

MINUTES

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

Thursday, November 10, 2011

9:05 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:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Ivan Mattox, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. John Axelle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Diana Winston, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Eileen Long, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools (late arrival)
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 (late arrival)
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. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
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
Mr. Don Skeen, **Interim 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. 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
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration, Rachel Loving and Michele Surat – Faculty, Hal Waller – GS Foundation, Trish Sigler (late arrival) – FOVGS.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Diana Winston, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the minutes for November 10, 2011 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

Students **Ryan Polk** (Hanover) and **Eileen Wang** (Henrico) were recognized for their selection as weekly nominees of the Pursuit of Perfection Lexus Award. Students were accompanied by Paige Hawkins, Co-Activities Director.

Student **Rachel Galton** (Chesterfield) was recognized for her selection as the Colonial District Runner of the Year. Ms. Galton was accompanied by Jim Holdren, Track Coach and Co-Activities Director.

Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach **Tony Dee** was recognized for his selection as District and Regional Coach of the Year. Mr. Dee was accompanied by Paige Hawkins, Co-Activities Director.

MLWGS Field Hockey – 2011 District & Regional Champions. Players were recognized for this athletic achievement with special recognition of the following team members: **Siobhan Rigby** (Richmond) – District and Regional Player of the Year, **Siobhan Rigby** and **Katy May** (Hanover) – 1st Team All Region, **Siobhan Rigby, Katy May, Megan Morris** (Chesterfield) and **Lane Scher** (Richmond) – 1st Team All District. The team was accompanied by their coaches, Paige Hawkins and Michelle Bair.

Varsity Field Hockey Coach **Paige Hawkins** was recognized for her selection as District Coach of the Year.

Mrs. Dianne Pettitt was recognized for her twelve years of service to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School serving this school as the elected School Board Member representing Chesterfield County. Mrs. Pettitt was presented a token of appreciation on behalf of this Board and the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and community by Dr. Marcus Newsome.

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

- a. **Diversity Committee Report** with Dr. Wendy Ellis. In response to a request from the last meeting regarding data analysis, Dr. Ellis provided to board members admissions data and selected student history by district, which was compiled by Mike Geiger, Admissions Coordinator.
- b. **Updates with Don Skeen:**
 - Reminder to submit 2012-2013 division slot commitments
 - Informational Sessions for Student Recruitment, November 1st-3rd
 - Staff Development, November 8th
 - Midsummer's Night Dream, November 17th – 19th
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, November 17th – 18th
- c. **Coming Events** - See Pages 21-22 of the Board packet.

VIII. Action Items

a. New Club Proposals

Submitted in October for Board review, the National Chinese Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, S.P.O.R.T.S., Green Machine, Fashion Design, Mock Trial, Mu Upsilon Sigma, Backgammon and Olde School Ballistics Clubs seek approval from the Board.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the National Chinese Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, S.P.O.R.T.S., Green Machine, Fashion Design, Mock Trial, Mu Upsilon Sigma, Backgammon and Olde School Ballistics Clubs were unanimously approved.

IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools (FOVGS) Legislative Update

Ms. Trish Sigler, Chairman of FOVGS, addressed the Board sharing a brief overview of their work. FOVGS is comprised of Directors from each of the nineteen Governor's Schools across Virginia and their parent representatives whose purpose is to educate legislators, protect funding, and increase Governor's School's visibility at the General Assembly. The organization is planning three major activities during this academic year:

- 1) Capital Day Art Show on Saturday, November 12th.
- 2) Capital Day near the end of February 2012. Ms. Sigler is anticipating a large contingent of participants for this annual lobbying activity.
- 3) Messaging that is specific to the current PPA of \$4,327. FOVGS will be asking the GA to reinstate a previous cut of \$152, bringing the PPA back to \$4,479. Their message will piggyback on the Governor's desire to promote STEM education in Virginia.

Mrs. Pettitt inquired if the \$4,327 allotment is the same amount distributed to all Governor's Schools. Ms. Sigler responded this is the starting point all receive, but when calculations are applied (LCI, full-day program, half-day program, 2-year program, 4-year program, bricks and mortar program, virtual program, etc.), the amount is always reduced. Mr. Tharp noted that if the \$152 is reinstated it would mean an additional \$74,000 for this school if every district's Composite Index remains the same. Ms. Sigler also noted that not all of the Hold Harmless funding came back to the various Governor's Schools and to be truly fair and equitable the GA would need to pass a new bill that separates funding based on the type of Governor's School receiving monies.

On behalf of the Board the Chair expressed appreciation for the efforts of FOVGS.

X. MLWGS Informational Items

- Planning Committee Minutes, September 20, 2011
- Alumni News
- Maggie L. Walker Governor's School *Renovation* Foundation Audit: Year-End December 31, 2010. (Not the Governor's School Foundation). In response to a question from the Chair, Hal Waller explained that while not representing the Renovation Foundation, he understood their current liabilities exceed current assets due the scheduled maturity of debt from Petersburg.

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Newsome reported that the committee met just prior to the start of the Regional School Board meeting today, spending the majority of their time discussing the director's search process. The committee emphasized that if needed the search should be extended as long as necessary in order to find the best candidate possible, which lead to a discussion regarding the current Interim Director who has made a commitment to stay on as long as necessary, a commitment that will require Board action.

The final issue regarding this discussion was the potential change in the make-up of the search committee given the results of the election held this past Tuesday, a change that also will require Board action.

Other items: the Superintendent's Steering Committee heard an update by Mr. Skeen regarding his work on the MLWGS policy manual. Initial assistance has been extended to him by two CCPS's attorneys and the VSBA, who has agreed to a significant membership discount for MLWGS, also providing the benefit of access to policy changes as they occur. Dr. Newsome estimates it would take at least two years to develop a policy manual.

Lastly, the committee had some discussion regarding by-laws and will continue this discussion at their next meeting.

The Superintendents Steering Committee plans to extend an invitation to representatives of the School Advisory Council to join their next scheduled meeting on December 15th.

XII. Director's Search Committee Report

As the outgoing Chair of this committee, Mr. Mattox updated the Board regarding their work to date, committee structure, timeline revision and communication to the MLWGS community. A written copy of his report was distributed to Board members and will be retained as part of the permanent record of this meeting.

XIII. Closed Meeting

The Chairman requested that the Clerk read the announcement for closed session:

Mrs. Marshall: "It is my understanding that the School Board desires to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with §2.2-3711.A of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsections:

To consider the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the Regional School Board, or for discussion, consideration or interview of prospective candidates for employment."

Mrs. Pettitt: "Members of the Board, you have just heard the items requested to be discussed in closed session. All those in favor of entering closed session for the purposes stated please so indicated by saying aye."

Mrs. Pettitt: "With no nays heard, the ayes have it and we are now in closed session."

Closed Session Occurred

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

Mrs. Pettitt: “Do I have a motion to reconvene in open session?”

Mrs. Winston: “So moved.”

Mrs. Crawley: “I second the motion.”

Mrs. Pettitt: “With no nays heard, the ayes have it and we are now in open session.”

Open Session Reconvened

The Chairman requested that the Clerk read the resolution certifying the closed session:

Mrs. Marshall: “Now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the School Board.”

Mrs. Pettitt: “Do I have a motion to adopt the resolution?”

Ms. Gray: “So moved.”

Mr. Pritchett: “I second the motion.”

The Chair asked the Clerk to poll the Board:

Mrs. Crawley	Aye
Mrs. Pettitt	Aye
Mr. Mattox	Aye
Mr. Axelle	Aye
Mrs. Winston	Aye
Mrs. Long	Aye
Mrs. Lindsay	Aye
Mr. Pritchett	Aye
Mrs. Ayers	Aye
Ms. Gray	Aye

Mrs. Pettitt: With no nays heard, the certifying resolution carries.

Mrs. Pettitt: “Do I have a motion to extend the employment contract of Don Skeen until June 30, 2011 or until such time as a new Director is appointed?”

Mr. Axselle: “So moved.”

Mrs. Crawley: “I second the motion.”

Mrs. Pettitt: With no nays heard, Don Skeen’s employment contract extension was unanimously approved.

Discussion occurred regarding the composition of the Director’s Search Committee as a result of November’s elections. The following Board members will be serving on this committee effective immediately:

Diana Winston, Chairman – Director’s Search Committee

Mr. John Axselle, Hanover

Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan

Mr. Howard Banks, new HR Director for Henrico will be replacing Dr. Pat Kinlaw

No Change of Superintendents:

Dr. Marcus Newsome

Dr. Linda Underwood

Dr. Bobby Browder

Further, as pointed out by Dr. Newsome, the committee process presented today is a change from the last experience (stipulated in the bylaws that the Search Committee make recommendation to the Superintendent’s Steering Committee, who make recommendation to the entire Board). He noted that the entire Board would like an opportunity to review qualifications and backgrounds of the semi-finalists in order to execute their due diligence. Also, an individual Board member may have knowledge of a candidate that would require additional review.

Finally, Mrs. Pettitt passed on to Mrs. Winston a letter received from a constituent who is suggesting expanding advertising for this opening. As committee chair, Mrs. Winston will respond.

XV. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting

December 15, 2011 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

Kenneth Pritchett, Vice-Chairman

Donald Skeen, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk