

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 19, 2016

9:08 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 Chairman called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sam Ulmschneider led the recital of the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality (listed in alphabetical order by locality).

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City 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. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Sheila Bailey for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Linda Shifflette, **Interim Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Jeff McGee, **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:

Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Ms. Celestine Gaines, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Reeve Ashcraft, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Wendy Ellis and Phil Tharp – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat, Sharon Parker, Sam Ulmschneider, and Deborah Snagg – MLWGS Staff
Burt Hazelwood and Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation
Marianne Macon, Anne Hayes and Laura O'Brien – PTSA Advocacy Committee
Peggy Feldmann – PTSA President
Paula Chambers and Sydney Bland – Community Members

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Kimberly Gray, minutes for the regular meeting of April 21, 2016, were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- **Marianne Macon, Laura O'Brien, and Anne Hayes – PTSA Advocacy Committee team members for their efforts leading to Maggie Walker's state funding formula change with the General Assembly.** Maggie Walker PTSA volunteers have invested several years advocating for more equitable state funding for Governor's Schools. Those efforts have paid off and are ongoing. After being excluded for years, Governor's School teachers and staff are now explicitly included when the state provides matching dollars for salary increases.

Thanks to the Governor and General Assembly, in FY17 and FY18, MLWGS will see a temporary increase in state funding of more than \$300,000 a year. In December 2015, Governor McAuliffe's proposed budget generously provided \$3.9 million in additional funding for Governor's Schools. Unfortunately, a closer examination of the Governor's proposal revealed the funding distributions were not equitable for all 19 part-day and full-day Governor's Schools on a per-student, per-course basis. The proposed funding formula did not account for the greater needs and costs of full-day Governor's Schools. Given the longstanding underfunding of MLWGS and other full-day Governor's Schools resulting in serious budget shortfalls, this team raised concerns with the General Assembly about the proposed funding

formula.

General Assembly members agreed regarding equity. Instead of supporting the Governor's formula, they put forward a temporary formula that provides a 2.5% increase and extra \$50 per course/per student for all Governor's Schools and ordered a review of the state funding formula based on length of program day. There is hope the upcoming formula review due November 2016 will recognize actual costs of operating these programs and provide an appropriate increase in state funding for all Governor's Schools.

Dr. McGee and the Chairman thanked Mrs. Macon, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Hayes for their efforts with the General Assembly.

- **Shanthi Hiremath ('16-Chesterfield) recipient of the 2016 The Allstate Foundation/VHSL Achievement Award.** Ms. Hiremath was recognized in absentia by the Regional School Board as the Group 2A Female Athlete of the Year.
- Mr. Sam Ulmschneider, Sponsor, accepted recognition on behalf of the **Maggie Walker 'We the People' team that finished Fifth in National Finals** held on the University of Maryland campus and the halls of Congress on April 22-25, 2016. Students were not available due to SOL testing.

Mr. Ulmschneider stated this year was the sixteenth consecutive year of MW competing in the top ten nationally. 'We the People' team members study a broad range of topics related to American government and constitutionalism and prepare for simulated congressional hearings, during which judges question and score units based on knowledge and articulation.

The National Finals marked the end of months of study and hard-won first place finishes at the district and state levels for the team.

The Walker 'We the People' team is fortunate to have received support from the Governor's School Foundation and particular support totaling \$6,000 from private alumni donors.

The Director also recognized Mr. Ulmschneider for his selection as a mentor to other 'We the People' advisors from across the nation.

- **Dr. James Lane was recognized for being chosen Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.**

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

- **Honor Council Review Update.** A committee has been assembled based upon community input for membership and Regional School Board approval of said committee will be sought later during this meeting. The committee, which met for the first time this week, will work in consultation with Maggie Walker's legal team, to provide an updated draft of procedures and process for the RSB, possibly as early as June, depending upon how quickly the process moves forward. Mrs. Barber is the Board's representative, and Dr. Jones will represent the Superintendents. Additional representatives include alumni, students, faculty, and parents.
- **Potential Courtyard Project** conceived for the school's current open courtyard for consideration and development as a contemporary learning space to include an innovation lab, robotics space, gallery space, and dressing rooms for the auditorium located on the second floor. In the Board's capital plan for FY20 there is a proposed \$500,000 appropriation for this project. Dr. McGee shared that he is engaging with the Foundation to look and to begin to develop of a conceptual rendering. Any work will proceed through the appropriate RFP channels around this project. This project will be rebranded/renamed at an appropriate time. Updates will be provided to the Board as they are developed.
- **Graduation Reminder for the Class of 2016, Friday, June 17, 2016, at Altria Theater, 3:00pm**

B. Coming Events

May 19, 2016, through June 20, 2016 (see Section IX.b page for details)

- C. **Senior Showcase June 1, 2016, with Sharon Parker, Program Coordinator.** The culminating activity for the Senior Seminar/Mentorship Program is Senior Showcase Day. This day is devoted entirely to the 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. Showcase Day provides the forum for students to communicate their research to an audience in a professionally appropriate manner. There are two sessions in the morning, followed by a lunch break, and then two sessions in the afternoon (each session is 1 hour 20 minutes). Invitations were provided by Ms. Parker to Board Members, Superintendents, Planning Committee Members and mentors. Additionally, the entire student body selects presentations they are interested in attending and are provided a schedule on the morning of Showcase Day. The freshmen class participates in two-morning sessions, then dismissed at lunchtime for a community service activity, field activities and a cookout.

X. Unfinished Business

None

XI. Action Items

a. Policy, Procedure, and Form Proposals

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following for Board consideration:

Policy No. 4008 – Suicide Prevention

Form No. 4008.1 – Threat Assessment Flow Chart

Form No. 4008.2 – Threat Assessment Interview Form

Form No. 4008.3 – Student Support Plan

Form No. 4008.4 – Student Agreement

Form No. 4008.5 – Action Plan Checklist

Policy No. 4090 – Student-Athlete Concussions During Extracurricular Activities

Proc. No. 4090-P – Student-Athlete Concussion Procedures

All of these proposals were presented for the first read at the Board's April meeting.

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the aforementioned policies, procedure, and forms were unanimously approved as a slate.

b. FY17 School Operating Calendar

The Director stated the Board reviewed this calendar proposal at their April meeting but highlighted subsequent public comments that are provided for Board viewing. The resulting final calendar proposal (with slight edits) incorporates some public suggestions. The Director indicated the school is looking at an alternative means to accommodate PTSA meetings such as the use of live streaming. Other questions/feedback included the school holiday on President's Day, February 20th, moving senior exams, and incorporating an earlier start date for classes. Of these comments administration did decide to move senior second-semester exams back by one day. Dr. McGee stated he believed this is an improved calendar and asked for Board approval.

In response to a question regarding the President's Day holiday, Dr. McGee stated it is marked as holiday-no students.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the Board unanimously approved the FY17 School Operating Calendar as presented with slight edits.

c. Laptop Leasing for MLWGS

Director Jeff McGee recommends the Regional School Board accept the offer by HP Financial Inc. for RFP MLWLTL1 (request for 80 ea. Probook 450 G3 laptops) and to reject all offers for RFP MLWGSL2 (request for 8 HP Spectra Pro x360 G1--smaller/lighter laptops). The

additional expense (Δ +32.5% per unit per year) for the smaller/lighter laptops is not justified. An additional 8 HP Probook 450 G3 units will thus be requested from HP Financial to bring the total number of units to HP Probook 450 G3 laptops to 88. The total lease price will be \$71,808/3yrs; \$23,936/yr; \$272/per unit per year.

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the Board unanimously approved the Director's request to award HP Financial, Inc. an award to fulfill RFP MLWLTL1.

d. Annual Approval of GS Foundation Board of Directors 2016-2017

Director Jeff McGee recommends the Regional School Board approve the candidates submitted for the 2016-2017 GS Foundation Board of Directors. New members: Brick Brickley, Brenda Daghish, Jennifer Linton, Ginger O'Neil and Amy Weiss. Resignations: Scott Barton, Burt Hazelwood, Michael Jones, Joan Plotkin-Han and Bill Yates. Officers: Bill Benos-Chair, Stephen Leibovic-Vice-Chair, Steve Pittard-Treasurer and Liz Blue-Secretary.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the Board unanimously approved the submitted slate of GS Foundation Board of Directors 2016-2017.

XII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy Proposals

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

- Policy No. 2030 – Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
- Policy No. 4003 – School Meals and Snacks
- Policy No. 4012 – Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting (New)
- Policy No. 5040 – Third Party Complaints Against Employees *Amended*
- Policy No. 5070 – Family Medical Leave *Amended*
- Policy No. 5075 – Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting *Amended*

Dr. McGee noted that Child Abuse is new in category 4000 [*Student Services*] and is added as a cross-reference for previously adopted Policy No. 5075.

Proposed policies are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association. Approval will be requested at the June 16, 2016, meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. 2016-2017 Student Fees

The Director recommends a review of the proposed 2016-2017 student fee proposal. A link is provided for comparison to the FY16 student fee schedule. A color key to the new proposal follows: no color denotes no fee change, dark purple denotes slight fee increase, orange denotes slight fee decrease, and blue denotes a new fee. This proposal reflects the dual enrollment fees from \$30/hour to \$20/hour.

The Director stated that any student needing financial assistance, that assistance is supported by the GS Foundation. Ms. Gray asked how families are notified that financial assistance is available through the Foundation? Dr. McGee answered that currently the core group is identified by the free and reduced lunch list, but the school also engaged middle school counselors for students who may not be on free and reduced lunch, but may be of low or moderate income. Also, as part of registration, there are some gentle questions asked to capture more information. MW will host a meeting in June with the Foundation and other relevant persons to review our current process to see if there is a way to systematically improve our ability to reach those in need. Ms. Gray followed with a question regarding whether RPS students were automatically eligible for free and reduced lunch? Dr. McGee stated they are not, even though students are within the RPS system, but may apply to our system. Ms. Gray added that every student within RPS is automatically eligible for free breakfast and lunch within RPS, also known as community eligibility. Mr. Tharp added that the two school systems which offer this program (Richmond and Petersburg) are tied to a specific feeding program and not just across the board, and that is one of the rationales used that does not apply to MW because we are not part of the federal lunch program or any other special program. He also used the laptop analogy stating ‘Henrico does not provide computers for its students here either.’ Finally, Mr. Tharp estimated the cost to RPS would be approximately \$170,000 in additional funding if they were to pursue this program. Dr. McGee stated his administration did engage with the RPS finance person at the time on this issue. Ms. Gray asked if MW would be reimbursed if they offered this program. Dr. McGee answered that the school would bill the district. Mr. Tharp added, that it is his understanding because it is tied to Richmond’s specific feeding program with the federal government, the school would not be reimbursed by the federal government.

Finally, Mr. Tharp asked board members to note the statement at the bottom of the fee schedule addressing financial need resources for students and/or families.

The Director will request approval of the 2016-2017 student fee proposal at the June 16, 2016, meeting of the Regional School Board.

c. Textbook Adoption

Textbook adoptions are currently undergoing proper protocol with a budgeted cost of \$118,554 [*\$123,000 appropriated*]. The 30-day public comment period ends today.

Additions of new adoptions provided for Board information: Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics, Advanced Placement Human Geography, Advanced Placement Psychology, and Advanced Placement Biology, Engineering-Science, German II, Italian II, ASL II, VCU Calculus and Analytic Geometry and VCU Calculus and Analytic Geometry and Biology.

Ms. Gray asked if the estimated 10% shipping fee listed is negotiable as some editions are now digital. Dr. Ellis raised her hand to answer stating, ‘the reason it is listed that way is because it does vary and is negotiable, so the price could go down, but per the advice of Karen Hoover, Business Manager, we need to approximate 10% to err on the conservative

side.’ Continuing, Dr. Ellis said for clarification, the only new textbook adoptions are for the departments of Science and Social Studies. Per the DOE we are not required to go through a textbook adoption process to purchase new editions of currently adopted texts. In addition, the school has received advice from DOE that our dual enrollment classes need to align with VCU’s textbooks, thus we do not need to go through the adoption process for those editions either.

The Director will request approval of textbook adoptions at the June 16, 2016, meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIII. Information Items

- Pictorial presentation of RSB approved Costa Rica Student Trip
- Camille Yoke (’16-Chesterfield) ISEF Results
- Technology Students Association (TSA) Results from State Conference
- MLWGS wins VA in USA Today’s Poll for Best Athletic Program, Advances to Round 2
- Italian National Contest Results for MLWGS
- School Advisory Council Membership 2016-17

Faculty

- Connie Hill, Recipient of the 2016 Itzkowitz Family Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Award
- Lisa Williams Committee Report, State Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Committee

Alumni

- Lucy Dacus (’13) Covers Style Weekly May 2016
- ABC8: Local graduate’s education mission is positively Richmond (Bailey Thomson ’06)

XIV. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report

Dr. Newsome stated the committee met today with nine superintendents in attendance. Dr. McGee presented items that were discussed earlier in this meeting to the committee. In closing, Dr. Newsome stated that Dr. Gill will officially take over as the Superintendent’s Steering Committee Chair effective with the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Dr. Newsome for his ten years of service to Maggie Walker Governor’s School, Chesterfield, and to public education. This announcement was followed by applause.

XV. Closed Meeting

The Chairman directed the Clerk to announce items for closed session:

It is my understanding that the Regional School Board desires 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 subsections, 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.

Number 7: Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Regional School Board; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Regional School Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. For purposes of this subsection, "probable litigation" means litigation which has been specifically threatened or on which the Regional School Board or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. The closure of a meeting is not permitted merely because an attorney representing the Regional School Board is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Martha Harris, 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 Deborah Marks seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved moving into open session.

XVI. Certification of Closed Meeting and Any Action Taken if Necessary as a Result of Closed Meeting

The Chairman directed the Clerk to certify the closed session:

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 Kimberly Gray, seconded by Deborah Marks, the Board approved closed session certification.

Roll Call Vote on Closed Meeting Certification:

Martha Harris	Aye
Javaid Siddiqi	Absent
John Wright	Absent
John Axselle	Aye
Micky Ogburn	Aye
Deborah Marks	Aye
Celestine Gaines	Absent
Sarah Barber	Aye
Kenneth Pritchett	Aye
Valarie Ayers	Absent
Reeve Ashcraft	Absent
Kimberly Gray	Aye

Personnel Action

On motion by Martha Harris, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the Board unanimously approved confidential personnel actions discussed during closed session.

XVII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XVIII. Adjournment

On motion by Martha Harris, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

June 16, 2016, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

John Axselle III, Chairman

Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk