

MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 19, 2017

9:02 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Jonathan Lewis, Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Director called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Introductions (recorded manually by the Clerk)

Each Board is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover 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. Reeve Ashcraft, *School Board*, Prince George 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. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle ‘Micky’ Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Celestine Gaines, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Michael ‘Max’ Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed, Wendy DeGroat, and Deborah Snagg – MLWGS Staff
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation
Peggy Feldmann – PTSA Advocacy Committee
Leslie Hausser – School Advisory Council (late arrival)
Sydney Bland – Citizen
George Nyfeler – PTSA President

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Election of Chair

Nomination: John Axselle was nominated by Valarie Ayers. There being no other nominations from the floor; on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, John Axselle was unanimously elected to serve as the 2017 Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. After congratulations, the Director turned the gavel over to Mr. Axselle.

VII. Election of Vice-Chair

Nomination: Sarah Barber was nominated by Valarie Ayers. There being no other nominations from the floor; on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, Sarah Barber was unanimously elected to serve as the 2017 Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chairman congratulated Mrs. Barber.

VIII. Election of Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Nominations: Barbara Marshall was nominated for Board Clerk and Megan Perez for Deputy Board Clerk by Jonathan Lewis. There being no other nominations; on motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Martha Harris; Barbara Marshall and Megan Perez were unanimously elected to serve as the 2017 Clerk and Deputy Clerk respectively of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chairman congratulated both Clerks.

IX. Announcement of Superintendent's Steering Committee Leadership

Per agreement among the Superintendent's, Dr. Michael Gill will continue to serve in 2017 as the committee Chair. Dr. David Myers will serve as Vice-Chair.

X. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, minutes for the regular meeting of December 15, 2016, were unanimously approved.

XI. Recognitions

- **Clara Giogis ('17-Hanover) – 2016 ACTR Russian Scholar Laureate**, one of only 43 students selected across the United States.
- **Elizabeth Benos ('17-Chesterfield) and Davis Coffey ('17-Richmond)** were recognized for their leadership with the National Honor Society sponsoring a holiday project that benefited the students of Oak Grove Elementary School. Rachel Loving is the faculty sponsor.
- **Wendy DeGroat, Librarian**, winner of a Pushcart Prize, with a poetry reading.

XII. 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.

There were no public comments.

XIII. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Snow Closings for MW: January 9-11, 2017.** The upcoming exam schedule will not be altered.
- **Admission Testing**

The following divisions will test students on Saturday, January 28th:
Goochland, Hanover, Henrico and King and Queen

The following divisions will test students on Saturday, February 4th:
Charles City, Chesterfield, Hopewell, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George and Richmond

Testing Snow Date: Saturday, February 11th
Regional Evaluation Date: Wednesday, February 15th

Total to be tested in 2017	1,160 prospective students
Total tested 2016	1,077 prospective students
Total tested 2015	1,126 prospective students
Total tested 2014	1,186 prospective students
Total tested 2013	1,138 prospective students
Total tested 2012	1,200 prospective students
Total tested 2011	1,163 prospective students
Total tested 2010	1,130 prospective students

- **Capitol Day:** Monday, January 23rd. Walker students will meet with legislators.
- **Board & Superintendent Pictures** – will be taken at the conclusion of the February meetings.
- **Save the Date:** Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, February 25th
- **Niche.com K-12 School and District Ranking:** #4 - 2017 Best Public High School in Virginia; however, several ranking factors were incomplete for MW such as clubs & activities and sports. MW was not included in the 2016 ranking.

<https://k12.niche.com/maggie-walker-governors-school-richmond-va/>

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Niche Local offers rankings and statistics on every neighborhood and city in the U.S. to help people find the best places to live, visit, and raise a family.

B. Coming Events

January 19, 2017, through February 16, 2017 (see page XIII.b for details)

XIV. Unfinished Business

None

XV. Consent Items

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions, fiscal status report of November 30, 2016, and the donations report of November 30, 2016.

XVI. Action Items

a. Code of Conduct for Board Members

Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members is grounded in model code of the Virginia School Board Association. There being no changes from the first read, the Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members was unanimously approved.

b. Code of Conduct for Clerks

Code of Conduct for Clerks is grounded in model code of the Virginia School Board Association. There being no changes from the first read, the Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Code of Conduct for Clerks was unanimously approved.

c. 2017 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings

There being no changes from the first read, the Chair called for a vote. On motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the 2017 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings was unanimously approved.

d. Policy Proposals

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

- Policy No. 2025 Use of Tobacco & Electronic Cigarettes on School Premises
Amended
- Policy No. 4006 Field Trips

On motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the aforementioned policies were unanimously approved.

e. Budget Transfer

Rationale: Budgeted funding requiring payouts dictated by policy noted.

Account Code Decrease 830.0000.0000.0000.3222 Fund Balance Designated	Account Code Increase 830.1100.5896.2280.5224 or 5231
Selling Unused Sick Leave, Policy 5065-R1	Personnel – Non Contract Leave Payout, 3 Employees at \$2,067 Each
Total \$6,201.00	Total \$6,201.00
Payout for Unused Sick Leave, Policy 5065-R1	Personnel – Non Contract Leave Payout, 1 Employee
Total \$17,789.12	Total \$17,789.12

Payout for Unused Vacation Leave, Policy 5065-R3		Personnel – Non Contract Leave Payout, 2 Employees	
Total	\$37,200.94	Total	\$37,200.94
TOTAL:	\$61,191.06	TOTAL	\$61,191.06

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Reeve Ashcraft, the budget transfer request was unanimously approved.

f. Budget Amendment

Rationale: Shortfall of anticipated revenue in tuition for local and state funding. The offset will be reconciled by delaying track resurfacing.

Account Code Decrease 830.0000.5896.000.4151 and 4296		Account Code Decrease 830.1100.5896.2280.5842	
4151- Local Revenue Shortfall	\$23,019.00	Track Resurfacing Delayed	\$57,089.37
4296-State Revenue Shortfall, first semester payment	\$34,070.37		
TOTAL:	\$57,089.37	TOTAL	\$57,089.37

On motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Martha Harris, the budget amendment request was unanimously approved.

g. 2017 VSBA Board Development

Mrs. Barber presented information regarding this activity. To recap, the session will take approximately 4 hours following the April regularly scheduled meeting. The board will be presented with a shortened agenda on that date and move directly into their retreat. The VSBA fee is \$1,000 plus travel expenses to MLWGS.

Mrs. Barber stated this activity will not be effective without 100% member attendance (to include superintendents). Another member stated full attendance is probably required for school improvement.

Below is a summary of the session provided by the VSBA.

Operations: Establishing Board Norms and Protocols (The Way We Do Business)

Effective boards don't just appear, they are developed. One means of developing an effective and efficient board is to create board norms and protocols that serve as a means of communicating beliefs, processes, and best practices. In this session, participants will reflect on their current practices and protocols. Examples will be provided and reviewed with plans made for any changes and revisions to the board's current protocols. Systems for evaluating board procedures and effectiveness will also be shared.

Mr. Ashcraft asked what specific benefit there was to this board. Mrs. Barber responded that some members are more involved than others in board functions and this would be an opportunity to develop norms of how we function as a board and how we support this institution, and to what degree we're involved. There are also members that are not able to make all meetings so this gives us an opportunity to talk about the meeting structure. She added that several of our individual boards have gone through this activity and seen

improvement. However, Mr. Ashcraft expressed concern regarding the current state of the economy and state funding shortfalls and being able to justify this expense to Prince George constituents.

Mrs. Harris asked if there would be anything different to be taken away from for this board versus the training that was received in their local districts. Mrs. Barber said yes, it will be training specific to this body and we will benefit from being involved in this together, adding an objective independent facilitator is needed to help us organize our structure. The Chair agreed with Mrs. Barber's statement, stating a facilitator generally brings out discussion that is beneficial to all members.

