and community for many years. Stating, “question is...is Maggie Walker on borrowed time.”

Ms. Feldmann stated that in a recent survey of Athletic Booster families, parents were more concerned about transportation to games than they were to practice because practice sites are closer and on known routes. She added, “I know Maggie Walker is not alone in having students driving to some events and it is unreasonable to provide transportation to every off-site activity.” However, Ms. Feldmann asks that the Board fully consider the risks to the Board, school, parents, and mostly to the students; and provide adequate funding. \$40/student is not too much to ask for student safety.

The Chairman thanked all of speakers for their remarks.

VII. Director's Report

- Graduation for the Class of 2014, Friday June 13th at Richmond CenterStage. Invitations were distributed by Kerry Sheppard, Graduation Coordinator.
- Strategic Planning is underway and the first annual plan has been developed. Originally designed to develop two annual plans followed by a strategic plan; however, based on interest by various stakeholders long range planning will be developed sooner rather than later. Given the amount of interest and to be able to engage all relevant constituents in an objective fashion, MLWGS will be procuring the services of professional facilitator Amy Nisenson. Ms. Nisenson's fee is less than \$10,000. Dr. McGee noted that his preliminary timeline for completion of Ms. Nisenson's work as winter break 2014 so organizational conversations need to start following this meeting. Mr. Axselle recommends at least one stakeholder from each division have representation on any development committee going forward. Mr. Montgomery requests an initial timeline and definition of services to be provided at the May Regional School Board meeting. And Ms. Gray requests that increasing diversity be placed at the forefront of any strategic planning.
- College Board Advanced Placement International Diploma is now offered as an additional credential to students who take a certain array of AP courses or tests with sufficient passing scores.

- VUU Urban Child Symposium at MLWGS, April 16th.
- MLWGS ‘We the People’ team finish 3rd at Nationals.
- New student registration (incoming 9th graders) April 28th.
- AP Testing May 5-16, 2014. Numbers of tests to be administered in 2014: 1,171 to 463 students.
- In 2013, 98% of all Maggie Walker students taking AP exams scored 3 or higher which translates to a potential 3,267 hours of college credit.
- Coming Events reviewed: April 24th through May 15, 2014.
- Activity Bus Repair Log June 2011 through October 2013. Total maintenance dollars spent during this period is \$1,516.36.

VIII. Action Items

a. Policy Approval:

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for approval: **No. 1031 (Amended)** – Admission of International Students, **No. 1032 (Amended)** – Admission of Foreign Exchange Students, **No. 4020** – Student Immunizations, **Regulation No. 5017-R-1** – Masters/Masters +30 Salary Schedule, **No. 7005** – Food Service Management, **No. 7006** – Free and Reduced Price Food Services and **Regulation No. 7006-R-1** – MLWGS School Meal Credit Program. These policies are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association and no changes have occurred since first reading in April.

Dr. McGee described means used by Ms. Wendy DeGroat, Librarian, to disseminate policy proposals to staff for their information.

After brief discussion, on motion by John Montgomery, seconded by Barbara Crawley, policies listed above were unanimously approved.

b. Fee Waiver Request for Building Usage, Richmond Parks & Recreation Summer Camps 2014

Richmond Parks & Rec has again requested to utilize MLWGS to host two summer camps: 1) 2014 Mayor’s Youth Academy Life Stage and 2) Lego Pre-Engineering Camp. Costs have increased but during negotiations with RP&R Maggie Walker has settled on what we believe are appropriate costs to cover both camps. The requested fee waiver allows RP&R to maintain affordable tuition fees for program students.

Mayor’s Youth Academy Approved Rate Total:	\$105,700.00
Rate Proposal from MLWGS	\$ 11,317.20
Total Waiver	\$ 94,382.80

Lego Pre-Engineering Camp Approved Rate Total:	\$ 3,240.00
Rate Proposal from MLWGS	\$ 1,440.00
Total Waiver	\$ 1,800.00

Ms. Gray, addressing both the Board and Ms. Feldmann, asked about the status of access needed for Walker Athletics to Richmond Parks & Recreation locations that had been requested, adding if access had not been received Walker should have a shared agreement with the City if we are going to waive these kinds of fees that defines what kind of facility access the school will have. Ms. Feldmann responded to her inquiry with two examples where Walker Athletics continue to have problems; 1) no access for tennis matches at Byrd Park (Walker only has 4 courts and so is ineligible to hold matches) and 2) swimming where the facility is closed for a day or a period of days and students do not have access to swimming during competition season. Ms. Feldmann agreed that Walker needs a better relationship with RP&R, especially when the school provides this type of resource to them. Ms. Gray requests that a Memo of Understanding for Facility/Location Usage be developed and included as part of the waiver of fees requested by RP&R.

Upon motion by Kimberly Gray who called for approval of the waiver of fees requested by RP&R for the Mayor's Youth Academy conditional upon working with Maggie Walker Governor's School for shared use of facilities, seconded by Barbara Crawley, said waiver and shared working agreement was unanimously approved.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kimberly Gray, approval for the waiver of fees requested by RP&R of the Lego Pre-Engineering Camp at MLWGS was unanimously approved.

c. FY15 Operating Budget

The Director recommends approval of the FY15 MLWGS budget proposal presented to the Board at their March meeting noting that future adjustments to the composite index may be expected pending General Assembly state budget passage.

During discussion Mr. Montgomery questioned if the significant transportation impact resulting from new alignment had been communicated to VHSL. Dr. McGee stated that Paige Hawkins, Walker's AD, is active and has communicated this issue, adding we may have to evaluate participation. He also noted concern for the amount of time students spend commuting to athletic events. Dr. Newsome added that the organization was also aware of superintendent concerns on this matter.

Ms. Gray questioned reduction in utility line item totals to which Mr. Tharp informed her that part of the reduction had to do with a previous agreement held with an energy management company where we split energy savings based on their usage recommendations. That agreement has now expired and Walker will benefit from the entire savings total.

There being no further discussion, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the FY15 MLWGS operating budget was unanimously approved.

IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy and Regulation Proposals

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for review: **No. 3005** – Instructional Materials, **No. 3006** – Textbook Selection, Adoption and Purchase, **No. 4030** – Student Organizations, **Procedure No. 4030-P** – Procedure for Student Organization Events, **No. 4031** – Fundraising and Solicitation. These policies are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

Note: Proposed Policy on Electronic Participation at Meetings was withdrawn at table.

Approval for this slate of policy and procedure proposals, less the proposal withdrawn, will be requested at the May Board meeting.

b. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2014-2015

Dr. McGee requests authorization giving the Director authority to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales within the approved budget in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for 2014-2015.

Approval for Director Authorization will be requested at the May meeting of the Board.

c. 2014-2015 School Operating Calendar

The Director indicated the proposed calendar has been vetted through our community to ensure we are aligned with faith based holidays and to the greatest extent possible with our divisions. Mr. Tharp shared that the calendar has been on the school website for review and has also been vetted through our PTSA.

Approval will be requested for the 2014-2015 school operating calendar at the May Board meeting.

d. Annual Approval of GS Foundation Board of Directors for 2014-2015

Per GS Foundation Bylaws, Article 1, names of director nominees shall annually be submitted to the Regional School Board for review and approval. The slate provided at this meeting does not consist of all directors, only members that will be filling vacant seats based on terms of office.

Mr. Axselle requested information as to the locality of director nominees and was provided same from Foundation members present. Mr. Pritchett asked about Petersburg membership and offered his assistance to locate a director should it be needed. Dr. Lane suggested the Foundation be aware that a majority of the divisions that sit on this Board [*Regional*] are not represented on the Foundation Board and strongly encourages them to take on members from the other localities beyond the four largest.

Mr. Scheibe stated the Foundation will provide a list at the next meeting of all directors and their localities. Ms. Gray asked for a diversity component in that list.

Approval for GS Foundation board nominees will be requested at the May meeting of the Regional Board.

Dr. Jamelle Wilson and Mr. Jerry Warren left the meeting.

X. MLWGS Informational Items

Finance Committee Minutes, April 3, 2014

Student News

- Chess Team Wins 1st Place at Championship
- Eight Gavels for Model Congress Club in 2013-2014

Faculty News

- Wendy DeGroat, Published in March/April Issue of Knowledge Quest
- Jeffrey McGee, Published in National Council of Professors of Educational Administration Educational Leadership Review of Doctoral Research

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Lane stated the committee met prior to the Regional Board meeting with a focus on the strategic planning process. The superintendent's offered much the same as advice as the Regional Board on inclusiveness. Discussion followed regarding the selection of the facilitator, Ms. Amy Nisenson.

XII. Closed Meeting

The Chairman directed the Clerk to announce items for closed session:

It is my understanding that the School Board desires to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with Sections (§) 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2- 3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsection, the following items:

Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Regional School Board; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Regional School Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. For purposes of this subsection, "probable litigation" means litigation which has been specifically threatened or on which the Regional School Board or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. The closure of a meeting is not permitted merely because an attorney representing the Regional School Board is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved moving into closed session. The recorder was paused and the door closed.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Clerk was invited back and asked to record a motion to reconvene in open session.

On motion by John Montgomery, seconded by Dianne Smith, the Board unanimously approved moving into open session.

Mr. John Axselle and Mr. John Montgomery left the meeting.

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

The Chairman directed the Clerk to certify the closed session:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Regional School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i-one) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and (ii-two) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. Any member of the Regional School Board or committee who believes that there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place.

The Chairman asked if there were any statements or concerns from Board members. Being none, a motion was requested for closed session certification.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Board approved closed session certification.

Roll Call Vote on Closed Meeting Certification:

Barbara Crawley	Aye
Dianne Smith	Aye
Kevin Hazzard	Aye
John Axselle	Absent
John Montgomery	Absent
Deborah Marks	Absent
Cora Armstrong	Absent
Sarah Barber	Aye
Kenneth Pritchett	Aye
Valarie Ayers	Aye
Jerry Warren	Absent
Kimberly Gray	Aye

XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business

None.

XV. Adjournment

On motion Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

May 15, 2014 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

W. Kevin Hazzard, Chairman

Jeffrey W. McGee, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk