

MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 20, 2011

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Fred Morton, Director of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School 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 Pettitt, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Ivan Mattox, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axelle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
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
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Linda Underwood, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Stewart Roberson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Alvera Parrish, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
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:

Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Robert Cox, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Patti Chappell and Wendy Ellis – Administration, Hal Waller - GS Foundation, Anne Napps – PTSA President, Lynn Foshee Reed – Faculty Liaison to the School Board, John Wilkes – Faculty, Larry Creegor and Richard Peyton - American Spirit Constitution Foundation.

III. Election of Chairman

Nomination: Dianne Pettitt. With no other nominations, on motion by Ivan Mattox, seconded by Lisa Marshall; Dianne Pettitt was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman for 2011 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Director turned the gavel over to Mrs. Pettitt.

IV. Election of Vice-Chairman

Nomination: Kenneth Pritchett. With no other nominations, on motion by Ivan Mattox, seconded by Barbara Crawley; Kenneth Pritchett was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2011 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board.

V. Election of Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Nomination: Barbara Marshall for Board Clerk and Megan Marcinkevich for Deputy Board Clerk. With no other nominations, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Ivan Mattox; Barbara Marshall and Megan Marcinkevich were unanimously approved to serve as Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk for 2011 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board.

VI. Approval of Agenda

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Gwynn Litchfield; the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

VII. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kimberly Gray; minutes as submitted for January 6, 2011 were unanimously approved.

VIII. Recognitions

Maddie Lowman (Richmond), was recognized for her design of the official Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School 20th Anniversary Celebration Logo.

Logan Ferrell (Chesterfield), was recognized for his selection as one of two delegates from Virginia at the 49th annual United States Senate Youth Program to be held in Washington, DC March 5-12, 2011. A \$5,000 college scholarship will be awarded to Logan.

Recognition for students by division with the highest number of community service hours:

Wesley Black – Charles City (*not in attendance*)

Emily Ko – Chesterfield (*not in attendance*)

Allen Qiu – Goochland (*not in attendance*)

Brooke Nancekivell – Hanover (Overall School Leader with 845 hours)

Michelle Shuman – Henrico (*not in attendance*)

Mary Sader – King & Queen

Lindsay Maguire – New Kent

Khalila Roney – Petersburg (*not in attendance*)

Anthony Hennig – Powhatan

Brooke Andrews – Prince George

Charlotte Hawkins – Richmond

Renison Tisdale – West Point

Volvo Construction Challenge Competition Winners: – Jonathan Kim (Chesterfield), Jason Kong (Chesterfield), Cassie Turnage (Hanover), Spencer Pigg (Hanover), Kevin Chen (Henrico), Matt Moliterno (Richmond), and Tucker Dean (Henrico), along with sponsor Georgianne Stinnett of the Fine Arts Department, finished in first place as rally champions on January 15th. Areas of competition included: Transportation Infrastructure, Infrastructure Policy, and Water Management. The team advances to National Championship Finals in Las Vegas on March 21-24, 2011.

IX. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes (in 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, not later than 10:00am on the last business day before the meeting at which they desire to be heard.

Lynn Foshee Reed, Faculty Liaison, addressed the Board on behalf of the Faculty Council to express their appreciation regarding Fred Morton's positive and results-oriented interactions with the Council resulting in the successful resolution for some of the issues brought forward.

X. Director's Report

Mr. Morton updated the following activities for the Board:

International Language Fair, February 26, 2011: Logan Ferrell (Chesterfield) and Mrs. Dawn Grois, International Languages Department, addressed the Board extending an invitation to each of the divisions to participate. The Fair is designed to offer a learning experience in a foreign language outside of the classroom setting to the middle school

language student. A detailed description is included in the Board packet on page 23. Additional information and registration is available at: <http://mlwgslanguage.weebly.com/>

Instructional Report: Mr. John Wilkes, Social Studies Department Chair, addressed the Board and offered a presentation that outlined department goals, philosophy, and priorities. Core to the department is a focus and application extending to research, analysis, and writing and presentation skills. Students are introduced as early as their freshmen year into historical public policy research tasks. Students write regularly and continue throughout their four years at Maggie Walker.

