

MINUTES

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

Thursday, December 18, 2014

9:08 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Chairman called for a moment of silence asking all to remember the extraordinary service of the late Dr. Bill Boshier for the students of Virginia.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman led a reading of the pledge of allegiance.

IV. 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
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **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. Al Ciarochi for Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Ms. Stephanie Bassett for Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Shelly Blazemore for Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Jeff McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mr. John Montgomery, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Ms. Megan Rainey, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS Librarian and Deborah Snagg - Staff
Matthew Gilley - Siemens
Laura Lewis – GS Foundation
Marianne Macon, Laura O'Bryan and Anne Hayes – PTSA Advocacy Comm.
Sydney Bland – Walker Parent
Peggy Feldmann- Athletic Boosters
Gwynn Litchfield – former King and Queen Regional Board Member
Others - inaudible

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

With the following change: 'Cora Armstrong to be marked as absent instead of present,' on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Deborah Marks, the minutes for November 13, 2014 were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- **Model Congress** student members were recognized in absentia for their achievements at Princeton Model Congress, November 21 & 22, 2014. Gavel winners: **Emily Martin ('17-Chesterfield)** – Best Delegate, Senate Judiciary and **Pranay Vissa ('15-Henrico)** - Best Delegate, Supreme Court. Model Congress is sponsored by Dr. McGee.
- **Model United Nations** student members were recognized in absentia for their achievements at VAMUN XXXIV, November 7-9, 2014. Gavel winners: **Samantha Schwartzkopf ('15-Henrico)** – Roman Senate, **Harish Tekriwal ('17-Henrico)** – Nicaraguan Assembly, **Sunita Ganesh ('16-Chesterfield)** – Committee on Treatment of Modern Art, and **Anant Kharkar ('15-Henrico)** – US Southern Command Committee. Model UN is sponsored by Mr. Max Smith.

- **2014 Varsity Field Hockey – State Championship Runner-Up.** The team is coached by ***Paige Hawkins –Regional Coach of the Year.*** Field Hockey highlights:

Regional Player of the Year – Eliza Bellamy ('15-Richmond)

(6) 1st Team All Conference and All Academic –Eliza Bellamy ('15-Richmond), Laura Fuhr ('15-Goochland), Tallie Hauser ('15-Chesterfield), Catherine Leahy ('15-Chesterfield), Marissa Raper ('15-Hanover) and Tierney Whelan ('15-Chesterfield)

(3) 1st Team All Region and All Academic – Eliza Bellamy ('15-Richmond), Laura Fuhr ('15-Goochland) and Tierney Whelan ('15-Chesterfield)

(2) 2nd Team All Region – Catherine Leahy ('15-Chesterfield) and Marissa Raper ('15-Hanover)

- **2014 Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams** ‘repeating’ ***State Champions.*** Both teams are coached by ***Jim Holdren –Regional Coach of the Year, Deborah Snagg and Ryan Webb.*** As stated by Coach Holdren, the boys’ team went undefeated all season including invitational, conference and regional meets, and the girls’ team was undefeated during the regular season. Cross Country highlights:

(7) All Americans at Nationals – Joseph Boyle ('15-Hanover), Ryan Buscaglia ('17-Chesterfield), Emma Call ('16-Richmond), Evan Fisher ('16-Chesterfield), Khloe Pointer ('17-Chesterfield), Patrick Wachter ('15-Henrico) and Justin Wilck ('15-Chesterfield)

All Metro Runner of the Year - Khloe Pointer ('17-Chesterfield)

First Team All Metro – Khloe Pointer ('17-Chesterfield) and Ryan Buscaglia ('17-Chesterfield)

Second Team All Metro – Emma Call ('16-Richmond) and Evan Fisher ('16-Chesterfield)

VIII. 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 remarks are not recorded verbatim:

Mrs. Marianne Macon addressed the Board to thank each member of the Virginia School Board Association supporting legislative policy to increase funding for Governor’s Schools.

Mrs. Macon's proceeded to highlight the hard working students of EduPac who welcomed legislators to MLWGS on December 10th for their annual outreach to General Assembly members. In attendance: Delegates Betsy Carr, Peter Farrell, Buddy Fowler and Manoli Loupassi. Delegates Jennifer McClellan and Roxann Robinson sent legislative aides. Mrs. Macon stated the students engaged in conversation with these legislators or their representatives during the entire visit.

Commenting on an item from the meeting agenda for first read, Mrs. Macon applauds the Board for taking action to adopt a 'Code of Conduct for Board Members.' She stated: "I know that each member of this Board is committed to Maggie Walker and to the students of this school," and hopes this document will reflect that level of commitment, as well as to the students of your district and the State of Virginia.

Lastly, Mrs. Macon distributed an Op Ed published December 14th by Joe Stanley, a 2005 graduate of Maggie Walker entitled: Virginia, there is a better way. Mrs. Macon added she views these types of remarks as a positive to the conversation in the hope it leads to an end of education policy that consists of budget cuts; budget cuts that are not sustainable.

Mrs. Anne Hayes, representing PTSA Advocacy Committee, addressed the Board regarding funding of capital needs, particularly in light of the upcoming ESCo contract and budget development. Mrs. Hayes stated: 'with respect to improvements and maintenance items that come up in the normal course of business, there are two primary ways the school funds these things [*projects*]; 1) the contingency line item in the budget and 2) the capital reserve fund which is used for bigger ticket items.' She added: 'it is my understanding that the capital reserve has never been tapped, but there is talk of doing that now for the roof.'

Mrs. Hayes added; 'the contingency line item had been prudently maintained at a level of 2.5-3% of the operating budget for a number of years, but more recently that level has been diminished. This is a concern because you need a cushion in the budget to pay for unanticipated expenses. Also, anything remaining in the contingency line item had been used to build up the balance in the capital reserve fund which now, fortunately, is somewhere around the \$1 mil range; pending Richmond's audit. As mentioned, the fund has dwindled over time and in 2014 the contingency line item was at 1.5% of the budget, for 2015 it was at 0.89%. The finance committee noted concern at their August meeting stating that with respect to FY14 all but 0.6% of the budget had been consumed with agreement, and this was not consistent with best practice. Mrs. Hayes stated; "we need a new way to build up the contingency line item or we will not be able to repopulate the capital reserve fund."

Continuing, Mrs. Hayes remarked 'with the ESCo contract coming up for approval, I just realized that the total cost of the ESCo contract is \$1.18 mil (or so) and the balance in the reserve fund is \$1.14 mil (or so), so the cost of the contract exceeds the balance in the capital reserve by about \$40,000. It is critical to put money back into the capital reserve account.' From the proposal submitted by Siemens the plan to repopulate the capital reserve will come from energy savings credits, which they [*Siemens*] outlined on a chart showing savings of about \$32,000 in 2016-2017, and going up to \$47,000 at the end of the fifteen

year period. That money is not going to get into the capital reserve fund without some concerted effort on the part of the school and this Board to convert those savings into actual dollars that go into the fund. It would be easy to just move that money around as there are a lot of needs, and apply it elsewhere. Mrs. Hayes added, 'I did see in the finance committee minutes that there has been discussion of earmarking that money so it will go into the capital reserve.'

Remarks concluded with; something that needs to be taken into account, as mentioned, these savings are projected to grow over time, while not exactly sure what that is, Mrs. Hayes assumed it is projecting utility costs will rise over that fifteen year period so that savings will grow. If you are going to use those savings to put money back into the capital reserve, you must also build in utility cost increases. As it stands now even with those credits going back in according to Siemens projections, the balance in the capital reserve fund dips to \$280,000 in 2024, and that is assuming there are no other capital expenditures. I'm aware that Siemens has asked if there are any other anticipated big ticket items, but I'm not sure Siemens understands as well as some of the people in this room do, what a capital improvement plan for a school looks like and what the needs are, given the age of the building and the surrounding facilities. There are items outside of the fiscal building; i.e., the track was mentioned at the town hall which needs about \$200,000 of work. Also, the activity bus will be coming up. Was Siemens asked to take into account other school facilities that are used for PE, athletics and other events? Please factor in these other needs; take a big picture approach, and keep an eye on that capital reserve fund making sure the money does get put in, which is going to take more work on the part of this group and the finance committee to make sure the details are worked out.

With follow-up query, the Chairman asked Mrs. Macon if she was aware of any substantive changes in VSBA's position in support of GS funding. Mrs. Macon noted she had not yet read the minutes and deferred to other members in the room, but believes previous positions related to summer GS programs.

The Chairman thanked today's speakers for their remarks.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- Strategic Planning Committee update. The group of eighteen members met just last evening to work through initiatives and outcomes, and with an eye toward the future, looking at programming for gifted students beyond what they could get in the students' home division.
- Budget Town Hall December 3, 2014. Dr. McGee highlighted the feedback from students and parents', stating the format was productive as it allowed for responses to questions, helping to clarify some misconceptions that may have existed. Compensation, capital and instructional materials were priorities heard that will be considered very seriously in the development of the next budget.

B. January Regional Board Reorganizational Meeting and Elections

- As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the chair, vice-chair and board clerk at the January 15, 2015 meeting.
- A budget work session will follow at conclusion of the reorganizational meeting.

C. (New) Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members and Clerks

- Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, both codes will be presented for adoption at the January 15, 2015 meeting.

D. Coming Events

- December 18, 2014 through January 15, 2015 (see page IX.d for details). MLWGS will be closed for Winter Break December 22nd through January 2nd. Dr. Lane noted there may be a calendar conflict for superintendents on January 15th.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Action Items

a. Policy and Regulation Proposals

Policy No. 1010, Constitution and ByLaws (*Amended*) was addressed separately from other proposals. The Chair spoke of the concept for this amendment to cover the election of one member and one alternate who would serve if the designated member cannot from each local school board. The goal is to consistently achieve a quorum at Regional Board meetings and continue moving forward with the business of the school.

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Policy No, 1010 *Amended* was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Barber left the meeting.

The following additional policies and regulation were submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval:

Policy No. 1029	Allocation and Commitment of Slots <i>Amended</i>
Policy No. 2016	Lactation Support (<i>Companion Policy to 4076</i>)
Regulation 4030-R	Regulation, Student Organization Approval
Policy No. 4076	Lactation Support
Policy No. 6015	Public Conduct on School Property
Policy No. 7002	Insurance Management
Policy No. 7004	Funds for Instructional Materials and Office Supplies

Policy No. 7010	Advertising in School
Policy No. 7012	Grant Programs
Policy No. 7014	Purchasing Authority
Policy No. 7015	Small Purchasing (<i>previously approved as Pol 2030</i>)

Proposed policies and regulation are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

With no additional discussion, on motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley, policies and regulation noted above were unanimously approved.

b. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal – Canada, May 2015 by Matt McGuire

Proposed and reviewed in November 2014, the Director recommends approval of Mr. McGuire’s Canadian Interdisciplinary Trip.

There being no discussion, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by John Axselle, the Canadian Interdisciplinary Trip by Mr. McGuire was unanimously approved.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal – Russia, Summer 2015 by Mike White

Proposed and reviewed in November 2014, the Director recommends approval of Mr. White’s Russian Interdisciplinary Trip.

There being no discussion, on motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Russian Interdisciplinary Trip by Mr. White was unanimously approved.

d. ESCo Projects

No new presentation was provided at this meeting regarding the ESCo project contract. Dr. McGee noted that the Siemens contract has been provided to the Regional School Board attorney for review and they have given their authority for the Regional School Board to award an ESCo contract to Siemens in substantially the form attached to this meeting [*December*], subject to final approval by counsel. Dr. McGee recommends the Board approve awarding Siemens an ESCo contract.

Dr. Lane added that the Superintendent’s Steering Committee have reviewed the contract, along with feedback from the attorney, and are in full support of moving forward.

Dr. Lane also spoke to statements made in public comments that the entire project costs are more than the capital reserve fund balance, stating “that’s not factual.” The energy work planned totals \$485,000 plus \$154,000 roofing, for a combined total of \$640,000.

Mrs. Hayes broke protocol for comment and was allowed to do so by the Chair, asking her remarks be kept brief.

Mrs. Hayes stated that additional work is planned in years 2019, 2021 and 2023, presenting a total expenditure column of \$1,180,640 and the capital reserve balance is \$1,139,378. She looked at the total cost, not just the cost in 2015.

Per Dr. Lane, the Board is only voting on the \$640,000 portion of this project.

Dr. McGee added that out-year roof work does not have an energy savings component to it; however, should be considered required capital work and is provided for transparency. The actual expenditure that is part of the Siemen's guaranteed savings is \$485,147. Roofing and masonry are presented only as capital needs.

As a point of order, the Chair clarified that while it is not normal decorum to allow comments from the floor, this comment was allowed so the Board might fully understand they are not voting on the entire plan, just the portion related to the energy performance contract.

Continuing, the chair added that capital improvement will be addressed in the upcoming budget cycle through a couple of ways: 1) Mrs. Ayer's [*Policy Committee*] has been asked to work on and present a policy that would require this Board to produce a Capital Improvement Plan; said plan to outline needs for some period into the future while also allowing alignment with other kinds of initiatives that may be going on, and 2) development of a plan that helps describe to the boards of supervisors and city councils what the long term needs of MLWGS are. Mr. Hazzard noted there had been such a plan in place which had gotten the commitment of the divisions to support the facility and its operation over the past couple of decades through the renovation project; however, now that their payments are finishing there is a need to codify their continuing commitment going into the future. This [*ESCO*] is the seed idea of what is required to make the school function for decades into the future.

Dr. Lane added the Superintendent's Steering Committee has also been discussing development of a CIP with the Director. However, a larger point to be made at this time is the Board will not be over-expending the amount in the capital reserve by awarding an ESCo contract. He further stated; 'this [*using capital reserve funds*] is the only option available to get work done as MLWGS does not have borrowing authority.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Deborah Marks, an ESCo project contract was awarded to Siemens as quoted pending final counsel review; approved unanimously.

XII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. 2015 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings

The Director recommends review of the proposed 2015 calendar of meetings submitted. Advise of conflicts and/or modifications and be prepared to adopt at the January 2015 meeting.

b. New Policy Proposals

The following policies and regulation were submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board review:

Policy No. 0001	School Goals
Policy No. 1012.c	Disciplinary Committee
Policy No. 8002	Student Conduct

Proposed policies and regulation are grounded in model policies and/or regulations of the Virginia School Board Association. Approval will be requested at the January 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning Policy Proposal No. 1012.c-Disciplinary Committee with questions/concerns expressed about the term of days (10-364) for suspension, unanimous versus non-unanimous decisions, and appeal eligibility.

Dr. Lane offered his support for this proposal as the Regional Board is comprised of twelve members and the requirement of a quorum needed to reach a decision in these cases could prove to be an issue; a sub-committee safeguards that hearings will be conducted and decisions rendered in a timely manner. Dr. Lane further added this proposal is the Code of Virginia.

Mrs. Ayers noted that past suspension cases at MLWGS were handled through committee with appeal to the full Board.

Mr. Phi Tharp advised the Board that Policy Proposal No. 1012.c has been published and practiced in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook for multiple years and shared the appropriate section:

Suspension in Excess of Ten Days-§22.1-277.05

The Superintendent may suspend students from school for more than ten school days following a hearing before the Superintendent/designee. The Superintendent may determine that transfer to another school serves the best interest of the student and the school. The discipline committee of the school board may confirm or disapprove the suspension of a student. A hearing shall be held before the discipline committee within ten days of the date of notice from the Director. If the decision of the three-member committee to uphold the suspension is unanimous, there is no right of appeal. If, however, the decision of the committee is not unanimous, the student and his/her parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the full board. The Board will consider the appeal upon the record of the suspension hearing within 30 calendar days of the appeal. When a student is placed on long term suspension, written notice of the suspension shall be sent in accordance with state law. Failure to file a written appeal within the specified time will constitute a waiver of the right to an appeal.

In conclusion, the Chair asked Board members to confer with their Superintendent and send feedback to Mrs. Ayers. If there are no substantive changes received this policy

proposal will be brought back in January for second read. If there are substantive changes the Board will review again as first read.

XIII. Information Items

Finance Committee Minutes December 4, 2014

Student News:

MLWGS Students Play with Richmond Symphony Orchestra
FIRST Lego League 13th Annual Tournament at MLWGS
The Richmond Forum

Alumni News:

Grads Receive Top Honors from VA Historical Society

Other News:

MLWGS Teachers Present at National Conference

XIV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Al Ciarochi left the meeting.

Dr. Lane reported at their meeting just prior to today's Regional Board meeting the committee discussed the following: strategic plan update as shared by Dr. McGee in his verbal report, ESCo award to make sure they were comfortable with the financials, and the need for a CIP which should be coming in the new year. However, most of the committee's time was consumed on budget discussions and feedback from the budget town hall. Dr. Lane thanked Mrs. Marshall for the notes she took and the documents gathered which were shared with and reviewed by all Superintendents.

Dr. Lane shared news of the Governors' recently released budget which holds K-12 education at level funding and thanked the Governor for this commitment. With this development the Superintendents discussed what they thought their local increase/decrease would be, and a tuition rate recommendation for the Director as he begins FY16 budget development. General consensus on average was a 2% increase.

However, given that Walker has faced larger decreases throughout the last four years the Superintendent's wanted to do a little better and is recommending the tuition go up by 2.75%, or approximately \$200 per student. Within that 2.75%, the Superintendents have asked the Director to address compensation up to 2% increase for staff, permanent placement of \$50,000/year to replenish the capital reserve fund, to look at funds for instructional materials and digital resources, to look at funds for an activity bus, and to continue to build contingency.

Dr. Lane stated: "we've heard the concerns of the community and are committed to addressing them. Hopefully, we will be able to do that within the 2.75% increase."

XV. 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 (7), 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 Valarie Ayers, seconded by Deborah Marks, 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 Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved moving into open session.

XVI. Certification 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 Barbara Crawley, seconded by Deborah Marks, the Board approved closed session certification.

Roll Call Vote on Closed Meeting Certification:

Barbara Crawley Aye

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

XVII. Announcements

Ms. Armstrong announced that a play on her life entitled ‘Those Harvey Girls’ will run January 29th through March 7, 2015 at Swift Creek Mill Theatre. Then, for the joy of all in attendance, shared a brief vocal rendition of a holiday tune.

XVIII. Adjournment

On motion Deborah Marks, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

January 15, 2015 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 McGee, Ph.D, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk