

MINUTES

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

Thursday, October 21, 2010

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Dianne Pettitt, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional School 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
Mr. John Axelle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Lisa Marshall, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
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
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Cathy Glenn, Specialist-Gifted Education for Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**,
Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mrs. Connie Foreman, Specialist-Gifted Education for Dr. Linda Underwood,
Superintendent, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Alvera Parrish, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point Public Schools
Mr. Fred S. Morton IV, **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. Stewart Roberson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Patti Chappell, and Wendy Ellis – Administration, Hall Waller - GS Foundation, Angela Dews – Richmond Education Association, Anne Napps – PTSA President, Lynn Reed – Faculty Liaison to the School Board, Paige Hawkins and Lisa Williams – Faculty, Cassie Turnage and Ishani Premaratne – MLWGS Students.

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the agenda for this meeting shown on page (1) was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Ivan Mattox, the minutes as submitted for September 16, 2010 were approved with Mrs. Lisa Marshall abstaining.

V. Recognitions

Mrs. Lisa Williams, NBCT – English Department, was recognized for her research supported by a 2009 R.E.B. Grant Award of Academic Study and focused on the topic: “African-American Movement from Slavery to Freedom.” Her research took place in Ghana during the summer of 2010. Mrs. Williams’ research was recently published. In addition, she personally documented her experiences through scrapbooking and poetry, all of which she shared with the Board.

Ishani Premaratne, senior from Henrico, was recognized for serving as **Governor of the Virginia Girls State**, a week-long citizenship seminar sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary during June, 2010.

Cassie Turnage, senior from Hanover, introduced by Paige Hawkins-Co-Activities Director, was recognized for her selection in week one of the **Lexus Scholarship Award** along with being chosen as the **RTD Scholar Athlete of the Month**. Cassie’s many accomplishments that helped earn these honors include being an AP Scholar with Distinction, maintaining a 4.61 GPA, playing field hockey, running indoor track and cross-country, and playing both basketball and soccer. As a Junior, Cassie was the recipient of the West Point Leadership Award, the Colonial District Player of the Year, Central Region Co-Player of the Year, and 1st Team All-State. Cassie is currently Captain of the Varsity Field Hockey team. She also volunteers with Special Olympics. Cassie stated that “coming to Maggie Walker has allowed me to bloom and explore so many different areas of interest. I feel that if I had not been given the opportunity to come here and make the most of it, I don’t think I would have had as good a chance of receiving these awards.”

VI. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes (in 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, not 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

Mr. Morton updated the following activities for the Board:

Constitutional Plaque Dedication Scheduled for Monday, November 22, 2010, 1:00pm – Details are still in the planning stages at this time, but each Board member was asked to mark their calendars for this event. Governor's Allen and Kaine have committed to participate in a discussion about the Constitution. Governor McDonnell is still reviewing his commitments and may attend, as well as Dr. Bob Holsworth, Historian.

Middle School Counselor Workshop – A packet of materials was provided to each Board member and Superintendent containing documents that were distributed to their division counselors on October 6th. Approximately 70 school counselors attended the workshop, which proved to be a highly successful educational experience. MLWGS is committed to scheduling this event next year.

Middle School Recruitment Visits – MLWGS is in the middle of recruitment visits with six additional visits being added over last year's schedule. Open House was also discussed as part of the recruitment process with the following schedule for visits noted: November 3rd: Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King & Queen, New Kent and West Point families and November 4th: Charles City, Chesterfield, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George and Richmond families. The program begins promptly at 6:30pm.

MLWGS 20th Anniversary Planning – A list of the 20th Anniversary Planning Committee members working to coordinate this celebration is included in the Board packet. This committee is scheduled to have its first meeting today chaired by Phil Tharp, and members include Dr. Bill Boshier as an original founding Superintendent, along with Dr. Janet Crawley and Stewart Roberson. Not included on the list provided in your packet but recently committed to serve is Mrs. Cathy Glenn, Gifted Specialist from Chesterfield County.

MLWGS Robotics Team Sponsors First Lego League Tournament at MLWGS on November 6, 2010, a hands-on, interactive robotics program with a sports-like atmosphere. Teams of up to 10 players, ages 9-14, focus on team building, problem solving, creativity, and analytical thinking to develop a well thought-out solution to a problem.

MLWGS Debate Team participated in a National Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona on October 15, 2010. According to team sponsor, Mr. Dan Brown, tournaments such as this prove invaluable to the growth of the program and have resulted in steady improvement over the past few seasons.

MLWGS History - Included in the Board packet on pages 18-21 is an overview of MLWGS history excerpted from the MLWGS Administrative Manual. In addition, the Director distributed documents relating to the founding of Governor's School retrieved from multiple locations which add further details regarding the school's legacy and requested a copy of each be included in the record of this meeting. Those documents are:

#1) Correspondence from S. John Davis, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Commonwealth of Virginia, to Delegate Franklin P. Hall, June 6, 1989, with a proposal for a Magnet School for Government and International Studies.

#2) Correspondence from Albert L. Jones, Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools, to Dr. Janie Craig and Ms. Nancy D. Moore, Programs for the Gifted, Virginia Department of Education, March 12, 1990, describing RPS's proposal to develop Governor's School for Government and International Studies at Thomas Jefferson. A response to Dr. Jones' correspondence was received from Governor L. Douglas Wilder on May 18, 1990 assuring his careful review as the State prepares its recommendation to this proposal for the 1991 Session of the General Assembly.