Mr. Wilkes shared the following story to illustrate application of these core skills:

At a recent Columbia University large lecture class, a young man (MLWGS alumni) listened as his professor reviewed what he considered to be an outstanding paper using proper structure, support for the argument(s), and finely crafted research. As this student looked at the sample paper he had been given, his eyes were drawn to the bottom of the page where the professor had left the author's name and he recognized **Ida Girma, (2008)**. The professor stated: "this is how you write."

Mr. Wilkes stated that the notion of application, taking what the students learn each day and giving them a real world experience to exercise that knowledge and skill, is important for both the Social Studies Department as well as the school as a whole. Some examples of such applications are:

- i. In the summer of 2009, Virginia's First Lady, Anne Holton, contacted Mr. Wilkes seeking assistance during an activity she was hosting which would bring all former living Virginia Governors, first ladies, and all their respective staff to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the construction of the Virginia Executive Mansion in 2013 (the longest inhabited Executive Mansion in the United States of America). Ms. Holton sought to capture memories of their time spent in the mansion during office. Mr. Wilkes tasked rising seniors **Mitchell Caudill (2010), Maryam Patton (2010) and Elsa Schultze (2010)** with collecting oral histories. Each student was placed in a separate room within the mansion and each former Governor and first lady came to give their reflections on life in the Executive Mansion. That effort produced approximately 12 hours of digital and transcribed materials which now sit in the Library of Virginia. Tom Camden, Library of Virginia - Archival Unit, intends to use these materials to write the next history of the mansion, which hasn't been updated in approximately 50 years.
- ii. Historical Markers: **Ben Kenzer, (2010)**, engaged in a project last year with Dr. Laurant Lee, the Curator of African-American History at the Historical Society. Dr. Lee was tasked by the Department of Historic Resources to draft a series of historic markers representing African-American contributions in the state of Virginia. Together they researched and drafted over twelve markers which will be on roads in the future.

- iii. For the last two years, several MLWGS students have worked at the gravesite of Maggie L. Walker in Evergreen Cemetery, located in Henrico County, on a beautification project. Collaborating with their efforts, students **Mitchell Caudill (2010) and Justin Pierce (2009)**, from Dan Brown's Civil Rights Class, discovered that all burial records for this cemetery were kept in a metal shed on 3'x5' cards, exposed to the weather. These students digitalized all card records and presented them to management, thus preserving a living, lasting record of who is buried there.
- iv. **Thomas Howard (2008)** is both the creator and the Editor-in-Chief of *The Academical Heritage Review* at UVA. Thomas created this academic journal during his first semester at UVA after he discovered there was no undergraduate research journal at UVA dedicated to history and political science. It did not exist and had not existed for over 50 years. Thomas also utilized the talents of other former MLWGS students as main contributors and copy editors.

The Director asked Mr. Wilkes to identify department courses that would be unique to MLWGS. He cited: specialized seminars in history and government, a year-long seminar on the American Civil Rights Movement, year-long seminars on the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, Comparative Government, American Historiography, and Political Theory.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wilkes for his presentation and congratulated the department for their approach to project based learning that engages students and makes learning relevant.

The Director recognized the significant time investment of teachers who place a heavy emphasis on writing projects, noting the average MLWGS Social Studies teacher carries a class load of 100-120 students and the average paper consists of five or more pages. That teacher then spends approximately 15-20 minutes per paper: 15 minutes/paper/120 students = 30 hours, essentially the equivalent of one full week of instruction.

Mrs. Marshall questioned if it would be possible to generate more press releases recognizing these phenomenal achievements. The Director replied that MLWGS will do so, further responding as he addressed his next item of information.

Constitution Day & Plaque Installation, November 22, 2010: In response to Mrs. Marshall's question, the Director stated that all local print and TV media were informed and then MLWGS followed up with phone calls about this event involving two former governors of national prominence and not one media outlet covered it with the exception of Henrico County TV-Media Services (will provide MLWGS with video copies). The Director discussed the evolution of how the plaques came to be housed at MLWGS - the first high school in the nation to have them. He described the setting of the ceremony: the two governors sat in wing chairs on the stage and responded to questions from students. Sample questions included: "If the framers of the Constitution came back and saw the state of government now, what do you think they would say?" Another was: "What is the toughest constitutional issue you dealt with as governor?" Governor Kaine talked about the

death penalty, his personal religious beliefs, and how that contrasted with the oath that he swore. Another inquiry was what they think the framers would say and how does the constitution speak to the issue of gay marriage. A fascinating dialogue ensued as they discussed the intricacies of civil rights, political leadership, and elected leadership. It was a great day and at the end of their discussion the plaque dedication ceremony was conducted.

