

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 18, 2017

9:06 am.

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
Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mrs. Beth Hardy, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover 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. Reeve Ashcraft, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Jan Butterworth for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed, Wendy DeGroat, and Kori Mosley – MLWGS Staff
Eric Lowell – School Advisory Council Chair 2017-2018
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation
Burt Hazelwood – Alumni Parent
Evelyn Saunders and Jordan Keller – MLWGS Students

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Sarah Barber, the minutes of the regular meeting for April 20, 2017, were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- **The Washington Post: Top Performing schools with elite students 2017 (recognizing MLWGS).**
- Sophomore **Jawrence Jia** (Chesterfield) named **2017 Outstanding Youth Volunteer** in the Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards (recognized in absentia).
- **Evelyn Saunders (Chesterfield), Lexus of Richmond Pursuit of Perfection Weekly Winner, #28.**
- **Jordan Keller (Richmond)** wins \$5,000 for MLWGS in the **VANS Technology in Design Contest**. Ms. Keller was accompanied by MLWGS teacher **Kori Mosely** who spearheaded student participation in this contest.
- **2017 We the People National Championship Team:** Mr. Sam Ulmschneider, teacher sponsor, and student team members were recognized for their first place finish at the We the People national championship held at the National Conference Center in the Washington, D.C. area, April 21-24, 2017.

Team Members: Ryan Buscaglia, Quan Chau, Parker DiPaolo, Evan Fitchett, Avery Gagne, Kiera Goddu, Mara Guyer, Omar Karim, Jessica Kong, Parth Kotak, Genevieve Markee, Emily Martin, Kiarsen Mather, Sophia McCrimmon, Christian Moore, Jacqueline O'Neill,

Clare Perry, Dharaa Rathi, Olivia Ratliff, Robin Schwartzkopf, Hugo Stack, Harish Tekriwal, Adam Temple and Naomi Vickers.

Mr. Ulmschneider stated this year was the seventeenth year of MLWGS competing in the top ten nationally and its third national title win. '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.

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.

None.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **The Allstate Foundation/VHSL Achievement Award 2017: Omar Karim (Henrico).** Ten \$1,000 scholarships are awarded during the school year, honoring one male athlete, one female athlete and one academic activities participant in each of the VHSL's group classifications plus one student from any group who has overcome incredible odds to make significant contributions to athletic and/or academic activities. Only students graduating during the school year are eligible for awards.
- **Graduation:** June 16, 2017 @ 3:00 pm at the Altria Theater. Kerry Sheppard was on hand to distribute invitations. RSB members were asked to RSVP to ksheppard@gsgis.k12.va.us so seating and parking arrangements can be finalized.
- **Facility Improvement Project Concept: Entryway Vestibule.** Dr. Lewis shared how this idea was conceived over the past winter when it was noticed that school employees were working in their offices inside the lobby area with coats on. Temperature checks found that on some days it was as cold as 30-35 degrees inside the entrance.

Mr. Max Smith was tasked with presenting project information and proceeded to display visual drawings of an entryway vestibule concept that would enclose approximately 6 feet out from the entrance doors outside of the blue stone lobby. However, if the vestibule is not successful addressing the temperature control issue, the school may look at supplemental heating in that area the following year [2018]. The second benefit to this project would be the elimination of the birds nesting issue that currently exists in that part of the structure and will provide a cleaner, more professional look for the entrance.

If this project goes forward it will occur over the summer of 2017. Dr. Lewis added that visitors will still be able to access Room 153 after hours as currently available.

Mrs. Ayers asked: “would there be any incentive from the Siemens energy company for this project?” Mr. Smith answered he would look into this question.

In conclusion, Dr. Lewis estimated this project will cost approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 and basically is storefront glass. The project would be covered by funds in the existing capital budget. Dr. Lewis stated he would bring this issue back in June with specifics if it is decided to move forward.

Mrs. Barber added that a vestibule would now be required by code for new construction to control the temperature so believes this to be a very good idea.

B. Coming Events

May 18, 2017, through June 15, 2017 (see page IX.b for details)

- C. ***MENA Seminar International Trip Report by Robinette Cross, Sponsor.*** Mrs. Cross shared a video created by the students of the Gender and Culture in MENA (Middle East) Seminar from their RSB approved trip to Morocco, spring 2017, which consisted of highlights from this learning experience. Students Katie Rogers ('17-Richmond) and Dana Slayton ('17-Hanover) followed the video with a verbal report about the educational benefits they received from participation in this international trip.
- D. ***Senior Showcase June 1 Presentation with Les Cook, Sponsor:*** 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). 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 (2) morning sessions, then dismissed at lunchtime for a community service activity, field activities, and a cookout.

Invitations to Showcase Day were provided by Mr. Cook to Regional School Board members and Superintendents.

- E. ***Research Project(s) with Wendy DeGroat, Librarian.*** Ms. DeGroat shared new research data of the MLWGS learning community using the concentric circles of Teach, Curate, Connect and Celebrate. Based on a data request Ms. DeGroat made to the STOR vendor, their findings illustrate that Walker students compile more research hours than ‘All Schools, Virginia Schools, and Colleges of 500-2000 FTE’s, based on 2016 usage.’ The top forty journals that

our students access include *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies*, *Virginia Law Review*, *Harvard Law Review*, *Foreign Policy*, *Africa Today*, *The British Medical Journal*, *The Women's Review of Books* and *China Perspectives*.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Deborah Marks, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions, fiscal status report of March 31, 2017, and the donations report of March 31, 2017.

XII. Action Items

a. FY18 School Operating Calendar

The Director recommended approval of the operating calendar proposal for 2017-2018 which contains no changes from the one originally submitted in April. A link was posted on the school website after the last meeting for public review and comment on this proposal and the community was notified via multiple media sources. Community feedback was provided to the RSB.

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Sarah Barber, the 2017-2018 operating calendar proposal was unanimously approved.

b. Policy Proposals

The following is withdrawn by the Policy Steering Committee from Board approval at this time:

Policy No. 3002.2 – Grading Scale

A revised grading scale will be reintroduced in Section XIII below.

c. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2017-2018 (*waiving first read*)

The Director requested authorization to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School personnel for 2017-2018.

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Board unanimously approved the Director's request to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for 2017-2018.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy Proposal

The Director is resubmitting a revised grading scale for Regional School Board consideration.

Policy No. 3002.2 – Grading Scale

The scale previously presented to the RSB at their April meeting was initially approved by the School Advisory Council (SAC) to create a new 10-point scale going forward and abandoned through policy the 7-point scale that has been used for honors and plus classes and the existing 10-point scale used for dual enrollment and AP classes. However on April 27th a public meeting was held for parents and students on this topic and many voiced concerns about these changes with two major themes: 1) the school already has a 10-point scale that has worked well for years so if we want a 10-point scale why not keep the one we have, and 2) can we use a retro-active transition. Dr. Lewis stated his response to the first theme was yes, we can reconsider the 10-point scale if across the board it is one the community embraces, and to the second theme, no we cannot go to a retro-active transition. Once we opened that door the conversation changed to ‘if we can’t have a retro-active transition then how can we ensure the transcripts presented to colleges accurately reflect which grading scale was used for each class,’ thus becoming more of a transcript conversation.

Two priorities that came from the public meeting was 1) request retention of the current 10-point scale instead of the one recommend in April, and 2) for the community to have an ongoing discussion into the spring and fall about transcript changes, particularly over the next 2-3 years as the school fully transitions from one scale to another, to make it easier for college admissions officers to understand which grading scale was used for which class. There are a number of ideas about transcript changes, with one that uses both alpha and numeric grades and seemed to be accepted by the community. Our plan is to develop a number of transcript options and reconvene with community groups to review them, then come back to the Regional School Board in the fall to determine the best transcript that reflects this transition.

Dr. Lewis noted the major difference between the two 10-points scales is simply where the plus lines are drawn. In the previous scale, an A+ was 97-100. B+, C+, and D+ went from 86, 76, and 66 up. The new scale works on the 5’s with anything above 60 passing, and below 60 failing.

Lastly as a bit of unintended consequences had the school gone forward with the previously submitted scale in 3 years transcripts would actually include three scales, the old 7-point scale, the old 10-point scale and the new 10-point scale.

The Director intends to request approval of Policy No. 3002.2 – Grading Scale at the June 15, 2017, meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. Annual Approval of GS Foundation Board of Directors 2017-2018

Approval of the 2017-2018 Governor’s School Foundation, Inc. Board of Director per amended and restated bylaws, Article 1:

Section 1.3 Election. Candidates for Director of THE FOUNDATION shall be nominated by members of the Board of Directors or by the Governance and Nominations Committee. The names of the nominees shall then be submitted to the Regional School Board for review. Subject to the approval of such candidates by the Regional School Board, candidates for Director shall be elected by the Board of Directors. No individual shall be named or elected as a Director without his or her prior consent.

Section 1.5 Term of Office. Each Director shall serve a term of three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, except that (i) each person who serves as an ex officio Director shall serve for as long as such person holds the office entitling him or her to be an ex officio Director, unless a different term is provided therefore by the Board of Directors at the time of such person's election; and (ii) any Director filling a vacancy as a result of an increase in the number of Directors shall be designated to serve a term of one (1), two (2) or three (3) years as necessary to most closely achieve a result that one-third (1/3) of the members of the Board of Directors will be elected each year. At the expiration of the term of a Director, such Director shall be eligible for election to another term as a Director, except that no Director may serve more than six (6) years in succession without a break in service.

Proposed candidates include Kate Cooper and Karen Setzer. The following will serve as officers: Bill Benos - Chair, Stephen Leibovic – Vice-Chair, Steve Pittard – Treasurer and Liz Blue – Secretary. The following are resigning: Henry Chambers, David Holland, Atma Iyer, Jane Scheibe and Lillie Wauford.

The Director will request approval of the officer slate for the 2017-2018 GS Foundation Board at the June 15, 2017 meeting of the Regional School Board.

c. FY18 Student Fee Schedule

The Director recommended RSB review the proposed 2017-2018 student fee proposal. A link is provided for comparison to the FY17 student fee schedule. This proposal reflects minimal increases for most items and includes a new workbook for Spanish Language costing \$62.00 that mirrors an existing workbook for Spanish Literature. Parking fees and dual enrollment fees remain unchanged.

The Director will request approval for the FY18 Student Fee Schedule at the June 15, 2017 meeting of the Regional School Board.

d. Assignment of Reserve Funds

The Director recommends the Regional School Board be aware this action will meet the compliance deadline of June 30, 2017, for GASB 54 and for the RSB to approve in June the distribution of assigned funds pending completion of required audits.

Anticipated restoration funds for FY13, FY14, FY15, FY16 and FY17 are estimates that have not been certified by an audit. Once audits are finalized by Richmond Public Schools, the RSB may consider designating these estimated funds (subtotal) to the categories below:

		FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
830....3218	Capital	\$1,007,685	\$863,378	\$735,373	\$539,207	TBD
830....3224	Technology	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	TBD
830....3225	Benefit Reserve (@70%)	\$246,911	\$246,911	\$246,911	\$246,911	TBD
830....3223	Unassigned	\$105,819	\$105,819	\$105,819	\$105,819	TBD
Sub Total		\$1,560,415	\$1,416,107	\$1,288,103	\$1,091,937	TBD
Anticipated Restoration Pending FY13 Audit		\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	TBD
Anticipated Restoration Pending FY14 Audit			\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	TBD
Anticipated Restoration Pending FY15 Audit				\$100,000.	\$100,000	TBD
Anticipated Restoration Pending FY16 Audit					\$70,875	TBD
Anticipated Restoration Pending FY17 Audit						TBD
Sub Total		\$250,000	\$300,000	\$400,000	\$470,875	TBD
TOTOL		\$1,810,415	\$1,716,107	\$1,688,103	\$1,562,812	TBD

The Director will request approval for Assignment of Reserve Funds at the June 15, 2017 meeting of the Regional School Board.

e. Textbook Adoption

Textbook adoptions are currently undergoing regular protocol with a budgeted cost of \$88,353.23. The 30-day public comment period ends Friday, June 9th.

Additions of new adoptions provided for RSB information: Advanced Placement (AP) Physics, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC, and AP German Language and Culture. Dual enrollment editions include VCU Multivariate Calculus, VCU Elementary Russian, and VCU Elementary Arabic.

The Director will request approval of textbook adoptions at the June 15, 2017, meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes May 4, 2017
- Annual Notice of School Advisory Council Membership 2017-2018
- VSBA Showcase for Success 2017 features two MLWGS programs
- MLWGS Senior Emma Gay in Richmond Magazine: A Learning Experience
- Alum Author & Comedian Sara Schaefer Assists Foundation Appeal

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Gill stated the committee met today with nine superintendents in attendance and discussed a preliminary 5-year capital plan and needs with both Dr. Lewis and Mr. Max Smith. Also heard at this meeting was the rationale behind the change to the 10-point grading scale. And lastly, the committee heard that the financial audit has been completed and we are awaiting the report. Dr. Lewis added the school must still close-out of the current fiscal year.

One other matter was discussed that will require review in closed session.

XVI. Closed Meeting

The Chairman announced the item for a 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 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 Sarah Barber, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Regional School 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 Sarah Barber, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Regional School Board unanimously approved moving into open session.

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting and Any Action Taken if Necessary as a Result 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 Scott Barlow, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Regional School Board unanimously approved closed session certification.

XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XIX. Adjournment

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Valarie Ayers, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:35 am.

Next Meeting

June 15, 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