

MINUTES

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

Thursday, November 13, 2014

9:08 a.m.

I. Call to Order

John Axselle, Vice-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:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools (late arrival)
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. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen 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. Bobby Browder, **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 Rainey, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mr. Kevin Hazzard, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Montgomery, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS Librarian, Lynn Reed and Deborah Snagg - Staff
Megan Keck and Reed Canaan – MLWGS Students
Matthew Gilley and Marc Gleva - Siemens
Laura Lewis and Bill Yates – GS Foundation
Elizabeth Wong – PTSA President
Chamie Valentine – SAC Chairman (late arrival)
Marianne Macon and Anne Hayes – PTSA Advocacy Comm.
Sydney Bland – MLWGS Parent

III. Approval of Agenda

The Director requested a change to the agenda presented that includes a second international trip proposal - new Item X.c, with previous item X.c moving to X.d. On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved the Director's request.

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Deborah Marks, the amended agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the minutes for October 16, 2014 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

The following student projects from Mr. John Wilkes' 2013-2014 Historiography class were recognized:

Megan Keck ('15-Charles City) for her work accepted into the Library of Virginia examining integration in Bowman vs. School Board of Charles City (1963).

Reed Canaan ('15-Henrico) for her work accepted into the Library of Virginia researching the journey of Martha Grattan, a member of the first female class of Washington and Lee in 1985.

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.

The following remarks are not recorded verbatim:

Mrs. Marianne Macon, PTSA Advocacy Committee, addressed the Board to thank members for their attendance, and others in the room who assisted, with the recently concluded EduPac/PTSA-Advocacy/Foundation luncheons.

Continuing, Mrs. Macon credited Anne Hayes for her discovery of VSBA's legislative position proposal supporting additional funding for Governor's Schools with the rationale it is needed to provide advanced instruction, equipment and supplies associated with the operation of a Governor's School. Mrs. Macon asked Board members to encourage their colleagues to support this proposal with their vote at the annual November meeting (*VSBA Conference*). Concluding, she also suggested it would be helpful if the Superintendent's Association developed a similar proposal before the next General Assembly season.

Mr. Axselle thanked Mrs. Macon and her team for their efforts coordinating luncheons for partnering boards, stating from his own experience a personal highlight was being able to meet students and engage them in discussion. Mr. Axselle affirmed the value of these events that serve to educate officials who otherwise are unfamiliar with MLWGS.

Mr. Bill Yates, GS Foundation, addressed the Board seeking their assistance and expertise pursuing interested potential candidates to fill seats on the Foundation Board next year. Several GS Foundation Board members will be stepping down at the end of their term (2015). Candidate names can be passed along to Burt Hazelwood, Laura Lewis or Mr. Yates himself.

Board invitations were extended to the Annual Director's Circle Reception on December 9th.

Dr. Lane inquired if there was a minimum financial donation requirement for GS Foundation Board members; to which Mr. Yates replied no; however, everyone last year contributed something. The goal is to get a candidates' input and participation; not their currency.

The Vice-Chairman thanked both speakers for their remarks.

VII. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- Nightly Information Sessions for prospective students were held November 10th, 11th and 12th.
- Partnering boards' luncheon opportunity (*covered by Mrs. Macon*).
- Strategic Planning Committee will next meet on November 17th, following which there should be information available that the committee has affirmed around admissions, facility, instruction, faculty and support staff, and school finances.

- MLWGS drama presents ‘You Can’t Take It With You,’ November 20th, 21st and 22nd.

B. Slot Letters

- The Director expressed thanks to divisions having submitted their slot commitment letters remarking, “We are on pace with the anticipated number of slots expected for next year.”

C. Coming Events

- November 13, 2014 through December 18, 2014 (see packet for detail).

D. Einstein Fellow Presentation by Lynn Reed, Faculty

- Mrs. Reed shared a presentation that detailed her Einstein Fellow experience while on educational leave from MLWGS the last two years.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. Action Items

a. New Policy and Regulation Proposals

The following policy and regulations were submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval:

Policy No. 5062	Staff Fringe Benefits
Regulation 5062-R	Health and Dental Care Benefits
Regulation 5065-R1	Sick Leave <i>Amended*</i>
Regulation 5065-R7	Bereavement Leave <i>Amended*</i>

Proposed policy and regulations are grounded in model policies and/or regulations of the Virginia School Board Association, Richmond Public Schools and Chesterfield County Public Schools.

Regulations 5065-R1 and 5065-R7 remove the term ‘domestic partner’ in compliance with a recent Supreme Court ruling. Regulation 5065-R1 also includes language from previously adopted Board sick leave accrual advancement language (March 15, 2007) that was not included in the September 2014 submission.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Dianne Smith, the slate of policy and regulations was unanimously approved.

b. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal – Guatemala, Spring Break 2015 by Stephanie Welles

Proposed and reviewed in October 2014, the Director recommends approval of Mrs. Welles’ Guatemala Interdisciplinary Trip.

There being no discussion, on motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Guatemala Interdisciplinary Trip by Mrs. Welles was unanimously approved.

X. Items for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. New Policy and Regulation Proposals

The following policies and regulation were submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval:

Policy No. 1010	Constitution and Bylaws (<i>Amended</i>)
Policy No. 1029	Allocation and Commitment of Slots (<i>Amended</i>)
Regulation 4030-R	Student Organization Approval
Policy No. 4076	Lactation Support
Policy No. 6015	Public Conduct on School Property
Policy No. 7002	Insurance Management
Policy No. 7003	Purchasing Authority
Policy No. 7004	Funds for Instructional Materials and Office Supplies
Policy No. 7010	Advertising in School
Policy No. 7012	Grant Programs

Proposed policies and regulation are grounded in model policies and/or regulations of the Virginia School Board Association, Richmond Public Schools and Chesterfield County Public Schools. Approval will be requested at the December meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal – Canada, May 2015 by Matt McGuire

Mr. McGuire made a presentation via PowerPoint, proposal and remarks. Approval for this Interdisciplinary Trip will be requested at the December meeting of this Board.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal – Russia, Summer 2015 by Mike White

Mr. White made a presentation via PowerPoint, proposal and remarks. Approval for this Interdisciplinary Trip will be requested at the December meeting of this Board.

Ms. Gray asked about scheduled city locations that are near the Ukrainian border expressing concern about conflict. Mr. White responded his contact in Russia assures our students would be safe. Conflicts are occurring in Ukraine and have not encroached into Russia. Mr. White will continue to monitor travel advisories.

d. ESCo Projects

The Board was provided ESCo documents and financials at the table followed by review with Matthew Gilley of Siemens.

Mr. Gilley began with the basic timeline examination; i.e., last spring started the process with an initial audit, last summer a detailed audit was completed, and over the fall project scope was finalized. Looking ahead, final review would occur in the near future then getting started this winter with construction over the coming summer.

Scope of the projects: lighting, water, automated systems, server room upgrade, solar and wind lab and roof work. Looking at the financials this works out to slightly less than 15% utility savings or a little over \$30,000/year. Over a term of 15 years that's almost \$600,000.

Total project capital investment = \$640,000.00.

Dr. McGee suggested the Board plan to repopulate the capital fund balance with energy savings, and as such recognizing this project as revenue neutral over time. In addition, if the Board chooses, operational balances remaining at the end of each fiscal year could also be allocated into the capital accounts. The example Dr. McGee provided was, "If MLWGS had an additional \$50,000 at the end of the fiscal year, and generally there is a little more, over 15 years that would repopulate the capital account to about 1.2 million."

Deferring to Mrs. Barber for opinion, she offered the following, "It has been a well thought out exercise in identifying the best building systems to address with this contract."

Mrs. Crawley asked for assurance that this action would not require additional funding from the divisions. Mr. Axselle affirmed it would not; this project utilizes monies from Walker's existing capital reserve. He also stated, with approval this project does not mean that future Walker operating budgets will go down, they will not; but by design savings realized from lower utility charges will be used to repopulate the reserve for initial project expenses. Dr. Lane added that future budgets would still need to project utility rate increases. Operating costs will go up but utility savings would still be built in. In short, the Board is not looking at tuition increases or a reduction in the operating budget to fund ESCo projects.

In conclusion, Dr. McGee noted that the Finance Committee has been involved and reviewed every step of the ESCo process.

A vote for ESCo proposed projects will be sought at the December meeting of this Board.

XI. MLWGS Informational Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2014
- Director's FY16 Budget Development Calendar with Town Hall on December 3rd
- *Student News*
 - RTD: Defense Takes Center Stage for MW Field Hockey 10-23-2014

- *Other News*
 - Bear O'Bryan Celebration at MLWGS, 10-25-2014
 - Radio Advertising for Information Sessions (Samples Played)

XII. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Lane reported that today the committee discussed the ESCo proposals and began early MLWGS budget dialogue with Dr. McGee. The committee is supportive of the early budget submission timeline proposed.

XIII. Closed Meeting

None

XIV. Certification of Closed Meeting and any action, if necessary, as a result of closed meeting.

N/A

XV. Announcements

Aided by Dr. Wilson, Mr. Axselle wished the group a joyous Thanksgiving holiday.

XVI. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Barbara Crawley, this meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

December 18, 2014 at 9:00am. MLWGS Room 153, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

John Axselle, Vice-Chairman

Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk