

MINUTES

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

Thursday, November 9, 2017

9:00 am.

I. Call to Order

John Axselle, Chair 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 Executive School Board and visitors recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County 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
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **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 and not required to be present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Christopher Reber, *School Board*, Hopewell 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. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools

Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen 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
Mr. Thomas Kranz, **Interim Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Wendy Ellis and Michael ‘Max’ Smith– MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed, Michele Surat, Les Cook and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Megan Lee – MLWGS Student
Peggy Feldmann – Advocacy Committee
Ben Lewis - Community

V. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by John Wright, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Harwood Hall, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, minutes of the regular meeting from October 19, 2017, were approved on a majority vote, with John Wright abstaining.

VII. Recognitions

Megan Lee (Chesterfield) of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School is Lexus of Richmond’s week 5 nominee for the Leadership Award Scholarship. As a National Honor Society member and the current treasurer, she has a 4.66 GPA and scored 1510 out of 1600 on the SAT’s. Megan has scored 5 perfect fives on her AP Tests and is now an AP Scholar with Distinction. She is a member and current president of the National Art Honor Society. Additionally, she is in the French, Science and English Honor Societies. Megan has received the Salem College Junior Book Award, and she is a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student.

An active runner, Megan has been on Maggie Walker’s varsity cross country team for all 4 years of high school. She is also on the varsity indoor and outdoor track teams. All three teams (cross country, indoor track, outdoor track) are three-time defending 2A State Champions. In the spring of 2015, Megan took third place at the Outdoor Track Regionals in the 3200m run. In 2017, she placed third at the Indoor Track State Finals and the Outdoor Track State Finals for the 3200m.

Megan has won a dinner for two and is now in the running for the \$10,000 scholarship.

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.

Remarks provided and presented by Peggy Feldmann:

Good morning Executive Board members, Director, Faculty, and guests. My name is Peggy Feldmann. I am the advocacy chair for the PTSA.

This summer, the Deputy Secretary of Education within the Governor's office asked the parents of Maggie Walker to submit a letter with specific priorities for the coming biennial budget, and background as to why that approach or approaches would be most satisfactory to us and the other advocates of the full day programs.

I am providing the RSB Executive Board with a copy of a resolution voted on and passed by the PTSA Executive Board at their October meeting and sent to the Deputy Secretary of Education. The resolution provides background and states the request to have the 2.5% increase and \$50 per student per course reinstated.

Thank you.

Resolution:

Whereas, the Virginia Appropriations Act sets forth state funding for the Governor's School Incentive Programs Payment

Whereas, the 2013 Virginia Appropriations Act states that "all regional Governor's schools are encouraged to provide full-day grade 9 through 12 programs"

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Education currently disperses the Academic-Year Governor School Incentive Programs Payment based on a funding formula that underfunds existing full-day programs and thus provides no incentive for existing part-time programs to become full-day

Whereas Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies is a full-day grades nine through 12 program

Whereas, the Virginia Appropriations Act set forth the following language providing additional payments to help alleviate the disparity in funding of full-day programs and part-day programs and providing a more equitable distribution of state funds based on the length of the academic day: "...4) This appropriation includes an additional \$1,370,160 the first year and \$1,680,704 the second year from the general fund to provide the state's share of a 2.5 percent increase in the tuition amount, and the state's share of \$50.00 per course per student adjustment added after the 2.5 percent increase. The 2.5 percent increase and the \$50.00 per course per student adjustment shall only be effective for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018."

Whereas, the Virginia Appropriations Act set forth language providing for a study of the funding formula for Academic-Year Governor's Schools: "The Department of Education shall review the distribution methodology used to determine the Governor's School tuition payments by November 4,

2016, and submit the findings of the review to the Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. The review shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the length of the academic program day with the intent to determine and provide an equitable distribution of tuition payments based on the actual length of academic program day, the appropriate state and local shares, and the academic model used by Governor's Schools in the configuration of the funding formula.”

Whereas, the 2.5% tuition increase and \$50.00 per course per student adjustment provided \$1,715,494 in annual funding in Fiscal Year 2018 and, specifically, provided over \$289,000 to Maggie Walker Governor’s School

Whereas, from time to time, the Virginia Department of Education has requested unanimous funding formula solution resolutions from all 19 Governor’s School directors, with one vote per director, and whereas only three of the 19 programs are full-day diploma programs and more than 45% of all Governor’s School students in the Commonwealth attend full-day diploma programs

Whereas, as of October 8, 2017 the Virginia Department of Planning & Budget website did not list an appropriation and language budget request for an extension of the 2.5% tuition increase and \$50 per course per student funding appropriation

Whereas, not extending the 2.5% tuition increase and \$50 per course per student funding for Maggie L. Walker Governor’s Schools will result in a decrease in funding of more than \$289,000 causing the school to endure employee lay-offs and cut-backs on basic educational services.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Executive Board respectfully submits the following resolution for consideration by the Governor of Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly

- Renew the 2.5% tuition increase and the \$50 per course per student funding language indefinitely. Language shall read: “...includes an additional 2.5% tuition increase and a \$50.00 per course per student adjustment indexed to increases in Basic Aid and not subject to the Local Composite Index. In this instance, a course is defined as 140 clock-hours of instruction.”
- Include all Academic-Year Governor’s Schools in state funded incentive programs such as teacher salary increases.
- When and if a new funding formula for Academic-Year Governor’s Schools is proposed, conduct public hearings and meetings to enable input from full-day diploma program stakeholders, including Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School PTSA, in order to examine and understand the unique expenses of these programs due to the length of programming and comprehensive services provided, with the goal of devising an equitable funding formula which supports all Academic-Year Governor’s Schools, and in particular, the three full-day diploma programs.

Vote Date:

Peggy A. Feldmann
Captain, U. S. Navy (ret.)
Advocacy Chair, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School PTSA

Remarks provided and presented by Michele Surat:

Good morning. My name is Michele Surat. I have served in the English Department since the 1998-99 academic year. Today I represent the Maggie L. Walker Education Association. We at the MLWEA really appreciate the individual work of Board members to support our school in the past -- without your efforts and guidance, our school wouldn't be where we are today.

The members of the MLWEA and a number of other faculty are very concerned that the upcoming biennial budget will not include the 2.5% increase per pupil nor the critical \$50.00 per student per course add-ons present in the budgets of the past two years that was guaranteed through the Virginia Appropriations Act. This omission will cause detrimental consequences to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. Losing this funding will affect the health of our school. At present, the MLWEA is working with the PTSA Advocacy Committee to reinstate this critical funding.

We need to ensure that the approximately \$290,000 in additional state funding remains in our budget. As you know, this amount has provided essential roles such as a part-time school psychologist and an additional technology professional.

Therefore, we urge you, the Board and the Superintendents, to be proactive in making your voices heard. The best chance to have the funding restored is while the Governor's budget is being created rather than during the General Assembly amendment period. Thank you for listening.

The Chair thanked today's speakers.

Dr. Lowerre offer an update to the Executive Board stating he will participate in a conference call later today with the directors of the other eighteen Governor's Schools to lay the groundwork in support of the comments made today, [*by Ms. Feldmann*] indicating all nineteen schools will be putting together a document in support of the current funding level being maintained with the notion that it is temporary until a more equitable permanent solution can be created and adopted by the General Assembly.

Dr. Lowerre predicted he will be able to update the full board soon by email regarding the outcome of this call. With initial feelers sent out, the Director stated he believes key people in this group are supportive at a minimum of maintaining the current level of funding at this time and to begin work on the future bigger picture.

Mrs. Ogburn stated she will add this resolution to Henrico's legislative/lobbyist agenda and suggested board members do the same; stating "it is one thing we can do to help, individually and from our boards."

