

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 21, 2015

9:10 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Chairman called for a moment of silence asking members to remember Mrs. Crawley's son, a Charles City County Officer injured in the line of duty.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Srishti Sanya ('15-Henrico) led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. 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
Mr. Kevin Hazzard, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. Henry (Hank) C. Lowry, Jr., **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle Ogburn, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, **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
Ms. Kimberly Gray, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Jeff McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Ms. Megan Rainey, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mrs. Dianne Smith, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Marks, **School Board**, Hopewell Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat and Sharon Parker – MLWGS Staff
Laura Lewis – GS Foundation
Chamie Valentine – School Advisory Council (SAC) Chairman
Marianne Macon – PTSA Advocacy Committee
Sydney Bland and Bill Yates – Community
Jackson Downey ('15-Richmond), Srishti Sanya ('15-Henrico), Tessa Guinn ('15-Henrico) and Bruce Wenger ('15-Hanover) – MLWGS Students.

V. Approval of Amended Agenda

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Cora Armstrong, an amended agenda for this meeting eliminating Item XII.e – Assignment of Reserved Funds (will be brought back in June) was unanimously approved.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Valarie Ayers, minutes for the regular meeting of April 16, 2015 were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- **Tessa Guinn (Henrico)** was recognized for her selection as a *Lexus Pursuit of Leadership Weekly Award Winner*.
- Walker's '*We the People*' team placed second at the national finals of *The Citizen and the Constitution* competition in Washington, DC on Monday, April 27th. **Mr. Sam Ulmschneider**, faculty sponsor, and senior student members were recognized for this accomplishment: Unit 1; **Connor Wood (Henrico)**, **Margaret Jewett (Richmond)**, **Lucy Grinnan (Chesterfield)** and **Pranay Vissa (Henrico)**, Unit 2; **Ellie Palazzolo (Henrico)**, **Tyler Walker (Chesterfield)**, **Chelsie Motley (Richmond)** and **Rajiv Tummala (Henrico)**, Unit 3: **Katie Wood (Henrico)**, **Andrew Leffler (Henrico)**, **Sam Schwartzkopf (Henrico)** and **Joanne Choi (Chesterfield)**, Unit 4; **Debbie Mayo (Henrico)**, **Radhika Srivastava (Chesterfield)**, **Elizabeth Ratliff (Richmond)** and **Jordyn Kent (Prince George)**, Unit 5; **Matthew Perry (Richmond)**, **Robert Sherman (Richmond)**, **Helen Li (Chesterfield)** and **Kayla Aaron (Henrico)**, Unit 6:

Reed Canaan (Henrico), Alessandro Ragazzi (Richmond), Coly Elhai (Henrico) and Galen Green (Henrico). Maggie Walker has competed in We the People for seventeen years; has won the State title seventeen times, and with the exception of a hiatus taken in 2013, has been a national top ten team each of those seventeen years. Henrico's Freeman High School finished third at finals.

- Dr. Joseph Melvin was recognized by Norfolk State University as Distinguished Alumni.

VIII. 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.

The following remarks are not recorded verbatim:

Mrs. Chamie Valentine, SAC Chairman, addressed the group while distributing copies of proposed amendments to current bylaws of the School Advisory Council requiring Board approval. Proposed changes include adding two extra members to the council, change of location within the document for the Director's appointees, defining the duties of historian, refining the duties of the recording secretary who should be sending SAC agendas and minutes to the Regional School Board, Superintendents Steering Committee and the Planning Committee to include 'or designee,' amended the notice of agenda to a termed number of school days for clarification, and the definition of a quorum.

Closing, Mrs. Valentine detailed some of the many projects SAC has worked on during 2014-2015; i.e., technology tools, calendar, dress code , and bringing international issues into the classroom by reaching out to the University of Richmond.

The following remarks were provided from a transcript provided by **Mr. Bill Yates**:

Good morning. My name is Bill Yates and I am an alumni parent. I've been active at Maggie Walker since 2005. In the past I've spoken with you about funding and other issues. Today I am here to voice my concern over an issue which is even more critical than any of those.