Mrs. Smith, substituting for Dr. Siddiqi, shared her experience as a former member of this board stating, "I felt we struggled for the four years I was on this board to create what our commitment to this school is." Adding, "It was easy to come here each month and vote, but the connectivity and the effectiveness of the board I always felt was disjointed as a result of us not having this kind of training. I would now, as someone sitting on the other side, strongly suggest and support the money being put into this, and you're right, it's tight for all of us. But I also think we are responsible in terms of who we represent, we need our individual systems to be more connected coming into this district. I can promise you the money would be well spent just to have the opportunity to have someone to lead because it's hard for someone in this room to lead while they're also trying to participate. I think you would see a stronger effectiveness of governance on this board as a result."

Mr. Ashcraft asked, "if we do this and it's only the same key people that participate do we get a refund or is that the same key people will be doing the training?" Mrs. Barber responded that absence of other people joining us is not a reason to not proceed. Mr. Axselle added that during his many years on this board, development activity has never occurred.

Mrs. Ayers asked if the GS Foundation would cover the cost of this activity. Dr. Ellis responded that the school has money available in the current operational budget for professional development activities funded by the Foundation.

Valarie Ayers made a motion to move forward with 2017 VSBA Board Development for this body. Mr. Kenneth Pritchett seconded that motion. After a split voice vote, the chair called for the clerk to record a roll call vote.

The clerk proceeded with a roll call vote for 2017 VSBA Board Development:

Mrs. Martha Harris	Aye
Mrs. Dianne Smith	Aye
Mr. John Wright	Absent
Mr. John Axselle	Aye
Mrs. Micky Ogburn	Absent
Dr. Deborah Marks	Absent
Ms. Celestine Gaines	Absent
Mrs. Sarah Barber	Aye
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett	Aye
Mrs. Valarie Ayers	Aye

Mr. Reeve Ashcraft	Nay
Ms. J. Scott Barlow	Absent

With six aye votes and one nay, the motion was agreed to.

XVII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy Proposal

The following was submitted by the Policy Steering Committee for Board review:

Policy No. 4032 – Student Publications

Proposed policy is grounded in the model policy of the Virginia School Board Association with a few changes made so this policy is more consistent with MW values. Examples of changes include; the RSB remains listed as the publisher, the director serves as supervisor, the faculty member designated by the director serves as an advisor to the students, and students are listed as editors and journalists. In the tradition of MW, we've always had students serve as editors.

The policy is also specific as to the types of materials we believe should not be part of our student publications and the responsibility of advisors to educate students about the code of ethics. This policy also stipulates that our publications are not intended as a public forum, meaning people do not have a 'right' to be published, the editors and advisors will determine what gets published. But the burden ultimately falls on the director to make sure that everything is consistent with school policies.

Mr. Ashcraft asked that the word 'substantial' be removed from the first bullet point.

Approval will be requested at the February 2017 meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. Contract for Copier Services

Documents supplied for Board review included the request for proposal #2016-C1 and bid opening sheet (detailing vendor bids from Copy-Fax, ESI, and Canon Solutions).

Equipment demonstrations and local references are currently under review.

The Director will make a recommendation for awarding a contract in FY17 and will request Board approval for this action at its February meeting.

XVIII. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes, December 8, 2016.

Dr. Lewis also stated that the audit has begun with David Myers of RPS, sharing the expectation is the audit(s) will be completed by mid-spring. RPS has also agreed to audit MW's internal books.

XIX. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report

Dr. Gill disclosed at the morning meeting the superintendents spent the bulk of their time discussing the state of the budget, wrestling with numbers and programmatic offerings, and state dollar impact verses local. Essentially, there are no new dollars in the Governor’s proposed budget and as far as MW, there will be slightly fewer dollars due to slot commitments. Dr. Gill added that the mandatory VRS increase has affected all divisions.

A small amount of time was spent on the director’s search update. Upon posting the initial announcement, applications in the first weeks were a trickle, but lately, applications have started to come in at a much quicker pace and the quality of those applicants has increased substantially. In addition, we are going to spend a modest amount on advertising in local, national, and international publications. We will continue to follow the timeline originally presented.

Finally, steering committee leadership was discussed as presented earlier.

XX. Closed Meeting

None

XXI. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XXII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Dr. James Lane was awarded the 2016 Impact Award.

XXIII. Adjournment

On motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Martha Harris, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

February 16, 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