Mr. Wright added with recent election results in seats turning over from districts that influence Governor's School communities, these would be good people to approach as they are motivated to make an impact as they start their service.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- MLWGS Drama Presents 'An Ideal Husband' by Oscar Wilde, November 9-11, 2017
- Information Sessions for Prospective Families, November 13-15, 2017
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 MW auditorium.
- Monday, November 13 – special invitation to the prospective students and families from Henrico.
- Tuesday, November 14 – special invitation to the prospective students and families from Hanover, King and Queen, New Kent and Richmond.
- Wednesday, November 15 – special invitation to the prospective students and families from Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hopewell, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Prince George.
- Division Slot Letters Distributed at October Meeting are due to MLWGS December 1, 2017
- FY19 Budget Development Town Hall, December 5, 2017 @ 6:00 pm, Forum
[Form for Public Input](#). Results will be shared with the RSB

B. Coming Events

November 9, 2017, through January 18, 2018 (see page IX.b for details).

C. Mentorship and Senior Seminar Program with Les Cook, Coordinator

This course is an exciting opportunity for students to explore an area of personal interest that promotes the mission of the school. The senior seminar credit can be fulfilled through participation in (1) a seminar at MLWGS, or (2) a mentorship off campus. Students actively participate during the first semester of their junior year in planning their Senior Seminar experience.

Whether participating in a seminar or a mentorship, students engage in research, write a research paper and/or develop a product, and present their findings at Senior Showcase. Throughout the process, students take an active part in formulating the problems and methods by which the problems are investigated. Students select from a wide range of topics and communicate their results to a live audience in a professionally appropriate manner on Senior Showcase Day. The presentations are graded in accordance with rubrics developed to ensure a level of consistency and rigor. Upon successful completion of all requirements of the Senior Seminar/Mentorship Program, students earn two VCU credits (pass/fail) in Research Methods HUMS291: one credit for the fall semester and one credit for the spring semester.

Mentorship. Students desiring a more individualized plan of study may pursue a mentorship in a variety of professional locations in the Richmond Metropolitan area, meeting each Friday with the MLWGS Mentorship Coordinator to discuss their progress. Students electing this approach must

complete a *minimum* of 115 hours of field experience with all documentation and assessments required for a passing mark, complete a *minimum* of 25 hours of classroom time with the Mentorship Coordinator on Fridays to ensure all activities and assessments are completed, and to engage in the research process. Students present their research and experience at Senior Showcase. A 3-hour training session, offered at the end of a student's junior year, is required before starting the mentorship.

Mr. Cook stated the mentorship/senior program is one of the offerings that make MW special with eighty-one (81) seniors currently participating in a mentorship and ninety-nine (99) in a seminar class. He compared MW's seminar class to those in a college where a specific topic is proposed to discuss, study, and write about by our teachers and then the students actually participate in the selection of which course is chosen to be taught in the following academic year.

Mr. Cook distributed a handout that lists all the seminar courses being taken this year along with their descriptions showing how they span a wide range of topics or subject areas. The school is about to start the process of re-selecting offerings for next year including all current seminars plus five additional added for student choice.

The same handout also listed the different locations of current mentorships. He noted one of our biggest partners is VCU, both the school in general or the VCU Science and Engineering Departments, Business Department, and VCU Health Sciences. Mr. Cook noted that responses he received from professionals contacted about mentorship sponsorship were positive and that all either said they wanted to participate or declined because of a heavy load of commitments but wanted to remain on our sponsorship list for the following year.

VCU Health Sciences requires a contract for medical security purposes and is typical in the health system. By signing this contract, it has strengthened the relationship between MLWGS, VCU and VCU Health Sciences as this is in fact, a dual-enrollment course. Forty-Six (46) of our eighty-one (81) mentorships are at VCU so we take great advantage of their close proximity to MLWGS.

Important to note that the Mentorship/Senior Seminar is a requirement at MLWGS for the advanced diploma and is pointed out to the students each year. All students in this program are required to complete a major research paper, project, or assignment of some type, regardless of mentorship or seminar participation with students earning two (2) VCU research credits for completing this assignment. Finally, seniors present their work at our annual Senior Showcase.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cook for his presentation.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

The Director detailed personnel actions noted in Folder B and requested review and approval of fiscal registers and donations September 30, 2017.

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the following consent items were unanimously approved: November personnel actions, fiscal status report of September 30, 2017, and the donations report of September 30, 2017.

XII. Action Items

a. New Course Proposal – Mathematics Department

Course Title: Data Analytics

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus (formerly Trigonometry/Math Analysis)

Credit: 1 MLWGS Credit

Course Description: Data Analytics is an applied mathematics course that utilizes data science to build upon the foundation of previous mathematics courses. Data Analytics is an inquiry-based course that focuses on real-world applications from cross-curricular topics such as epidemiology, climatology, operations research, government and economics. Students will do research, collect data, analyze the data, synthesize the results and present their findings. In addition, students will critically examine data analysis and forecasts encountered in the media.

Estimated Cost: Student Textbook: approximately \$200
 Instructor resources (books, software, simulations, etc.): approximately \$1000

Rationale: This course is intended to be taken after the completion of Pre-calculus and may be taken concurrently with other math electives, including Calculus and Statistics. This course is accessible to students of any mathematical ability who have completed the prerequisite. The course gives students the opportunity to research and analyze topics critical to the global community using mathematical reasoning. Students will acquire the skills to analyze the ‘big data’ sets that are becoming ever more prevalent in many fields. In addition, students will acquire the skills to critically analyze the presentation of the results of data analytics portrayed in the media.

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by John Wright, a new course entitled Data Analytics was unanimously approved.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy Proposals

The following were submitted by the Policy Steering Committee for RSB review:

- Pol 2026 – Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials
- Pol 3004 – School Year/School Day
- Pol 3008 – Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records
- Pol 5100 – Part-Time Exempt and Non-Exempt Substitute Professional Staff *Amended*
- Pol 5003 - Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records

Dr. Lowerre highlighted Policy 5100 *amended* that addresses when a long-term substitute in a single assignment will be paid at a higher rate to accommodate additional planning duties. Mr. Wright

questioned the removal of the word ‘consecutive’ in the policy to which the Director explained it was to not penalize the employee working in a single assignment who inadvertently would not be available for a day during the 21-day period and would have to start that period all over again. Dr. Myers asked for clarification regarding at what point said board substitute would start to receive the higher rate of pay and used the example knowing someone will be out for 12 weeks for which a long-term assignment is needed, when does the higher pay begin...on day 22 or day 1? Dr. Lowerre read the sentences from the policy that he thought would address his specific question; “On the 21st day, the rate will increase based on Step 1 of degree status (ex: Bachelor or Masters) of the current teacher’s scale. A board substitute exceeding 20 days of service in a long-term single assignment will be retro paid at the higher rate after 21 days worked.” The Director added that if situations arise where the school is aware in advance a person was going to be out for extended time such as a maternity leave (example), we would be comfortable starting a board substitute on day one at the higher rate. However, with an illness (example) and we are not sure of the extent of the leave needed, the school would follow this formula as written.

With this review, approval will be requested at the January 2018 meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes November 2, 2017
- Mathematics Course Title Change: Trigonometry/Math Analysis and Trigonometry/Math Analysis Plus to Pre-calculus and Pre-Calculus Plus
- Interdisciplinary Merged Course: Environment and Society: Science, Policy, and Human Behavior (AP Human Geography + AP Environmental Science)
- Senior Abigail Barber (New Kent) Signs Letter of Intent with UVA for Softball
- MW Cross Country Teams Win 5th Consecutive Regional Title with Individual Champion
- MW’s David Barnes is 2017 State Finalist for Presidential Math & Science Teacher Award

XV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XVI. Adjournment

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Micky Ogburn, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:38 am.

Next Meeting – Reorganization Meeting of the Regional School Board

January 18, 2018, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x 2190.

John Axselle III, Chairman

Robert C. Lowerre, Ph.D.
Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk