

MINUTES

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

Thursday, June 23, 2011

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Dianne Pettitt, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional 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 (late arrival)
Mrs. Lisa Marshall, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mrs. Eileen Long for Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Teresa Lindsay, *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
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point 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 (late arrival)
Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Alvera Parrish, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Ronald Carey for Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools (late arrival)
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:

Mr. Robert Cox, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis and Patti Chappell – MLWGS Administration, Gowri Buddiga – MLWGS Student/Jabberwock News, Anne Napps – PTSA President, Lynn Reed and Michele Surat– Faculty Liaisons, Mary Jo Sisson-Vaughan - Volunteer, and Hal Waller - GS Foundation. Dr. Lyle Evans – Chesterfield County Public Schools arrived late.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the minutes as submitted for May 19, 2011 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

Mary Jo Sisson-Vaughan, Governor’s School Foundation Chairman 2008-2011. Mrs. Sisson-Vaughan was presented with the MLWGS Award Platter in recognition of ten years of service dedicated to this school in multiple capacities; i.e., PTSA President, Auction Chair, and as a volunteer where needed. Mrs. Sisson-Vaughan was also recognized for her numerous contributions and leadership contributing to the growth of the GS Foundation.

Dr. Stewart Roberson – Retiring Superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools. Dr. Roberson was presented with the MLWGS Award Platter in recognition of his service to this school and Board from 1995-2011, and as Chairman of the Superintendent’s Steering Committee 1998-2000.

Anna Spiers and Cassie Turnage (not in attendance) were noted for their recognition as the **2011 Sports Backers-Times Dispatch Scholar Athletes of the Year**, the first time in the twenty year history of this award that the first and second place recipient have come from the same high school.

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.

Mrs. Lynn Reed – Outgoing Faculty Liaison to this Board. Mrs. Reed stated she had three items for address to this board: 1) Graduation – As graduation coordinator she thanked the

board for their attendance at MLWGS's ceremony and stated she was pleased by their large representation at that event, 2) introduction of Michele Surat, the incoming Faculty Liaison, and 3) the Director's search. She stated: "Because Maggie Walker Governor's School regularly competes on a national stage, it is in the best interest of the school that a national search be conducted so that the pool of candidates will encompass as many highly qualified educators as possible. Furthermore, the Board is encouraged to ensure that the identification and selection process of a visionary and dynamic individual is accomplished in an open and timely manner. We understand that a short-term interim director may be necessary until the search for a permanent director is completed. As we move into our third decade of academic excellence we believe it is important to include students, parents, teachers and alumni in the search for Maggie Walker's next leader."

In conclusion, Mrs. Reed thanked the Board for their attention and stated it has been a privilege to represent the faculty to this Board.

VII. Director's Report

Mr. Morton updated the Board on the following:

- The Class of 2011 –
178 Graduates
Volunteer Hours = 37,121 (more than any other class)
Scholarship Awards = 8.6 million (corrected from amount stated at graduation)
Average GPA = Slightly less than 3.9
Average SAT = 2,080
50 students commended to the National Merit Program
20 students recognized as semi-finalists and 20 students recognized as finalists
15 students received substantial scholarship dollars from the National Merit Program
Jason Kong – Presidential Scholar
- William & Mary Summer Enrichment Program at MLWGS under the leadership of Dr. Wendy Ellis and Dr. Tracy Cross, Director of the Center for Gifted Education at W&M, July 5-July 8, 2011. The program is geared toward rising 6-8th graders.

MLWGS will provide space for the program at a reduced rate. In exchange, W&M will 1) provide scholarships to students in our 12 district areas who may have difficulty paying the tuition, 2) allow MLWGS students to work and earn volunteer hours, and 3) provide speakers and professional development to our teachers over the summer and the course of 2011-2012 on a gratis basis.

The three classes that will be offered are: 1) Project Space, 2) Archeology, and 3) Mathematics. Dr. Ellis felt that a timelier and broader advertising campaign would generate a higher enrollment thus more offerings. Dr. Ellis was asked if transportation was provided for participants and replied that it was not which may have been problematic for some students, but would be an issue to address for future programs.

Mr. Mattox asked if Dr. Ellis had received a commitment from W&M for this work to continue in an ongoing capacity. Dr. Ellis responded yes, with this first program viewed as a successful pilot run. Additionally, both parties are discussing the possibility of a Saturday enrichment program during the academic year.

- 20th Reunion Family Picnic held June 11, 2011. Mr. Waller estimated approximately 450 people attended in spite of the hot weather. In addition to the food and entertainment offered, a small ceremony was held recognizing original staff. In honor of all the activities regarding the 20th year anniversary celebration, Mr. Morton presented engraved Jefferson Cups to Patti Chappell, Wendy Ellis, Phil Tharp and Hal Waller for their leadership and planning work behind the scenes.
- Athletic Pavilion groundbreaking occurred on Tuesday, June 21, 2011. Mrs. Pettitt, Mr. Mattox and Mr. Axselle represented the Board.
- Constitutional Plaques have been installed in the Student Commons along with the donor plaque honoring McGuire Woods, LLP and Charles Menges and Penelope Kyle.
- Summer operating schedule is posted on the website with MLWGS open Monday-Thursday starting June 27th. Mr. Morton is leaving for vacation starting today and will be back July 11th.

Coming Events - See Page 21 of the Board packet.

VIII. Action Items

a. Student Fees Schedule 2011-2012

Mr. Tharp addressed pricing changes noted on the schedule presented.

Kimberly Gray made a motion to approve which was seconded by Dudley Olsson.

Ms. Gray asked about the number of students who needed assistance with fees this year and if the Foundation is in a position to assist. Dr. Ellis responded that, “ten students sought assistance, which included fees or other means of help such as field trip support.” Furthermore, she stated MLWGS will be making a concerted effort in the upcoming school year to communicate to families that potentially have needs that can be better served.

There being no further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Student Fee Schedule 2011-2012 as submitted.

b. Personnel

Resignation: Quincy Waller – Social Studies Department, effective June 24, 2011.

New Hires: Samuel Ulmschneider and Stephanie Burr– each in the Social Studies Department, effective August 24, 2011 (corrected from rationale sheet on page 25 of the

Board packet). The Director shared biographies on both teachers and stated that each, while not a criteria, are MLWGS alum.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Ivan Mattox, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved the personnel action requested.

IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. New Club Proposals

The following club proposals are submitted for Board review:

- Voice International Club sponsored by Mr. Greg O'Bryan & Mrs. Libby Germer, Stipend Attached = \$0.00
- The Satire Club sponsored by Dr. Janet Spencer, Stipend Attached = \$0.00
- Maggie L. Walker Chapter of the W.E.B. DuBois National Honor Society sponsored by Ms. Sherri Arnold, Stipend Attached = \$233.00
- Frisbee Club sponsored by Mr. David Barnes, Stipend Attached = \$0.00
- Maggie L. Walker Governor's School 350 Climate Awareness and Policy Organization sponsored by Mrs. Anna Shore, Stipend Attached = \$0.00

Club(s) approval will be requested at the August meeting of this Board.

X. MLWGS Informational Items:

- The Washington Post – Top-performing schools, May 20, 2011
- McGuire Woods & Private Donors Honor MLWGS
- Student News
 - 2010-2011 Awards & Recognitions
 - RTD Scholar-Athletes of the Year Award
 - Key-Club Co-Presidents Honored by Kiwanis International
 - Red Cross Club Honored by the American Red Cross
- Competition News
 - Virginia Math League – 1st Place
- Alumni News
 - MLWGS Alumnus Meets with President Obama
- Planning Committee Minutes, April 12 and May 17, 2011

Mrs. Pettitt questioned the meeting schedule of the Planning Committee with Dr. Ellis responding that while they do regularly meet monthly, some meetings are work sessions and not formal meetings as a committee.

Mrs. Eileen Long left the meeting.

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Newsome commended the Board and Superintendent's for their large representation at MLWGS's recent graduation.

Further, Dr. Newsome expressed appreciation to Fred Morton for his leadership at MLWGS. The Board responded with a round of applause.

The superintendent's have heard the charge from Mrs. Reed, faculty representative, to conduct a search that will find the best applicant possible to continue the leadership and smooth operation of MLWGS. Process steps should include:

- Form a search committee comprised of board members, superintendents (Dr. Newsome will serve) and other volunteers.
- Establish an HR office to organize the search. Dr. Lyle Evans, Assistant Superintendent of Chesterfield County Public Schools, was recognized for his efforts during the last search process and will serve as support this time around.
- Screening process that will include opportunities for the community at large to participate in the process.

Mrs. Dudley Olsson left the meeting.

Dr. Evans briefed the board on the process used two years ago: online surveys completed by constituents with questions developed by the screening committee, an opportunity for constituents to make written remarks, and a community meeting at school for constituents to voice their opinions regarding leadership qualities. Advertising included the entire United States along with several locations deemed helpful, such as gifted advisory groups, which resulted in a large number of applicants (estimated at 75-100). A comprehensive matrix was then developed which was driven by the survey's analysis to screen the applicants down. Dr. Newsome recalled extensive reviews of approximately 12 applicants.

All finalist applicants were brought to the board with a full explanation of the screening criteria. After the screening process a structured interview process was completed in one day in a location off-campus. The panel narrowed the field down to a finalist with follow-up interviews with the entire board who had an opportunity to ask questions. Dr. Evans estimated the entire process took approximately six-seven months.

Dr. Newsome stated the target date for having a permanent director in place is by the end of the first semester.

Mrs. Marshall inquired about the number of panelists on that search committee and the ratio of superintendents and board members. Dr. Newsome indicated 6-7 for the interview phase with 4 or 5 being superintendents and 2 being board members. Dr. Newsome clarified by stating the possibility of developing a completely different structure for this selection. Mrs. Marshall voiced her opinion to see more board member involvement given their community connection. She also stated that Mrs. Diana Winston from the Henrico School Board will be

taking over her (Lisa Marshall) duties suggesting that as a former principal and administrator Mrs. Winston would be a great addition to the committee.

Mr. Axselle commended Dr. Evans for his efforts and time devoted to the previous director search and for being here at the last minute to re-brief the board regarding process. Mr. Axselle further emphasized that potential interested committee members need be cognizant of the time commitment involved.

Regarding the recommendation for more Board participation, Dr. Newsome asked for a point of clarification to determine if this is a recommendation for a panel of eight consisting of four superintendents and four Board members. Dr. Underwood reminded the board that the previous process was not designed for the search committee to interview the final candidate, but to make a recommendation and confer to the full board for another opportunity of discussion. Dr. Newsome noted that the by-laws for most of the Governor's Schools state it is the responsibility of the superintendent's to make a recommendation to the board.

Dr. Russo stated that Henrico County Public Schools would coordinate the MLWGS directors search.

Mrs. Pettitt clarified that this board was not trying to establish the composition of the panel today. However, it was Mr. Mattox's recommendation that the board establish a committee chairperson at this time.

There being no additional comments, on motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded John Axselle, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Ivan Mattox to serve as Chairman of the Director's Search Committee.

In conclusion, Mrs. Pettitt reminded board members of the importance of maintaining confidentiality regarding names of potential applicants.

Mr. Fred Morton left the meeting.

XII. Closed Meeting

Mrs. Pettitt asked for the Clerk to announce the items for closed session.

Mrs. Barbara Marshall stated: "It is my understanding that the School Board desires to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with §2.2-3711.A of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsections, the following items: 1) retirement of specific employees of the Board and 2) employment of specific employees of the Board.

Mrs. Pettitt stated: "Members of the Board, you have just heard the items requested to be discussed in closed session. Do I have a motion in that regard?"

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved closed session.

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

Mrs. Pettitt stated: “Do I have a motion to reconvene in open session?”

On motion by Ivan Mattox, seconded by Lisa Marshall, the board unanimously approved open session.

Mrs. Pettitt requested: “Mrs. Marshall (Clerk) please read the resolution certifying the closed session.”

Mrs. Marshall stated: “Now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening 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 School Board.”

Roll Call and Motion Vote:

Barbara Crawley: Aye
Dianne Pettitt: Aye
Ivan Mattox: Aye
John Axselle: Aye
Lisa Marshall: Aye
Teresa Lindsay: Aye
Kenneth Pritchett: Aye
Valarie Ayers: Aye
Kimberly Gray: Aye
Motion carried

Mrs. Pettitt stated: “Do I have a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Fred Morton?”

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by John Axselle, the Board voted as follows:

Roll Call and Vote:

Barbara Crawley: Aye
Dianne Pettitt: Aye
Ivan Mattox: Aye
John Axselle: Aye
Lisa Marshall: Aye
Teresa Lindsay: Aye
Kenneth Pritchett: Aye
Valarie Ayers: Aye

Kimberly Gray: Aye
Motion carried to accept Mr. Morton's resignation.

Mrs. Pettitt stated: "Do I have a motion to accept Mr. Don Skeen as Interim Director, effective August 1st?"

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by John Axselle, the Board voted as follows:

Roll Call and Vote:

Barbara Crawley: Aye

Dianne Pettitt: Aye

Ivan Mattox: Aye

John Axselle: Aye

Lisa Marshall: Aye

Teresa Lindsay: Aye

Kenneth Pritchett: Aye

Valarie Ayers: Aye

Kimberly Gray: Aye

Motion carried to accept Mr. Don Skeen effective August 1st as Interim Director.

XIV. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting

August 18, 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

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk