

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 19, 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:

Mr. Roy Campbell for Mrs. Barbara Crawley, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *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  
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. Bob Staley for Dr. Stewart Roberson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools (late arrival)  
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 (late arrival)  
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:

Mr. Ivan Mattox, *School Board*, Goochland 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:

Wendy Ellis and Patti Chappell – MLWGS Administration, Gowri Buddiga – MLWGS Student/Jabberwock News, Anne Napps – PTSA President, Rob Comet – BCWH Architects (late arrival), Bill Yates - Parent, Sharon Parker – Faculty, Steve Hackworth – Martin’s Carytown Store Manager, and Hal Waller - GS Foundation.

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

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

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Roy Campbell, the minutes as submitted for April 14, 2011 were approved, with Valarie Ayers abstaining.

### **V. Recognitions**

**2011 U.S. Presidential Scholar Jason Kong (Chesterfield).** Senior counselor Penny Deck introduced Jason Kong and acknowledged his selection as a 2011 honoree of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. Jason is one of two students selected within Virginia (one male and one female scholar is chosen from each state) based on their demonstrated leadership, scholarship, contribution to school and community, and outstanding accomplishments in the arts, sciences, humanities, and other fields of interest. All scholars chosen are invited to National Recognition Weekend (NRW) in Washington, D.C. in June and are accompanied by the teacher of their choice for recognition as their most inspiring and challenging educator. Jason has chosen Bob Jenkins from the international languages department for this honor. A high point of the weekend will include the presentation of the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion to each scholar and the chance to meet President Obama.

**National Merit Scholars.** Senior counselor Penny Deck presented certificates to the following student scholars:

**Sarah Davidson** – Chesterfield (New Market Foundation Scholarship from NMSC)

**April Smith** – Chesterfield (State Farm Companies Foundation Scholarship from NMSC)

**Newtowne Tutoring Leadership, Sarah Davidson (Chesterfield), Claire Porte (Henrico).** The Newtowne Tutoring Project is a student-led, student-organized outreach program involving Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School student volunteers and students in the neighborhood who come once a week after school for help with their school assignments. Each session includes one-on-one tutoring, a snack, and organized play. The student leaders advertise this program in the neighborhood, plan the activities, recruit and train volunteer tutors, order supplies, and then select the leadership for the following year. This year 30 neighborhood children took part in the tutoring project – many for the fourth or fifth year.

**Jack Miller (Richmond) wins Richmond City Tribute to Talent Contest.** Introduced by Jeff Hall, fine arts department chair, Jack is the first visual arts winner for his sculptures, photographs, and paintings dealing with mathematical structures.

**Lexus Award – Pursuit of Perfection Qualifiers.** Additional weekly qualifiers **Anna Spiers** (Chesterfield) and **Marc Breidenbaugh** (Hanover) were recognized by the Board. Each year there are 30 student qualifiers for this award making it impressive that MLWGS had 5 of those spots this year. Ms. Spiers noted that during the previous evening’s reception the Lexus Award program chose a student from Clover Hill as their overall scholarship winner, but stated that, in addition to the honor of being nominated, each weekly qualifier received both radio and TV interviews.

**National Latin Exam Perfect Score Competitors.** Teachers Dr. Cliff Broeniman and Steven Ross introduced perfect score achievement for the following students: **Christine Gao** (Chesterfield), **Neelam Jhurani** (Henrico), **Eric Ott** (Chesterfield), **Madeline Wyatt** (King & Queen), **Andrea Yeh** (Henrico), and **Conan Zhao** (Henrico). Only 6 out of 100,000 testers obtain a perfect score.

**Classical Association of Virginia Statewide Exam Winners.** **Grace Gardiner** (Chesterfield) and **Lia Russell** (Richmond). Dr. Broeniman noted that this group of students actually started their Latin studies at MLWGS. 96% of MLWGS students that took the exam received national recognition.

**Samantha Marquez (Chesterfield) wins at International Science & Engineering Fair.** Introduced by her teacher Anna Shore, Samantha was recognized for representing the Richmond area as the Grand Prize Winner in the Metro Richmond Science Fair. Samantha won Best in Category at the Intel ISEF which was held in Los Angeles this past week. As one of only 17 Best in Category winners, Samantha was awarded an \$8,000 cash prize, plus \$1,000 for MLWGS and \$1,000 for the Metro Richmond Science Fair. The Intel ISEF draws from over 6 million science research projects from 65 countries. Samantha’s project was entitled “Celloidosomes: A Journey Toward the Bioengineering of Artificial Micro-Glands and Micro-Bioreactors.” Possible applications for her project include directed pharmaceutical delivery, gene therapy, and hormonal transport. Samantha currently holds six patents: 3 in the United States and 3 internationally.

**National History Bowl Champions.** Dr. John Barnes introduced David Madden, Director of the National History Bowl, for presentation of the championship trophy that is modeled after The Stanley Cup. **Tommy Casalapi, John (J.R.) Roach, Steven Roach** (all from Chesterfield), and **Vasa Clark** (Henrico) are the first winners of the new National History Bowl Competition. The Maggie Walker team bested over 400 varsity level teams from across the nation. In conclusion, Mr. Madden presented the school with a \$1,000 check in recognition of its national championship victory; said check to be deposited into the student activity account used to cover team expenses.

**We the People Wins National Championship.** Led by MLWGS social studies teacher **Matt McGuire**, the following 17 seniors were recognized for their 1<sup>st</sup> place victory at the

national competition: **Olivia Baumann** (Henrico), **Maggie Chambers** (Hanover), **Charles Condro** (Chesterfield), **Sarah Davidson** (Chesterfield), **Molly Dawson** (Richmond), **Logan Ferrell** (Chesterfield), **Jason Kong** (Chesterfield), **Roy Ma** (Henrico), **Shannon Marwitz** (Chesterfield), **Laura Merchant** (Richmond), **Laura Merriman** (Richmond), **Cole Pearce** (Hanover), **Ishani Premaratne** (Henrico), **J.R. Roach** (Chesterfield), **Kerry Sawyer** (Henrico), **Carly Spraggins** (Henrico), and **Rosa Waters** (Richmond).

**Recipient of a 2011 NEH Summer Award to Study Emily Dickinson in Amherst.**  
**Denise Yagel** - English department chair (not in attendance).

**Class of 2011 Graduation Announcements.** Senior Class Co-Presidents **Cassie Turnage** (Hanover) and **Madison Swart** (Henrico) extended commencement invitations to the Board. Graduation will be held on June 17, 2011 at the Landmark Theater.

## **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**

**Senior Showcase: Sharon Parker** – Senior Showcase Program Coordinator, along with seniors **Logan Ferrell** (Chesterfield) and **Marc Breidenbaugh** (Hanover), extended invitations to Senior Showcase on June 8, 2011, which is the culminating activity for the Senior Seminar/Mentorship Program where each of the students create a presentation about their year of study. Ferrell and Breidenbaugh described their personal mentorship experiences.

Mrs. Pettitt inquired about the number of students in this program. Ms. Parker stated that there are currently 58 in mentorship and 121 in seminar classes. The Class of 2012 will see 65 students in mentorship and 113 in seminars. Ms. Parker acknowledged that finding student mentors is a major component of her position, but felt fortunate to have the resources of the VCU/MCV community, especially because MCV is a teaching hospital which is where approximately one third of her medical mentorships are placed.

**Martin's School Rewards Check Presentation** - Mr. Steve Hackworth, Store Manager - Carytown, presented a check in the amount of \$1,855.85 raised through participation in the A+ School Rewards Program. MLWGS placed in the top ten schools in the south region. Mr. Axselle thanked Mr. Hackworth and Martin's for their partnership that supports our community. Mr. Morton stated that these funds will be added to the account that supports student activities.

## **Updates:**

**We the People** is a congressional approved program funded through the Center for Civic Education in Washington, D.C. with state funding in Virginia managed through Montpelier; however, it is funded as an earmark as opposed to a fixed line item. All earmarks were removed in the last budget cycle so funding could disappear for this program. CCE is requesting Congress put this program and other like programs into a funding stream.

**The Class of 2011** appears to be on track to match or better the **scholarship award** value from the Class of 2010, which was a record year for students at MLWGS.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Freshmen Parent Orientation**, Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This evening is designed to support the parents for their transition to MLWGS.

The **GS Foundation** fundraising goal for 2010-2011 of \$200,000 has been met and exceeded by \$21,000.

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Family Picnic**, Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. This is the culminating event for the MLWGS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Graduation for the Class of 2011**, Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, at the Landmark.

**Coming Events** - See Pages 24-25 of the Board packet.

## **VIII. Action Items**

### **a. Athletic Pavilion Revised Budget**

Mr. Morton acknowledged Rob Comet, of BCWH Architects and Bill Yates, parent and GS Foundation member.

The Director reminded the Board that during their April meeting they approved awarding a construction contract in the amount of \$335,188. At that time the impression was that that amount was within project costs; however, it was within project in terms of the construction amount, but not within total project costs. He asked Board members to refer to page (28) of their packet for a current break-down of total project costs.

Mr. Morton stated that at the time the Board packet was prepared there was uncertainty about funding resources for the additional project monies needed and there was a possibility that it would become necessary to look to this Board for permission to authorize up to \$20,000 from the CIP fund currently at \$1.2 million. Mr. Morton stated that he was pleased to announce that through the efforts of the PTSA, Athletic Boosters, GS Foundation, and individual grants, the monies have been completely raised to meet the needs for the increased projects costs and there does not need to be a request for authorization to use CIP funding. Approval today is sought to increase the total project cost that will allow MLWGS to manage these expenses.

Mr. Comet addressed the Board regarding the rationale behind project cost increases. He stated that:

1. The original budget incorporated available deductive alternates built into the bids, primarily a shingle roof in lieu of a metal roof. However, a decision was made initially by the donors not to use these alternates to maximize life expectancy and minimize maintenance issues. BCWH and the MLWGS administration also recommend opting out of the deductive alternatives.
2. Increased costs through the City of Richmond permit process. Additional inspections and design changes were requested to proceed with this project.
3. A misunderstanding by the architect about construction costs and total project costs.
4. Site work is much more expensive than anticipated because of the condition of the land the pavilion will be developed on.
5. Construction costs rising due to a shortage of materials.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the Board approved amending the adjusted total project cost of the athletic pavilion construction to \$402,488. All funding will be provided by donations from the PTSA, Athletic Boosters, GS Foundation, and individual donors.

**b. Approval of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Per the Amended and Restated Bylaws, Article 1, Directors**

There being no questions or comments, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Lisa Marshall, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation for the following individuals to serve as Directors of the Foundation for a term of three years: Scott Barton, Rob Comet, Burt Hazelwood, Michael Huennekens, Kristina Monan, Mathis Powelson, Lillie Wauford and Ting Xu.

The following Directors have completed their terms and have tendered their resignations: Julie Sidharta, Mary Jo Sisson-Vaughan and Debbie Trainer.

**c. Yearbook Contract FY12-14**

The Director recommended awarding the 2012-2014 yearbook contract to Herff-Jones, stating that they have meet our standards and are the low bidder.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved awarding the 2012-2014 yearbook contract to Herff-Jones.

**d. Personnel Action**

Dr. Jeffery Smith left the meeting.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by John Axselle, the Board unanimously accepted the resignation of Sarah Dwelle, social studies teacher, effective with the end of the 2010-2011 academic year.

## **IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

### **a. Student Fees Schedule 2011-2012**

The Board reviewed a proposal for 2011-2012 fee schedule which has been updated to reflect current projected costs for all subject areas. The Director will seek approval of this schedule at the June meeting.

Mr. Axselle asked for an explanation of the class dues structure. Mrs. Chappell remarked that higher dollar amounts for upper classes are due to an increase in class activities and the need to build their respective treasuries.

## **X. MLWGS Informational Items:**

- Student News:
  - Slave Train Engages MLWGS History Students
  - MLWGS Swim Team Raises \$1,000 for MS
  
- Competition News:
  - Robotics Team Wins Coopertition Award
  - RTD – Governor’s School wins national competition
  - Congratulatory Letter: Governor Robert McDonnell
  - Congratulatory Letter: Senator Mark Warner
  - RTD – Weeks End: Wrap Up (Another apple of excellence goes to MLWGS)
  - Wikipedia – We the People narrative and history of national competition results
  
- Finance Committee Minutes, April 7, 2011
- Planning Committee Minutes, December 7, 2010

## **XI. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report**

No report was issued from the Steering Committee; however, Dr. Newsome took a brief moment to thank members present that participated in the 2011-2012 Region I Professional Development Consortium and extended an invitation to attend the August session featuring Howard Gardner, author of *Multiple Intelligences*.

## **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 Kenneth Pritchett, this meeting was adjourned.

#### **Next Meeting**

June 23, 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