The Director introduced Mr. Larry Creeger, President, and Mr. Richard Peyton, National Coordinator of the American Spirit Constitution Foundation (ASCF). Mr. Creeger thanked the Board, Fred Morton, and his staff for the opportunity to place this first set of plaques at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Creeger then described his organization and how they have been working on this initiative for a very long time, as far back as 1986 at the beginning of the Bi-Centennial Commission for the Constitution and the U.S. Presidency. It was the vision of President Ronald Reagan and Chief Justice Warren Berger to bring the Constitution back to the youth of America by creating these replicas of the pages of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. At that time, an artist was commissioned to go into the vault in Washington and lift everything off of the parchment onto film for the first time because the original documents are difficult to read due to fading. In doing so, it made it possible for these plaques to be created. The ASCF's goal is to place a replica set into every school in the nation. ASCF is in a position to work with school systems to assist procuring private funding for this effort.

Mr. Mattox asked what the price range was for a replica set. Mr. Creeger replied it was \$8,500; delivered with standard installation. Mr. Morton stated MLWGS has contributions from two law firms and Media General.

In closing, Mr. Creeger mentioned that ASCF had produced a seven minute video found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zolGuOI64vc> that incorporates numerous pictures from the dedication ceremony. He also reported that Montpelier had recently ordered a set of plaques as a direct result of the ceremony at Maggie Walker. The Director noted that Montpelier was also the sponsoring organization of "We the People".

Night of the Dragon Auction: Anne Napps, PTSA President and Hal Waller, GS Foundation, distributed invitations to this annual event. This year the auction will be held at the Science Museum of Virginia on March 5th.

Testing Information: See page 33 in the Board packet for divisional testing dates of either January 29th or February 5th. Overall, thirty-three more prospective students will be tested than in 2010 for approximately 180 available slots.

Capital Day January 18, 2011: The Director reported that twice the number of participants attended this year compared to last year. Under the leadership of Jane Scheibe and Trish Sigler, who did an extraordinary job in communication and leadership, it was a very successful day.

Coming Events: See Pages 29-30 in the Board packet.

XI. Action Items

Proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2011-2012: Submitted for review at the Board meeting on January 6, 2011. There was discussion about moving the February meeting from the 17th, as listed, to the 24th. On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Ivan Mattox, the proposed calendar of meetings for 2011-2012, including a change of date in February from the 17th to the 24th, was unanimously approved.

XII. Materials for Board Review

FY2010 draft audit from KPMG, LLP is included in the Board packet for review. Mr. Rob Churchman will present the final audit at the February meeting and respond to any questions Board members may have.

XIII. Informational Items

- Dr. John Barnes recognized as Influential Teacher by MIT

XIV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

After congratulating the Chair and Vice-Chair on their elections, Dr. Marcus Newsome discussed the Governor's recent press conference that was followed by a VASS press conference concerning the proposed state education budget. Dr. Newsome stated that over the last couple of years, as divisions have experienced shortfalls, the Superintendents have tried to average the decrease of funding in the region, making that the recommendation for MLWGS. The Superintendents have agreed to meet and talk in more detail about what their recommendations are going to be for MLWGS's budget. Dr. Newsome stated that there will probably be a couple more challenging years ahead, but they don't seem quite as daunting as the past two years.

The Chair thanked Dr. Newsome for his report and called for any other matters of business. Mrs. Litchfield encouraged Board members to participate in the Night of the Dragon Auction event.

XV. Closed Meeting

Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, made a motion for the following action seconded by Barbara Crawley: Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, I move that this Board go into closed meeting to consider a legal matter. The motion was unanimously approved and the Board moved into closed session.

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

Mr. Kenneth Pritchett made the following motion, seconded by Ivan Mattox: I move that 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 Regional Board. The motion was unanimously approved and the Board moved into open session.

XVII. Adjournment

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

XVIII. Next Meeting

February 24, 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