#3) Request to recommend the establishment of a Regional Governor's School in Government and International Studies in the Richmond area is submitted to the Virginia Board of Education by Dr. Janie Craig on June 28, 1990, with Board approval on July 13, 1990.

#4) News Release from Richmond Public Schools dated September 20, 1990 announcing the planning process for the Regional Governor's School for Government and International Studies to open at Thomas Jefferson.

#5) Members of the Superintendent's Steering Committee, Planning Committee, Sub-Committees, and Program Design documents from the fall of 1990. Dr. Crawley was asked to speak to her memories of the development process as an original member of the Planning Committee. Dr. Crawley credited Mrs. Anna Lou Aaroe for initially taking the lead and keeping everyone focused as the team(s) worked together. She recalled early discussions focused around the principle that 'if we are going to establish a Governor's School for the region, it must offer something other area schools did not.' Once that focus was determined, the next steps were to work on what the curriculum was going to look like, figure out how slots would be allotted, and decide how students would be admitted. The end goal was to be able to offer a rich level of student skills and talent to not only the region, but also nationally and internationally once they were finished at Governor's School. Mrs. Cathy Glenn also spoke as an original Planning Committee member stating that this project was one of her first assignments as a new CCPS employee and attested to efforts involved as 'truly regional.'

Mr. Morton thanked both and invited Dr. Crawley to assist in the development of a good archival history blending her records with the schools' documentation.

In summary, Mr. Morton stated that in all of his travels and discussions with superintendents from around the country he could not find another school with a similar design to MLWGS.

#6) The Constitution and By-Laws of The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. In reviewing school history, the Director noted the initial Regional Board for Governor's School was considered to be an advisory committee. However, working with Pat Lacy in 1996, this Board became a true independent Regional Board that follows Virginia's guidelines.

Mrs. Pettitt asked the Director to clarify for this body the concept of a charter. Mr. Morton confirmed that he had also been asked on occasion what Maggie Walker's charter was. The facts are that when the State Board of Education and the General Assembly approved the formation of this school, there was no charter. The Constitution and By-Laws, which have been revised over time, are the living documents that establish the work of this school. Misunderstandings may have arisen because language contained in some of the original documents referred to a magnet program and people may have confused that with a charter program. There was never any official action taken to form a charter.

Personnel - Portia Chan, Foundation Development Assistant, Part-Time, hired September 16, 2010.

Slot Commitment 2011-2012 – Letters will be prepared shortly for participating school divisions for next year's student enrollment commitment. This count is utilized for initial budget planning for the next fiscal year. Mr. Morton indicated that he intends to follow the same model as last year for budget preparation with a submission to this Board after the Governor's budget is announced and after working with the Superintendent's Steering Committee.

Coming Events - See Pages 26 and 27.

VIII. Action Items

- a. None

IX. Materials for Board Review

- a. **New Club Proposals:** The following club proposals, along with their constitutions and by-laws are submitted for Board review and consideration:
 - The Culinary Club, Photography Club, Invisible Children, Habitat for Humanity, Science Fiction Club, and the Future Medical Professionals Club.

An additional request for a club name change is also submitted: The Poetry Club to The MLWGSGIS Young Writers Association.

Approval for the above proposals will be requested at the November 11th meeting.

Mrs. Pettitt asked about dues for club membership as stipulated in their by-laws and if this has ever caused a hardship for students. The Director replied that one of the funding lines given to the school by the Foundation offers financial assistance to students; whether it is for travel, activities, or club needs. The Director stated that the Administration has not had a discussion regarding maximum dues that could be assessed and attributes a lack of problems in this regard to the support funding from the Foundation.

- b. **Proposed Revision to School Advisory Council By-Laws.** The Director proposes amending language under Article I, Section 2. The statement currently reads, “Administrative team and Planning Committee may send a designee when the designated representative is unable to attend.” The new statement would read; “Members unable to attend are encouraged to send a non-voting designee from their representative group.”

John Axelle made a motion to approve the change requested without second reading, seconded by Lisa Marshall; revision to the School Advisory Council By-Laws was unanimously approved.

X. Informational Items Provided

MLWGS News Items:

- 2010 Newsweek Poster
- Alumni News
- 2010-2011 School Board Members
- 2010-2011 Superintendents
- 2010-2011 Planning Committee Members
- 2010-2011 School Advisory Council Members
- 2010-2011 GS Foundation Board Members
- 2010-2011 PTSA Officers & Booster Club Officers
- 20th Anniversary Planning Committee Members

XI. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Meeting

None

XII. Closed Meeting

None

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

None

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Mattox inquired about the process of notification and implementation of legislative policy changes and updates for MLWGS. The Director stated that it comes through the Governor's School Director's group which meets here 4-5 times per year, along with Dr. Donna Poland, DOE representative for this group. Also, Barbara Marshall tracks State Superintendent's Memos and if she sees anything that might apply it will be reviewed and reported back to the Board.

Discussion followed concerning examples of reporting complexities with the Department of Education connected to the state's classification of Governor's Schools; in particular, SOL testing score distribution and future on-line testing capabilities.

Ms. Gray asked if MLWGS has a lobbyist. The Director stated that the school utilizes all twelve school division lobbyists along with the advocacy group Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools (FOVGS). Ms. Gray proposed that this Board share common legislative positions when talking to their respective elected representatives so everyone is on the same page.

Lastly, Mr. Axselle reminded the Board that the Box Tops for Education program now includes Avery Business Products with maximum donations of \$20,000/year/school.

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, this meeting was adjourned.

XV. Next Meeting

November 11, 2010 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

Dianne Pettitt, Chairman

Fred S. Morton IV, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk