

MINUTES

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

Thursday, March 17, 2011

9:05 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
Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools (late arrival)
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County 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 (late arrival)
Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Lorianne Smith, Director of Human Resources & Instruction for Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Alvera Parrish, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent** (late arrival) and Dr. Ronald Carey, Chief of Staff, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. Linda Minor for 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. Teresa Lindsay, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Robert Cox, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point Public Schools

Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis – MLWGS Administration, Lynn Foshee Reed – Faculty Member and Faculty Liaison to the School Board, Barrett Brown – Faculty, Anna Dyer – Parent, Doug Hunt – Retired MLWGS Director, and Hal Waller - GS Foundation.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Notification of Minutes

Due to the short time frame between February 24, 2011 and the mailing date of this packet, minutes for the last meeting will be presented on April 14, 2011.

V. Recognitions

2011 National Achievement Finalists & Recipients. Senior Counselors Penny Deck and Susan Eschenroeder presented certificates to the following students who competed for this award against 160,000 initial entrants, narrowed to 1,600 semi-finalists, then 1,300 finalists:

Cynthia Andrianjatovo, Henrico - **Recipient**
Cheta Emba, Henrico - **Recipient**
Nelson Malone, Richmond - **Finalist**

RTD African American Trailblazers Essay Contest Winner. Faculty member Michele Surat introduced the following winners from this statewide competition:

Samya Dyer, Richmond – **Winner**
Daisy Banta, Henrico – **Honorable Mention**

Indoor Track School Record Breaker in the 1600 meter run, District Champion in the Mile and MVP of the Meet, All-Region and All-State Honors and the 3rd Place Runner at the State Championship. Coaches Jim Holdren and Deborah Snagg introduced the following standout athlete:

Anna Spiers, Chesterfield

BOB (Battle of the Brains) Team – 1st Place VHSL State Scholastic Bowl Championship, for the second consecutive year. Faculty member and team sponsor Dr. John Barnes introduced the following team members:

Tommy Casalaspi, Chesterfield
John Roach, Chesterfield
Jordan Bekenstein, Henrico
Seung-Hwan Kim, Henrico
Saamil Bandyopadhyay, Henrico

Harvard Model Congress Gavel Winners earning Certificates of Excellence for their debate, bill-writing, and committee task work:

John Roach, Chesterfield, as Rep. John Boehner in the House Committee on Agriculture.
Johnny Mac Yates, Richmond, as Sen. Saxby Chambliss in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.
Leon Hu, Henrico, as Sen. Lindsay Graham in the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs.
Stephen Dwyer, Chesterfield, as Rep. Thaddeus McCotter in the House Committee on Education.
Chris Benos, Chesterfield, as Sen. John Thune in the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Debate Team 1st Place VHSL Districts and 1st Place at the CFL (Catholic Forensics League) State Championship. Faculty member Dan Brown introduced the following team members:

Aya Kellam, Richmond – 1st Place in Public Forum
Laura Merchant, Richmond – 1st Place in Public Forum
Arthur Wu, Chesterfield – 2nd Place in Public Forum (tie)
Ben Zavelsky, Henrico – 2nd Place in Public Forum (tie)
Olivia Baumann, Henrico – 2nd Place in Public Forum (tie)
Maggie Chambers, Hanover – 2nd Place in Public Forum (tie)

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.

There were no public comments.

VII. Director's Report

Instructional Report – Mrs. Barrett Brown, International Languages Department Chair, addressed the Board and offered a presentation that illustrated MLWGS's extraordinary cultural and linguistic experience through languages, travel opportunities, summer Governor's School Language Academies, clubs, honor societies, and national competitions noting that the commitment to this cultural/linguistic experience has been in place since the beginning of MWLGS.

Mrs. Brown stated that as Board members you want to know if we (the International Languages Department) are supporting the mission of this school and are we producing global citizens. An obvious statistic offered as evidence are our AP scores, medals won, or international language exam scores, which are exceptional. Also offered were alumni testimonials that speak to how we are succeeding in these goals:

“I was expecting Spanish to be a very common language barrier in medicine, but I am surprised at how many incidents have dealt with French, Russian, and German speaking patients. I am really grateful that I’ve had at least some exposure to so many different languages during high school.”

Shravan Kumar – MLWGS Class of 2006
VCU Premed Graduate CERT Program

“...though I didn’t take Russian, Chinese, or Japanese, I knew students who did. It was often the case that their interests/passions for those other languages made impressions on me, and I developed an awareness and interest I would not otherwise have had for those languages and cultures—even without being in the classes.”

Chris Highley – MLWGS Class of 1997

“The study of German literally shaped my life.”

Jack Sheu – MLWGS Class of 2001
Head of Marketing, eBay USA

“Much of what you learn in high school and college is purely academic—that is, you may learn a vast number of interesting subjects, but that knowledge will quickly fade when you get a job and need to hone your skill sets for that particular job. International languages, however, are different. You get to keep them in your toolbox for years to come. I’ll always be grateful to the Governor’s School for pushing me towards international languages before I even knew how important and lasting that toolbox would be.”

Jamey Stegmaier – MLWGS Class of 1999

MLWGS offers ten languages taught by eleven full-time faculty, two part-time faculty, and one faculty member who is shared between different departments. Considerations of the language department are: are we fulfilling the mission of the school and are we developing responsible members of the community. Instruction explores the balance between high tech and face-to-face conversation and a curriculum that has common themes and assessments throughout the languages. It is also important to show our students how other cultures struggle with this same balance.