In the last few years we've heard a lot about corporate boards abdicating their responsibilities to shareholders and society – often a result of an overly cozy, detached, caretaker approach to corporate governance.

This Board functions much like a corporate board – you have the responsibility to make those difficult but right decisions which properly serve your shareholders (the students and citizens of your districts) and society.

I am concerned, as are many in this community that the current leadership of Maggie Walker is coasting on the investment of past years and is not adequately preparing for the future. I am concerned that this board is being fed glowing reports that highlight today's results but neglect to forecast the effect of current policies on the future quality of this institution. I urge you to look behind the Potemkin Village type of façade of controlled committees, skewed studies, and pasted smiles which would have you believe that all is right at Maggie Walker.

Maggie Walker is losing its unique nature and its ability to challenge and serve the most gifted students in the community. It is losing its spark, its heart, and its inventiveness. A lack of vision by the administration is leading to a reliance on policies and procedures over quality, creativity, and substance.

That limited leadership is creating an atmosphere in which many of the best faculty are disheartened and in which the least qualified faculty are being elevated. Right now, MLWGS risks becoming a poster child for the dangers of the Peter Principle.

MLWGS is on the verge of going from a creative, collaborative miracle of community vision and academic leadership to an institution in a slow, quiet, stealthy decline. The program at Maggie Walker takes investment - investment of time, money, energy, thought, and heart. Central elements in that investment are the shared recognition of the need for this program and the commitment to do one's part.

I ask that you commit to engage vigorously and help right this ship. Be an activist board. I urge you to listen, not just to the administration, but to the faculty, parents, students, and other stakeholders. Guide Maggie Walker with vision rather than bureaucracy. Use your position on this board and your love of education to lead MLWGS to greater success.

Next year you have an outstanding opportunity. While we are sorry to lose Mr. Tharp, his impending retirement allows this board the chance to look at the leadership structure and make changes which will boost MLWGS. It is not the time to play it safe and simply replace Phil. This is a time to look at the entire leadership team and make the changes needed for the future. It is the time for Maggie Walker to again have leaders with vision, with drive, with mission.

I understand that the problems of MLWGS may seem small compared to other issues each of you encounter daily. In ways they are small, yet solving them is critical to serving the highly gifted of central VA. The good news is that hiring and cultivating good leaders can resolve the problems.

Over the last twenty four years the governor's school has risen to extraordinary heights. This Board, working with the various stakeholders, can assure that the brightest years for the Maggie L Walker Governor's School are still to come.

Thank you.

The following remarks are not recorded verbatim:

Mrs. Marianne Macon, Advisory Committee, addressed the Board with an update on the committee's online petition at *change.org* urging the Governor to fix funding for Virginia's Governor's schools by revising the formula currently utilized. To date there are over 1,000 signatures. This petition represents hundreds of hours of volunteer work.

Mrs. Macon urged members to sign the petition while thanking them for their attention and consideration of this matter.

Asked by the Chairman about specific plans under review, Mrs. Macon stated her team has not seen the proposals and as such have not selected a specific proposal to support at this time.

The Chairman thanked all speakers for their remarks.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

Graduation Reminder: Monday, June 15th @ 3:00pm, Altria Theater.

2015-2016 Textbook Adoption open for public comment until May 22nd. For consideration: Advanced Placement United States History, Advanced Placement Environmental Science, Advanced Placement English Language and Composition, and Trigonometry/Math Analysis.

B. Coming Events

May 21, 2015 through June 18, 2015 (see page IX.c for details).

C. Senior Showcase June 3rd with Sharon Parker, Program Coordinator accompanied by students: Srishti Sanya, Connor Wood, Jackson Downey and Bruce Wenger who shared their program experiences.

The culminating activity for the Senior Seminar/Mentorship Program is Senior Showcase day. This day is devoted entirely to seniors who have spent the last year in either a seminar or mentorship studying and researching a field of particular interest. Seminar students work collaboratively in each of their respective seminars to create a presentation about their year of study. Mentorship students present their specific type of mentorship experience, as well as the research they undertook during that process.

Dr. Dana Bedden left the meeting.

X. Unfinished Business

Award winning work of the MLWGS Scholastic Writing winners.

XI. Action Items

a. Policy Proposal

The following is submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval: Policy No. 1010 – Constitution and Bylaws *Amended*, Policy No. 1019 – Minutes, Policy No. 1026 – School Board Clerk, Policy No. 5075 – Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting, Procedure No. 5075-P – Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Follow-up, Policy No. 7008 – Administrative Allowances for Travel and Cell Phones. Proposed policy is grounded in model policy of the Virginia School Board Association.

On motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Policies No. 1010, 1019, 1026, 5075, 7008 and Procedure No. 5075-P were unanimously approved.

b. Regulation No. 7006-R , Meal Credit Program *Amended*

Proposed and reviewed in April, the Director has appealed for a change to the amount billed back to school divisions from \$4.50 to \$5.00 per day for qualified students and recommends approval for this request. Regulation No. 7006-R was originally adopted April 24, 2014.

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kimberly Gray, Regulation No. 7006-R *Amended* was unanimously approved.

c. Proposed Strategic Plan

Pursuant to Policy No. 0013, the MLWGS Regional School Board will adopt a comprehensive strategic plan. The plan or revisions thereto, were posted on the school's internet website and one public hearing was conducted on March 24, 2015.

Dr. McGee recommends the Regional Board approve the proposed plan through Goal 7 and relegate Goals 8 (Finance) and 9 (Finance) to further study and clarification of initiatives and outcome measures. Dr. Lane supports this suggestion and noted it was discussed by the Superintendent's Steering Committee at their morning meeting. Dr. Lane remarked, "A strategic plan is a living document."

The Chairman remarked that Goal 8 contains a lot of good work done by the committee, especially in 'Initiatives.' Dr. Lane recommended the Board not adopt a plan that contains blanks. Discussion followed with Dr. McGee noting that Goal 8 had a sub-committee that was working on these measures and to the extent the sub-committee can identify those measures, he could get that information back out to the committee electronically for feedback at a later date. Goal 9 initiatives will require more discussion.

Clarifying, the Chairman asked if the goal was for the strategic planning committee to restart in the fall, with Dr. McGee stipulating outcome measures in Goal 8 will be handled electronically; but additional work has to be done on Goal 9, perhaps through a fiscal meeting. Mr. Hazzard requested a plan be developed for the strategic planning committee to meet in the fall and have the broader committee tackle Goal 9 as a team. Dr. Lane suggested it might be helpful to have the Finance Committee draft objectives, initiatives and outcome measures prior to the strategic planning committee reconvening.

Dr. McGee discussed why the committee slightly adjusted the mission and vision statements based on feedback received around the phrase ‘comprehensive educational opportunities’ from the Department of Education as it pertains to certain entailments that those three words in combination may have. DOE feedback confirmed there are no entailments associated with that phrase and the new mission statement proposal was not substantively different from the former and thus does not require Board of Education approval. The committee felt ‘comprehensive’ over ‘broad-based’ was a more appropriate term.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Strategic Plan July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020, Goal Items 1-7 were unanimously approved.

Dr. McGee remarked; “this is the first strategic plan that has ever been adopted for Maggie Walker Governor’s School.”

Dr. Pat Kinlaw left the meeting.

d. FY16 School Operating Calendar

Submitted for review in April, one slight adjustment has been made to this request in the month of August regarding when teachers start to accommodate the professional development trainer. PD will focus on curriculum mapping. The Director requests Regional Board approval of the FY16 Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School operating calendar.

Dr. Lane highlighted the September 23rd holiday which is designated as such to accommodate the international bicycle race in Richmond, asking if there was a possibility that circumstances could change that would require the Board to alter this schedule. Dr. McGee is not aware of any changes at this time.

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the FY16 operating calendar was unanimously approved.

e. Personnel: School Year 2014-2015 and 2015-2016

The Director recommends approval of the personnel actions listed on item XI.c – Folder B (exempt folder).

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Board approved the personnel actions requested. Ms. Gray was absent from the room for this vote.

XII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. New Policy and Procedure Proposals

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board review:

Policy No. 0002

Facilities Planning (*Amended*)

Policy No. 0003	Construction Planning
Policy No. 1002	Unexpired Term Fulfillment
Policy No. 1012.a	Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board (<i>Amended</i>)
Policy No. 1022	Regular School Board Meetings
Policy No. 3012	Health Education/Physical Education
Policy No. 3013	Driver Education
Policy No. 4009	Drugs in School
Policy No. 5000.1	Staff Hiring Procedures
Policy No. 5000.2	Employment of Family Members
Policy No. 5100	Part-Time Exempt and Non-Exempt Substitute Professional Staff

The Chair asked why the ‘City of Richmond’ was added to Policy Proposal No. 0003 and was advised it was to address building code for the City.

Proposed policies are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association. Approval will be requested at the June 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. FY16 Student Fee Schedule

A proposed student fee schedule has been updated with current projected costs for all subjects. Costs have fluctuated for optional workbooks. The proposed dual enrollment fee is to offset the cost that is billed to Maggie Walker for those courses. The student fee schedule and fee waiver information has been posted on the school website.

Approval will be requested at the June 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

c. Contract for Window Painting and Reglazing

Advertised in the Richmond Times Dispatch on March 22, Maggie Walker is seeking qualified contractors for this budgeted project. Said contractors submitting offers were Valos Painting and Contracting for \$21,300.00 and Creative Contracting LLC for \$45,750.00.

Unless changes are directed, approval will be requested for this project to proceed at the June 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

d. Approval of the 2015-2016 Governor’s School Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Per Amended and Restated Bylaws, Article 1

Per GS Foundation Bylaws, Article 1, names of director nominees shall annually be submitted to the Regional School Board for review and approval. The slate provided at this meeting consists of directors that will be filling vacant seats based on terms of office. The Director noted that six current members will be stepping down and will be replaced from this slate with nine incoming members, so the board will grow slightly next year.

Approval for GS Foundation board nominees will be requested at the June meeting of the Regional Board.

XIII. Information Items

General Information:

Student Dress Code Update for Handbook 2015-2016

Student News:

Moody's Mega Math Competition: Walker Placed 5th and the team wins \$5,000
National History Bowl & Bee: Walker placed 17th
Academic WorldQuest: Walker placed in the top 20 nationally
Battle of the Brains team wins Central Region Championship
Nation Latin Exam 2015 Test Scores
MLWGS Outdoor Track Results

Other News:

(3) MLWGS teachers are selected to participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers: Brenda Ericson, Lisa Williams and Cynthia Losen

XIV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Reported by Dr. Lane, items discussed in the Superintendent's Steering Committee meeting have been addressed throughout this agenda.

Dr. Lane congratulated Maggie Walker Governor's School, Dr. McGee and Mr. Hazzard for the successful adoption of the school's first strategic plan; also including members of the community who assisted with its development in his acknowledgement.

Finally, Dr. Lane remarked that the Board has already approved the lease of a new activity bus in the upcoming budget; however, Dr. McGee has identified some year-end funding through surplus and thinks we can make that purchase now. The Superintendent's Steering Committee have authorized Dr. McGee to proceed and to utilize an authorized State contractor so it will not require the typical RFP process as done for purchases of this amount.

XV. Closed Meeting

None

XVI. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XVII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Dr. Lane remembered the 'Color me Katie' race honoring MLWGS student Katie Anderson that passed away last year, ending with a donation of nearly \$6,000 to the Leukemia Society.

Dr. Wilson updated the Board on the status of Mr. Axselle.

XVIII. Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Lowry, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

June 18, 2015 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

W. Kevin Hazzard, Chairman

Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk