

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Regular Meeting
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, April 20, 2017

9:09 am.

I. Call to Order

John Axselle, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Regional School Board and visitors recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Mrs. Harwood Hall, *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
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Reeve Ashcraft, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools

Mr. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Leslie Hausser and Eric Lowell – School Advisory Council
Barbara Coyle – VSBA Representative
Stevie Stephens – MW Parent
Dr. Bob Lowerre – Future MLWGS Director, July 1, 2017

V. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by John Wright, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Martha Harris, the minutes of the regular meeting and budget public hearing for March 16, 2017, were unanimously approved, plus the Special Meeting of April 4, 2017, was approved with eight aye votes and Valarie Ayers abstaining.

VII. Recognitions

• **MLWGS SABR Competition Students**

The SABR Diamond Dollars Case Competition pits undergraduate and graduate students from colleges and universities across the country against each other in an analytic major league baseball operations decision — the type of decision a team's general manager and staff is faced with over the course of a season. The teams presented their analysis and recommendations to a panel of judges that included MLB front office executives on Thursday, March 9th in Phoenix.

Eighteen teams participated in this year's competition. Students were asked to analyze next-level pitching data to create actionable results to be utilized by MLB executives.

The winning teams were Columbia University, Elon University, Washington University and Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. Maggie Walker is the only high school team to participate in this year's competition.

Maggie Walker's team was guided by faculty advisor Dickson Benesh and comprised of students Preston Hausser (Chesterfield), Robert Zhang (Henrico), Julia Conte (Richmond), John Blue (Richmond) and Pierce Tarry (Richmond).

VIII. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes.

Remarks provided by Mr. Stevie Stephens, MLWGS Parent:

While I am in general agreement with the transition to the 10 point grading scale, I am at odds with the decision not to change the grades retroactively. Below are some of my main concerns:

1. Schools do take into account the ratio of A's to B's. By not making the change retroactive you penalize students.
2. If you actually have input that calls out the 7 point system is detrimental to our students in the college application process, why wouldn't you make the change retroactive?
3. If you do not intend to change the grades retroactively, I would expect that all teachers will change all graded materials, tests, projects, homework, etc. to reflect that previous work was graded on a different scale. I would be concerned to find out that the rubric is exactly the same for a course taken in 2017-2018 as it was prior to that, given that the same grade is actually a different letter grade. Do we have your commitment that ALL teachers will change ALL materials to reflect the change to a 10 point scale if you do not make the change retroactive?
4. I have recently completed a college tour road trip with my daughter and a common theme was that the schools will weight courses according to their own system. And to do that they look at the transcripts. Given that our transcripts are only letter grades, they will not be able to determine the difference between a B+ and an A (if they are both a 92 from different years) when reweighting the course. You could mitigate this aspect if the transcripts contained the number grade.

To illustrate my point, here is a freshman student's actual grades right now. You will notice that without the retroactive change she suffers. There are four grades that would be A's. Additionally, two of those classes can be taken in the 10th grade. So by being on an advanced track, she will get penalized for not taking a class a year later. The idea is for our students to take a rigorous schedule. Why would you treat her grades differently than her peers?

- **We the People 2017 National Finals.** The 30th Annual We the People National Finals will take place April 21-24, 2017 at the National Conference Center in the Washington D.C. area and in hearing rooms on Capitol Hill. Find out about the exciting three days of simulated congressional hearings on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights at <http://civiced.org/national-finals-2017>
- **New Student (Incoming 9th Graders) Registration** April 24, 2017 @ 6:30 pm.
- **Q&A for Students and Parents on the 10-Point Grading Scale,** April 27, 2017 @ 7:00 pm, Auditorium.
- **AP Testing May 1 – 12, 2017**
 Total Number of Exams to be taken at MLWGS: 1,291
 Total Number of MLWGS Students Registered: 496
 Average Number of Exams per MLWGS Student: 2.6
- **Mark your Calendar: Graduation for the Class of 2017, Friday, June 16, 2017 at Altria Theater, 3:00 pm.**

B. Coming Events

April 20, 2017 through May 18, 2017 (see page IX.b for details)

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Deborah Marks, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions, fiscal status report of February 28, 2017, and the donations report of February 28, 2017.

XII. Action Items

a. Policy and Procedure Proposals

The following are submitted by the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval:

- Policy No. 3015 – Character Education
- Policy No. 4045 – Student Records
- Procedure 5021.1 – Support Staff Grievances
- Retire Procedure 5023 – Classified Employee’s Grievance Procedure

Proposed policies and procedure is grounded in the model policy of the Virginia School Board Association.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Micky Ogburn, Policies 3015, 4045 and Procedure 5021.1 were unanimously approved as well as 5023 was unanimously approved for retirement.

b. FY2018 Operating Budget

There being no discussion or questions regarding the budget proposal, on a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by John Wright, the Board unanimously approved the FY18 Operating Budget.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. FY18 School Operating Calendar

The Director recommends a review of the operating calendar proposal for 2017-2018. A link will be posted after this meeting for public review and comment on the proposal and the community will be notified via multiple media sources.

The Director will request approval of the operating calendar for 2017-2018 at the May 18, 2017, meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. Policy Proposal

The following was submitted by the Policy Steering Committee after a year-long review and study conducted by the School Advisory Council (SAC) for Board review:

Pol 3002.2 – Grading School

Approval will be requested at the May 18, 2017, meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- MW Wins Regional Governor’s Challenge in Economics
- The Mech Tech Dragons succeed at the Greater DC Robotics Event
- Secretary of Education, Dr. Dietra Trent, visits MLWGS Robotics on April 3rd

XV. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report

Dr. Gill announced the superintendents discussed the now approved FY18 operating budget and revisited the financial audit matter that is to be completed this year [*fiscal year*], probably by the end of May. There was also a brief personnel matter discussed.

Dr. Lowerre attended the meeting and he and Dr. Lewis will begin setting up a transition schedule.

XVI. Closed Meeting

None.

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None.

XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

The Chair started a brief discussion regarding board parking for meetings; i.e., across the street in the C.D. King lot versus the MLWGS parking lot. The board concluded that members wishing to park in the MLWGS lot notify the director or clerk so spots may be reserved. All other board members will park in the C.D. King lot.

Lastly, Mrs. Ayers acknowledged MLWGS's Battle of the Brains team for their televised competition and win over another Governor's School.

XIX. Adjournment

On motion by Martha Harris, seconded by John Wright, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:40 am.

Next Meeting

May 18, 2017, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

John Axselle III, Chairman

Jonathan Lewis, E.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk