

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, October 20, 2011

9:03 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 (late arrival)  
Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. Ivan Mattox, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools (late arrival)  
Mrs. Diana Winston, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Mrs. Eileen Long, *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  
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point 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  
Mrs. Lorianne Smith, Director of Human Resources & Instruction for 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 (late arrival)  
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools (late arrival)  
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point 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  
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis and Patti Chappell – MLWGS Administration, Anna Shore and Michele Surat – Faculty, Hal Waller – GS Foundation, Dr. Pat Kinlaw – Henrico County Public Schools.

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Diana Winston, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the amended agenda provided at table for this meeting was unanimously approved.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the minutes for September 15, 2011, were approved with the following correction: ‘**Absent: Valarie Ayers, School Board, Powhatan County Public Schools.**’ Valarie Ayers, Barbara Crawley and Teresa Lindsay abstained.

### **V. Recognitions**

Student, **Samantha Marquez** (Chesterfield), was introduced by science department faculty member Anna Shore and recognized for her selection as an inductee into the National Gallery for America’s Young Inventors on November 12, 2011.

Jeff Hall, fine arts department chair, introduced faculty member **Todd Raviotta** – Winner of the 2011 Pollak Prize for Excellence in Arts, Richmond Magazine, October 2011 Issue.

### **\* Director’s Search Committee Report**

Committee Chairman, Ivan Mattox, reported that team members met on October 17<sup>th</sup> and a) reviewed stakeholder comments and concerns and developed a matrix of interview questions, and b) re-examined the job description and stakeholder input to identify qualified candidates from the current applicant pool.

The committee recommends and is seeking Board consensus to include one representative from each of the following stakeholder groups for inclusion on the *interview panel* (not the search committee) using a set slate of questions: MLWGS PTSA, Governor’s School Foundation and MLWGS faculty. Dr. Newsome reminded that MLWGS by-laws stipulate the Superintendent’s Steering Committee makes a recommendation to this Board regarding selection and appointment of the new director; suggesting that the search committee will make their recommendation to the Steering Committee based on their analysis and that of the interview panel.

Interviews are currently scheduled to be conducted October 31<sup>st</sup> – November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Members of the interview panel will sign a confidentiality agreement. Mr. Axselle expressed his concerns regarding the issue of confidentiality and approval for individuals serving on a panel that are unknown to this Board. Mrs. Pettitt remarked that the most recent hiring process (Dr. Ellis) included stakeholders and the community appreciated that

process. What the board is doing now is being compared to what happened one and one half years ago. Mrs. Long, committee member, stated that after meeting with the stakeholders it is evident they are incredibly invested in the process for a new director and want transparency.

Mr. Skeen shared his opinion that while the MLWGS Director is a true hybrid superintendent/principal position, leadership as a building principal is the primary responsibility of the director and 95% of his/her leadership is the constant interaction with the various stakeholder groups. It is important they feel vested in this decision.

Mr. Mattox thanked Henrico County Public Schools, Dr. Russo and Dr. Kinlaw for their work to facilitate this search.

Mr. Mattox left the meeting at 9:45am.

Dr. Kinlaw shared that his department received fifty-six (56) applications for the position. He and Mrs. Winston narrowed that number down to twenty-three (23) that met qualifications based on the job description. The committee will review applications after the conclusion of today's Board meeting.

Dr. Newsome stated the consensus and fear from the last director's search addressed limiting the committee and interview panel due to concerns regarding breach of confidentiality. Any breach could jeopardize a candidate's job security, thus causing the committee to lose talented applicants. The current committee started this campaign with the same concern. However, having heard the feedback from the community, the team felt they needed to strike a balance between security and the need to involve community, thus the request to include stakeholders on the interview panel.

Dr. Browder remarked that in addition to serving on the current search committee, he also served last year for Appomattox Governor's School Director opening, noting their stakeholders also expressed a desire to participate in the process but ultimately were not included. However, MLWGS is a different opportunity to reach out, noting that one process doesn't necessarily serve all.

In conclusion, Mrs. Pettitt polled the Board regarding the committee's request to include one representative from the each of the previously identified stakeholder groups to participate on the interview panel. With the exception of Mr. Axselle, no other Board members objected and the committee will proceed with the selection of stakeholder representatives.

## **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. Members of the newly constituted **Appalachian Heritage Music Club** performed for the Board under the supervision of Karl von Klein, club sponsor. Students performing included Camille Brenke – Jaw Harp, Club President (Chesterfield), Seamus Guy – Strings (Richmond), Stephen Roach – Washboard (Chesterfield), Jenny Harlow – Vocals (Henrico), Maria Wadman – Vocals (Richmond), Lucy Dacus – Vocals (Hanover), Mackey Neal - Vocals (Chesterfield), and Abbey O'Farrell – Vocals (Henrico).
- b. **Diversity Committee Report** with Dr. Wendy Ellis. The first committee report from Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> was provided at table.

Section 1 notes committee members.

Section II is a reminder of the recommendations from the UVA Study.

Section III reflects current efforts to address underrepresentation of minority students that have taken place since the UVA Study.

Section IV, Moving Forward: Formation of the MLWGS Diversity Committee and their proposed activities and strategic plan development.

Dr. Wilson inquired about expanding committee members to include division representation. Dr. Ellis noted that Patty Cover, representing Chesterfield County, has volunteered her service but the committee would welcome anyone from the divisions that is willing. Dr. Ellis thanked Dr. Wilson for the suggestion.

Dr. Ellis asked the Board if they had any additional suggestions or questions to take back to the committee. Dr. Brandon asked that the committee consider more programming similar to the current initiative by Bob Jenkins' class (International Languages Department: Spanish – MLWGS students tutoring at St. Andrew's in Oregon Hill) within public schools to enhance the number of children who may choose to apply for seats at MLWGS and be successful in remaining.

Mrs. Olsson left the meeting at 10:30am.

Dr. Russo requested the following data: 1) five-year trend analysis on the number of students in ethnic groups that attend MLWGS, 2) number of students lost each year to return to their home schools, and 3) what quantifiable outcomes are expected as a result of the various processes implemented. Dr. Ellis responded that over time the expected outcome is to increase the number of African-American students that attend Maggie Walker.

Dr. Wilson proposed the committee also look at socio-economic as another group that is an under-represented population.

In response to comments by Mrs. Long applauding the efforts of this Board regarding diversity at MLWGS while recognizing it takes time to make changes, Dr. Ellis stated the strategic plan will be a living document that is an extension of the UVA study.

Dr. Parrish suggested the committee also look at comparison percentages starting with where we have been, currently are, and ongoing as a result of the steps taken.

Mrs. Pettitt thanked Dr. Ellis and the committee for their comprehensive report.

- c. **International Travel Summer 2011** – The following sponsors and students shared their experiences, opportunities and what was learned resulting from their Board approved travel:

**Russia:** Michael White, sponsor, with Johnny Mac Yates (Richmond) and Cameron Tarry (Richmond).

**Guatemala:** Brenda Thornton and Stephanie Welles, sponsors, with Sarah Surface (Richmond) and Anna Cline (Chesterfield).

- d. **Slot Commitment Letters** – Prepared annually requesting 2012-2013 student enrollment commitment by division for each Superintendent and Board member. Please return to MLWGS by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Winston left the meeting at 11:00am.

- e. **Updates with Don Skeen:**

- (8) Students attended summer Governor's School Academies
- (140) Students inducted into NHS
- National Merit Scholars Program, Class of 2012: (56) Letters of Commendation and (28) Semifinalists
- PSAT/Field Day, October 13<sup>th</sup>
- Homecoming Events October 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>
- Open House November 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Middle School Recruitment Visits

- f. **Coming Events** - See Page 24 of the Board packet

## VIII. Action Items

- a. **Additional Advisory Council Membership Approval:**

Parent members have been secured and are submitted for Board approval. The complete list of committee members is listed on page 26 of the packet.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Teresa Lindsay, additional members to serve on the Advisory Council was unanimously approved with Ivan Mattox, Diana Winston and Dudley Olsson not present.

**b. New Club Proposal**

Submitted in September for Board review, the SAT Practice Club seeks approval from the Board.

There being no questions or comments, on motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the SAT Practice Club was unanimously approved with Ivan Mattox, Diana Winston and Dudley Olsson not present.

**c. International Trip Proposal – Geographic Learning Expedition 2012 Spring Break Program in China.**

Changes to the trip proposal as described to this Board at their September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were noted; there being no questions or comments, on motion by Eileen Long, seconded by Valarie Ayers, authorization for the International Trip to China – Spring Break 2012 was approved on a vote of 6 to 1, with John Axselle voting Nay and Ivan Mattox, Diana Winston and Dudley Olsson not present.

Mr. Axselle left the meeting at 11:08am.

Mr. Skeen stated Board packets included ‘Procedures Related to International Travel’ for their review.

**IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

**a. New Club Proposals:**

- National Chinese Honor Society sponsored by Sharon Meng – Stipend = \$233.00
- Future Business Leaders of America sponsored by Michele Surat – Stipend = \$0.00
- S.P.O.R.T.S. Club sponsored by Paige Hawkins – Stipend = \$0.00
- Green Machine Sponsored by Paige Hawkins – Stipend = \$0.00
- Fashion Design Club sponsored by Joy Davis – Stipend = \$0.00
- Mock Trial Club sponsored by Mary Jane McKay – Stipend = \$0.00
- Mu Upsilon Sigma sponsored by Karl von Klein – Stipend = \$0.00
- Backgammon Club sponsored by Lynn Reed – Stipend = \$0.00
- Olde School Ballistics Club sponsored by Dan Brown – Stipend = \$0.00

**X. MLWGS Informational Items**

- Planning Committee Minutes June 7, 2011
- Finance Committee Minutes October 6, 2011
- National Gallery for America’s Young Inventors Award Information

**XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report**

No report is available for this meeting; however, Dr. Newsome took a moment to extend an invitation to Board members to attend the second Region One Superintendents Leadership Consortium to be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the University of Richmond, Jepson Center.

**XII. Director's Search Committee Report**

(Report given earlier in the meeting – See Item V)

**XIII. Closed Meeting**

None

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

None

**XV. Adjournment**

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

**Next Meeting**

November 10, 2011 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

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Dianne Pettitt, Chairman

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Donald Skeen, Interim Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk