

MINUTES

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

Thursday, March 16, 2017

9:07 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Mrs. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen 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. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Mr. Al Ciarochi, **Assistant Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Eric Rhoades, **Director of Curriculum**, Richmond 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. Reeve Ashcraft, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

Also present:

Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed, Penny Deck, Rachel Loving, Deborah Snagg, and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation
Leslie Hausser – School Advisory Council
George Nyfeler – PTSA President
MLWGS Student National Merit Finalists

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Martha Harris, the minutes for the regular meeting and budget work session of February 16, 2017, were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- **MLWGS ranks #11 in The 100 Best Public High Schools in the US.**

The best public high schools serve all students for a wide range of life paths. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the United States has more than 24,000 public secondary schools; based on their research the huge list includes many exceptional public high schools. <http://www.thebestschools.org/rankings/best-public-high-schools-us/>

With nearly a million page views a month, TheBestSchools.org is a leading resource for prospective students seeking a degree program or following news within higher education. Many U.S.-based universities cite the rankings and news articles, including Auburn, Texas A&M, and Fordham.

- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists**

Of the 1.5 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest [PSAT/NMSQT®](#) Selection Index scores (critical reading + mathematics + writing skills scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit® Scholarship Program. In September 16,000 semifinalists were notified that these high scorers met all requirements to advance to finalist standing in the competition.

All winners of Merit Scholarship® awards (Merit Scholar® designees) are chosen from the Finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. A variety of information is available for NMSC selectors to evaluate: the Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.

The thirteen (13) MLWGS National Merit Scholarship Finalists were:

Ketty Bai (Henrico)	Corinne A. Burch (Henrico)
James Caven (Richmond)	Isha Gangal (Henrico)
Gabrielle A. Grob (Henrico)	Jessica L. Kong (Chesterfield)
Parth H. Kotak (Henrico)	Andrew S. McCullough (Powhatan)
Rowan A. McDowell (Chesterfield)	Harish Tekriwal (Henrico)
Eva I. Tsow (Richmond)	Charles J. Yang (Henrico)
Annie Zhang (Henrico)	

- **Boys & Girls Swim Team VHSL 2A East State Champions**

The teams were recognized for: 1) the 3rd consecutive state title win for the girls and 2) the 1st title for the boys'. Coaches Matthew Chocklett and MacKenzie Gray were acknowledged in absentia for their commitment to these athletes.

- **Girls Diving Team VHSL 2A East State Champions**

It was a third consecutive state title win for Maggie Walker diver Allie Bekenstein ('18 - Henrico) at the 2017 VHSL 2A Swim and Dive State Championships in the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. Allie took 1st in the women's 1-meter dive competition on February 15th with a score of 380.25. MW's Anna Jepson ('20 - Chesterfield) finished second in this championship with a score of 372.40.

- **Girls Indoor Track State Champions**

Khloe Pointer, Mary Caroline Heinen, and Josie Martin combined to sweep every distance event, and the Maggie Walker GS girls ran away with their **fourth consecutive title** at the 1A/2A state indoor track and field championships at Roanoke College this past Thursday [March 9].

The Green Dragons girls totaled 132.5 points, well above second-place Wilson Memorial's 59.5. The boys placed third with 59 points, halting their streak of state indoor titles at three.

- **MW's VHSL Scholastic Bowl Champions**

Maggie Walker's Scholastic Bowl team won the 2A title at the Virginia High School League twentieth annual Scholastic Bowl on Feb. 25 held in the Sadler Center at the College of William and Mary. Walker's team went undefeated in all their matches.

Teams from around Virginia competed by answering a wide variety of questions in subjects ranging from Beethoven's music to foreign policy, 19th-century poetry, and more.

Team Members: Collin Carder, Catherine Qian, Christian Moore, Parth Kotak, and Akshata Pisharody were undefeated in all their matches. **Team Sponsors:** Mrs. Hana Voight and Ms. Juanita Lasswell.

VIII. 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.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Prospective Student Shadow Days by Division:**
 - Monday, March 20th – Chesterfield
 - Tuesday, March 21st – Charles City, Goochland, Hopewell, King & Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George and Richmond
 - Wednesday, March 22nd – Hanover and Henrico
 - Thursday, March 23rd – Division Visitation for Alternates
- **March month-long student Dodgeball Tournament at MLWGS with proceeds to benefit the Cameron Gallagher Foundation.**
- **International Language Fair for Middle School Students at MLWGS, March 4, 2017.** Many students attended from all over the Richmond Metro-Area.
- **March is Youth Art Month with Student Exhibition at MLWGS, March 10, 2017.** To help celebrate, we had our annual student art exhibition on Friday, March 10th from 5:00-7:00 pm in the 2nd-floor main hallway at Maggie Walker. Comments took place at 6:00 pm. Students enrolled in Photography and other Visual Arts classes will have their artwork exhibited in this exhibition. The show will run through March.
- **SABR Competition, March 8-12, 2017 in Phoenix.** This competition pits undergraduate students from colleges and universities across the country against each other in an analytic major league baseball operations decision — the type of decision a team's general manager and staff are faced with over the course of a season. *Faculty Sponsor: Dickson Benesh.*

B. Coming Events

March 16, 2017 through April 20, 2017 (see page IX.b for details)

C. *Find Your Calm: Quiet Spaces at MLWGS.* Student location can be found in the Counseling office suite; teacher location in room 236.

D. *GSMUN XX*

On the weekend of March 24-25, both the Richmond Forum and the 20th Annual Governor's School Model United Nations Conference (GSMUN XX) will bring the region together to learn about our world.

The Honorable Ehud Barak, former Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of Israel, and Dr. Mohamed Elbaradei, Director General Emeritus of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will be at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School on Saturday, March 25th to speak with middle and high school students from the Richmond Region. The two will discuss Middle Eastern peace prospects, following the theme "Peace in the Middle East: Prospects and Roadblocks." In past years, GSMUN has been lucky enough to have many prestigious speakers, including Ben Bernanke, former Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia.

GSMUN brings students together from surrounding counties and cities to debate important international issues and to develop diplomacy in the next generation of world leaders. In March 2016, over 500 delegates from schools in central Virginia and surrounding areas discussed, debated, and found solutions for some of the greatest challenges facing our world today. The student-led Secretariat of GSMUN XX looks to expand the impact of the Governor's School Model United Nations Conference in 2017.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Sarah Barber, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions, fiscal status report of January 31, 2017, and the donations report of January 31, 2017.

XII. Action Items

a. Policy Proposal

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

Policy No. 5065-R14 – Civic Leave

Proposed policy is grounded in a model policy of the Virginia School Board Association and one of Walker's participating school divisions.

On motion by Javaid Siddiqi, seconded by John Wright, Policy 5065-R14 for Civic Leave was unanimously approved.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. FY18 Operating Budget

Executive Summary

Total Revenue

Local - \$5,904,750

State - \$2,348,575

Miscellaneous - \$91,000

Total Revenue - \$8,344,325

Local Revenue anticipates \$5,904,750 and an enrollment of 750 students (down from 758 in FY'17) at a tuition of \$7,873, which is a \$200 increase (2.61%) from the current year tuition. State Revenue anticipates \$2,348,575, which is \$38,226 less than the adopted FY'17 state revenue of \$2,386,801. Miscellaneous Revenue of \$91,000 comes from building rental, lunch receipts, dual enrollment receipts, and the state technology initiative. Overall, the revenue increase from approved FY'17 to proposed FY'18 is \$46,896 (.57%).

Total Expenditures

Increases to expenditures include, in part, Virginia Retirement System at \$83,280 (12.7%); health insurance at \$52,277 (7.8%); salary and benefits at \$114,570 (2.0%); security at \$3,500; testing at \$5,000; and the addition of a part-time payroll clerk at \$16,865. Please note: additional increases were made to address anticipated inflationary increases to fixed expenses. *Reductions to expenditures* include, in part, track repair at \$80,000; technology pilot at \$50,000; new technology hardware at \$50,000; laptop lease at \$27,800; personnel reserves at \$14,000; and legal services at \$9,000. Please note: track repair and technology will be purchased using the capital fund.

Total Expenses - \$8,344,325

b. Policy and Procedure Proposals

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

Pol 3015 – Character Education

Pol 4045 – Student Records

Procedure 5021.1 – Support Staff Grievances

Retire Procedure 5023 – Classified Employees' Grievance

Proposed policy and procedure is typically 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.

Approval will be requested at the April 16, 2017, meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes, March 2, 2017
- 2016-17 Scholastic Writing Winners
- 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, Top Youth Volunteers, MW Finalist
- Walker Junior Earns Seat for All-State Orchestra
- Walker Senior in Virginia Finals of Poetry Out Loud Contest
- Walker Team is the 2017 Regional Debate Winner
- MLWGS Math Modeling Team Wins as the ONLY high School in the nation at SABR Conference, Phoenix, March 9-11
- Faculty: Dr. Oreska Addresses Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellan at Teacher Workshop
- Alumni: With 'No Burden' Lucy Dacus is going places

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Gill announced there were eight superintendents present this morning and the bulk of their meeting time was spent covering the FY18 budget presentation. A few minutes were also spent on personnel issues that will be covered in closed session.

XVI. Announcements/Additional Discussion

- VSBA Board Development for the MLWGS RSB is scheduled for April 20, 2017, at the conclusion of the regular business meeting.
- Dr. Eric Jones, Powhatan, named Region 1 Superintendent of the Year.

XVII. Public Hearing for FY18 Budget Proposal

The MLWGS Public Hearing comment 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.

Citizens may express their views in writing in lieu of any oral presentation or may use the feedback form provided here:

https://docs.google.com/a/gsgis.k12.va.us/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCyTnSq_AebPMgaGkTtRqFX-wAULSGzdiZobUafdftrkwdzg/viewform?c=0&w=1

There were no public comments.

XVIII. Closed Meeting

The Chairman announced the item for closed session:

Do I hear a motion 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, the following items:

Number 1: [Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the School Board. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter which involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the School Board.]

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Deborah Marks, the Board unanimously approved moving into closed session. The recorder was paused and the door closed.

At the conclusion of the closed session, the Clerk was invited back and asked to record a motion to reconvene in open session.

On motion by John Wright seconded by Sarah Barber, the Board unanimously approved moving into open session.

XIX. Certification of Closed Meeting

The Chairman read the certification of closed session statement:

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 Micky Ogburn, seconded by John Wright, the Board unanimously approved closed session certification.

XX. Adjournment

On motion by Scott Barlow, seconded by Deborah Marks, this meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

April 20, 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