Mrs. Brown expressed her and the department’s gratitude to the Board for bringing back the international travel experience, which has proven to be a life changing event for our students. She also thanked them for their support as we move toward dual enrollments for the student who tops out with our AP program but wishes to continue in a particular language; and lastly, for the support offered to strengthen and continue interdisciplinary, inter-curricular planning.

The Chair and the Director thanked Mrs. Brown for her presentation.

Pavilion Naming Notification and Bid/Construction Update. A copy of the pavilion naming notice posted in Smoke & Scales is provided on page 12 of the Board packet. Community comments support the recommended action requested today.

Bid packets have been released and their opening will occur on March 24th.

Class of 2015. Offer letters to accepted students in each locality were recently mailed. Nearly 1200 students applied for 178 slots. New student registration is scheduled for the evening of April 11th.

Elementary School Counselors Workshop, April 12th – 13th. Similar in design to the earlier Middle School Counselors Workshop, this program will offer an overview and tour of MLWGS.

AP Exams: 467 students have registered for 1,187 AP exams (up 10.4% from last year and up 45% since 2008).

MLWGS Drama presents Guys and Dolls, March 17-19, 2011.

GSMUN Conference, March 26th -27th. Overview presentation by Faculty Coordinator, Michael “Max” Smith and Student Director-General, Maggie Chambers. GSMUN XIV is the largest conference ever held by MLWGS with an enrollment of 460 delegates from twenty-three schools. Districts participating include: Chesterfield, Henrico, New Kent, Richmond, Prince George, Powhatan, and private academies. The Keynote Speaker is Ambassador Jacques Paul Klein.

Middle School Science Day, April 2nd. The Director reported a low response at this time and is seeking assistance from Board members within their districts to promote this activity.

Coming Events - See Pages 16-17 of the Board packet.

20th Anniversary, March 31st and Alumni Showcase, April 1st. The Director highlighted activities and guests that will be featured in this historical review and showcase.

Shadow Days for Prospective Rising 9th Graders, March 21st -23rd – noted on page 16 of the Board packet.

VIII. Action Items

a. 2011-2012 School Operating Calendar:

The Director and Phil Tharp discussed calendar planning, noting that winter and spring breaks align with the major school divisions. Specific division planning and/or work days vary. No major transportation issues are expected.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by John Axelle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the 2011-2012 operating calendar was unanimously approved.

b. Naming of Athletic Pavilion

The Director acknowledged and recognized Mr. Hunt's attendance at this meeting and recommended the new athletic field structure be named the "N. Douglas Hunt Athletic Pavilion."

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kimberly Gray, naming the new field structure the N. Douglas Hunt Athletic Pavilion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hunt thanked the Board for this honor, commenting that he had seven wonderful years at MLWGS and will always have a special place in his heart for this school. He stated: "MLWGS is a great place to be and we should all feel proud and honored to be a part of it."

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hunt for his service stating he brought great stability to MLWGS and his interactions with students and faculty was very positive.

IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. FY2012 Proposed Operating Budget:

The Director provided each member a FY12 budget proposal at the table, noting exact funding data was received last week from the State. Approval for this proposal will be requested at the April meeting. The Director then asked Mr. Tharp to present a budget review for the Board.

Handouts provided compared revenues from FY11 (amended) to FY12 proposed budgets, and includes adjustments based on recently received state funding data. Mr. Tharp called attention to an increased in tuition revenues, attributing the adjustment to Charles City obtaining one additional slot. This proposal is based on an enrollment of 718 students. Also noted, State funding is down from 100% Hold Harmless levels last year to less than 50% reflecting a change from \$77,995 to \$28,627. Projected total revenue loss is approximately \$41,923 from FY11 with adjustments to VRS and additional healthcare (projecting 10% increase) increasing expenses by \$120,497.

Hal Waller's position will be funded by the GS Foundation at 75% (up from the flat rate of \$25,000 for 11 months +12th month at 100% in FY11) of his cost to MLWGS, which is closely equivalent to the loss of Hold Harmless funding. The salary scale remains frozen at FY09 levels. Reductions have been targeted for expenditures of non-professional services, materials and supplies. However, the bulk of making this proposal balance is redistribution of contingency in the operating budget into other areas to make up for increases.

As detailed in the FY10 audit report: carry forward of encumbrances was \$94,610 and restricted liabilities for sick leave/vacation pay are fully funded with increases of approximately \$10,000 each year to cover the anticipated retirement of older faculty. Designations for capital improvement funds are held in reserve for 1) construction/major

repair for a future roof replacement and 2) equipment repair. In summary, MLWGS Administration feels comfortable that we can operate within these levels without tuition increases and absorbing funding losses from the State.

The Director highlighted contingency monies in the amended budget reflect a reallocation to other areas as issues arose that needed to be dealt with. Mr. Tharp cited the recent replacement of a hot water boiler at a cost of over \$15,000 as example.

The Director stated it is necessary to maintain/build on the capital reserve fund to cover costs of a future roof replacement (estimated in today's dollars at 1.5 million) as MLWGS does not have any bonding ability.

Lastly, the Director discussed year-end anticipated monies originally allotted during budget development last year for VRS but later holidayed, at a savings of approximately \$100,000 which MLWGS has not spent. The Director is requesting to use these year-end monies for a one-time compensation adjustment that is comparable to what several of our participating school divisions will be doing.

X. MLWGS Informational Items:

- MLWGS Students & Faculty with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
- Freshman to attend American Physical Society Meeting
- Student Coordinator of MLWGS Cultural Fund Raiser
- Students Awards & Recognitions 2010-2011
- Finance Committee Minutes, February 3 and March 3, 2011
- Finance Committee Minutes for January 6, 2011 provided at table

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

None

XII. Closed Meeting

None

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

XIV. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting

April 14, 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