

MINUTES

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

Thursday, November 12, 2015

9:08 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.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Peggy Feldmann led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality (listed in alphabetical order by locality). Welcome Dr. Linda Shifflette, Interim Superintendent - Petersburg.

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Kevin Hazzard, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle 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
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Interim Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Linda Shifflette, **Interim Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Renee Williams, **Interim 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
Ms. Megan Rainey, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Rick Richardson, **Interim Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat and Deborah Snagg – MLWGS Staff
Herb Monroe – Henrico High School Principal
Laura Lewis – GS Foundation
Peggy Feldmann – PTSA President
Anne Hayes and Marianne Macon (late arrival) – PTSA Advocacy Committee
Sydney Bland, Penny Moss and Elizabeth [inaudible] – Citizens

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Dianne Smith, minutes for the regular meeting of October 15, 2015 were approved with Valarie Ayers abstaining, all remaining members voted aye.

VII. Recognitions

- In absentia: Dr. Joseph Melvin, departing Superintendent for Petersburg Public Schools and distinguished member of the Superintendent’s Steering Committee, 2012-2015.

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

- Professional Development, November 2, 2015 focused on mindfulness strategies. Author Trish Jennings was brought in during the morning session to speak about strategies that could be used in classrooms to help mitigate student stress. The afternoon session was dedicated to the Atlas Curriculum Mapping platform.

- Parent/Teacher Conferences, November 3, 2015.
- State Funding Update: a decision package went forward from VDOE to the Governor's office that included an appropriation of \$3.6 million for all nineteen Virginia Governor's Schools. If this decision package stays in the Governor's budget and makes it through the General Assembly, it is uncertain at this time what proportion of these funds MLWGS could receive.
- Legislative Coffee at MLWGS, December 8, 2015, 7:30am-8:30am (invitations at table).
- Recruitment Season:
 - Middle School Visits = 29
 - Information Forums, November 9, 10 & 11

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will hold three evening information forums for students and families interested in knowing more about the program and the admissions process. Each session runs from 6:30 PM to about 8:30 PM and they begin in the Maggie Walker auditorium.

- Monday, November 9th—special invitation to prospective students and families from Henrico
- Tuesday, November 10th—special invitation to prospective students and families from Hanover, King and Queen, New Kent, and Richmond
- Wednesday, November 11th—special invitation to prospective students and families from Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hopewell, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Prince George
- NPR ad copy; read live each segment, November 2 – 6, 2015:

Support comes from our members and, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, an accelerated high school for gifted students offering college level courses in 6 academic disciplines. Join other prospective students for an informational session November 9th, 10th or 11th. "M-L-W-G-S-dot-com".
- RadioOne advertising to promote information forums with students Ben Rhoades ('16-Chesterfield) and Virginia Chambers ('16-Henrico), Student Council Officers. Advertising dates November 2 – 8, 2015 on Power 92.1 FM and Praise 104.7 FM.
- Reminder: 2016-2017 Slot Commitment Letter due November 1, 2015

B. Coming Events

November 12, 2015 through December 17, 2015 (see page IX.b, for details)

X. Unfinished Business

a. Legislative Advocacy Statement for Board Approval

- Legislative Position

We support an increase in statewide funding of public education and as part of that, we support an appropriation to implement a new funding formula for Academic-Year Governor’s Schools (AYGS). Specifically, we support the Virginia Department of Education’s Decision Package submitted on September 28, 2015 to the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget requesting an appropriation of \$3,636,480 for AYGS. Our support is contingent upon the inclusion of a hold harmless provision such that the FY16 per student state funding for each of the AYGS is not reduced.

Dr. Lane stated the Superintendent’s support this statement.

- Rationale

The 2014 General Assembly directed the Secretary of Education to conduct an Academic-Year Governor’s School (AYGS) Funding Study to identify alternative funding models for academic year Governor’s Schools. Nine funding options were generated through the study. The current Governor’s Schools funding formula is not based on any specific staffing or cost standard that relates to best practice or actual costs of the program. Consequently, the current formula does not adequately reflect the actual costs of operation and the programmatic and staffing needs of the programs. AYGS are not directly included in certain state Direct Aid funding streams that support significant K12 operational costs such as VRS, health care premiums, teacher pay increases, and textbooks. The funding model proposed by the Virginia Department of Education aligns with the funding formulas utilized by the Standards of Quality.

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Martha Harris, the legislative position presented and supported by the Superintendent’s Steering Committee, was unanimously approved.

The Chair requested board members take the approved position statement to the VSBA conference [November 18-20, 2015], and for those who serve as delegates to inform other delegates that all AYGS’s are behind this position.

XI. Action Items

a. Policy Proposals

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

Policy No. 1009.1	Items for Adoption, Revision, Suspension
Policy No. 3007	Administration of Surveys and Questionnaires
Policy No. 3020	Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
Policy No. 5006.1	Evaluation of Support Staff
Policy No. 5007	Support Staff
Policy No. 8032	Vandalism

Proposed policy is grounded in model policy of the Virginia School Board Association.

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Sarah Barber, the aforementioned policies were unanimously approved as a slate.

b. Interdisciplinary Trip to Guatemala 2016 – Stephanie Welles, Sponsor

The Director recommends approval of Ms. Welles’ interdisciplinary trip proposal presented for the first review in October to Guatemala, March 2016.

With no further discussion on a motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Valarie Ayers, Ms. Welles’ trip request was unanimously approved.

c. Final Approval of School Advisory Council Membership for 2015-2016

The Director recommends approval of the completed slate for 2015-2016 School Advisory Council (SAC) membership as detailed on the attachment which fulfills all replacement members.

On motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Deborah Marks, the completed SAC membership roster submitted for 2015-2016 was unanimously approved.

XII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. New Policy, Regulation and Form Proposals

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

Policy No. 1029	Allocation and Commitment of Slots <i>Amended</i>
Policy No. 7003	Annual Budget
Regulation No. 7003-1	Annual Budget Calendar, Guidelines, Amendments, Transfers, Reappropriation of Balance, and Reserve Funds
Form 2065-F2	Acceptable Computer System Use Agreement Student/Parent <i>Amended</i>

The Director proposes the due date referenced in Policy No. 1029 be extended to December 1st annually to allow a complete board meeting cycle for members to consider their slot totals.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning Policy No. 7003 and Regulation No. 7003-1, which are developed and proposed to refine the budgeting process. Dr. McGee noted information in the regulation is not meant to be prescriptive, but rather serve as goals for the planning process.

Dr. Lane suggested changes under the calendar section in Regulation No. 7003-1, with current language calling for a *public hearing* prior to December 31st, suggesting different wording such as town hall, public forum or community engagement session. He added that public hearings carry a legal requirement and Walker’s budget is not sufficiently developed in December to meet this requirement.

Dr. McGee mentioned that the budget work session date(s) will be published and the operating budget and capital improvement plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February. Also, as this timeline may be ahead of the state budget, these actions should be considered a presentation of a proposed budget. The final budget will be adopted according to applicable statutes. Dr. Lane added his interpretation of the statute for Walker’s timeline is to propose a

budget in February, hold a public hearing in March with adoption in April, if the Board is prepared to adopt at that time.

Reviewing guidelines and remaining other sections inside the regulation, Dr. McGee shared that language used was lifted from Hanover County Public Schools as suggested by one of the Finance Directors because it could easily be tailored to Walker's needs. Budget amendments are defined as an increase or decrease of revenue necessitating an amendment to be approved by the Regional School Board. Transfers may be authorized by the Director within a category not to exceed \$25,000 per transaction. Dr. Lane asked if RPS used lump sum or categorical funding, to which Dr. McGee responded they are categorically funded. Dr. Lane speculated if a \$25,000 transfer by MLWGS could exceed the threshold allowed to be transferred by the City of Richmond without City Council approval and questioned if there was a better way to handle this action, or if it belongs in this regulation at all as it's not necessarily related to the annual budget adoption. He suggested if left in, language could read, 'budget transfers will be based on the policy of the fiscal agent.' Dr. McGee offered as a point of information, this action authorizes transfers **within** a category, not between categories. Mr. Hazzard requested Mrs. Ayers and the Policy Steering Committee review this regulation one more time using feedback from this meeting prior to RSB action in December.

Remaining sections of the regulation were reviewed by Dr. McGee with no RSB questions along well as the update to Form 2065-F2.

Proposed policies and form are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association. Proposed regulation is grounded in division approved regulation. Approval will be requested at the December 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. Interdisciplinary Trip to France 2016 – Teresa Franson, Sponsor

An interdisciplinary trip to France July 1, 2016 – July 15, 2016 is proposed and details were presented by Teresa Franson, International Languages Department. Ms. Franson has connections with the American School of Paris and has taken 5-6 groups in the past when she was employed by Chesterfield County Public Schools.

Approval for this activity will be sought at the December 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIII. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, November 5, 2015 [*minutes available after meeting*]
- Web page: Our Successes Add Up
- Web page: International Opportunities
- Web page: Why Choose MLWGS?
- Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams: 2A East Regional Champions, 3-peat!
- MLWGS Students Attend Junior Classical League Convention November 23rd
- First Lego League Robotics Tournament at MLWGS, November 7th
- 2015 MLWGS Yearbook wins first place in VHSL judged competition
- MLWGS Faculty Member Lynn Reed Awarded the Lucien T. Hall, Jr. Distinguished Service Award by the Greater Richmond Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- Congratulations Goochland Public Schools: honored with award for iPad program

XIV. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report

Dr. Lane noted the committee began an initial discussion with Dr. McGee about budget development and are hopeful that the Governor’s proposal to improve funding for Maggie Walker comes through; with thoughts as to how we could invest in our students and in counseling support programs. However, there are no details to report at this time.

The committee also had a discussion regarding the student application process and what is presenting early regarding demographics. A reported will be presented to the Board in the near future once data can be compiled.

XV. Closed Meeting

None

XVI. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XVII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None

XVIII. Adjournment

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Martha Harris, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

December 17, 2015 at 9:00 am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

W. Kevin Hazzard, Chairman

Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk