

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

Thursday, September 20, 2012

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, 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 Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Kevin Hazzard, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mrs. Ann Gladstone for Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Diana Winston, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen 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
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George 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. Stephen Geyer, **Assistant Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools (late arrival)

Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mr. Timothy Billups, Director of Human Resources, representing Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Mr. Jeffrey McGee, **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 from Meeting:

Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Patti Chappell and Wendy Ellis – **Administration**
Sharon Parker and Gabriela Georgiadis – **Faculty**
Hal Waller - **GS Foundation**
Shelley Allen - **PTSA** and Mary Phillippo Parker – **PTSA President**
Bill Yates, Peggy Feldmann and Marianne Macon – **Parents**
Saumil Bandyopadhyay - **Student**
Michele Surat – **Faculty Liaison to the Regional School Board**

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Dianne Smith, seconded by Barbara Crawley; the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Diana Winston, seconded by Sarah Barber; minutes as submitted for August 16, 2012 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

Saumil Bandyopadhyay ('13-Henrico) was recognized for his presentation at NASA Goddard Space Center in Maryland on Aug. 29th titled “Universal detector of light and beta particles”. He was invited by Dr. John Mather, a Physics Nobel Laureate, working on the Webb Space Probe that is a successor to the Hubble Space telescope. Also, Saumil was named a Davidson Fellow by the Davidson Institute. **The Davidson Fellowship is rated as one of seven most prestigious undergraduate scholarships by the US News and World Report.**

This summer, Bandyopadhyay was recruited by the US Army Engineers Research and Development Center at Alexandria, VA to work on a project involving his light detectors. Bandyopadhyay has co-authored two journal articles on infrared detection as lead author, and his **h-index, the universal measure of the impact a scholar’s research** has had on the science community, is currently 1. **This makes him one of very few high school students in the world to have an h-index.**

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.

No public comments were made

VII. Director’s Report

Mr. McGee introduced **Ms. Sharon Parker, Coordinator of the MLWGS Mentorship Program.**

Ms. Parker described this rigorous program designed to allow senior students to explore an area of personal interest that also promotes the mission of the school. A list was provided in each member’s packet that illustrates where MLWGS students are being mentored.

The Director acknowledged and congratulated Ms. Parker for her recent acceptance into Leadership Metro Richmond.

Updates:

- **VHSL** - Mr. McGee reported the school has appealed a decision from the conference realignment committee that places MLWGS in the AA East Conference 33 Division. The initial appeal was rejected; however, the school has advanced an appeal to the next higher authority. Placing MLWGS at this level significantly increases travel distance and time away from academics for our athletes. As a school that has won regional and state championships at the AAA level we have a strong interest to remain competing at that level.
- **Strategic Planning** – The Maggie Walker Governor’s School community is preparing to engage in a comprehensive strategic plan initiative. The goal is to affirm our place as a leader nationally and to secure a similar place internationally. The Director wanted the Board to be aware of this effort that will involve a broad range of constituent groups.
- **Policy Review Steering Committee** – This committee convened its first meeting in August and noted that as Richmond remains our fiscal agent, this Board has made a significant amount of policy over the years. While many of these policies remain relevant and some need review, the committee noted that given the current strategic needs of the school, the most immediate need is new policy development. The committee suggests using the VSBA model as its framework. This approach will assure that your policy is in line with best practice. The committee further suggests initial policy development that addresses issues germane to foundations and basic commitments of the Regional School Board to begin at the October Board meeting with an initial offering of three new policies for review. Noting that policies offered will not include every policy in the VSBA policy manual sections, but rather those most necessary to supplement policies that are currently in place. The committee proposes that this initial cycle of offering and action continue through the Board’s December 2012 meeting, at which time no further offering will be made and a review of the process can take place. The committee is open to Board feedback and suggestions.

Finally, MLWGS is grateful to Chesterfield County Public Schools for providing technical assistance in this endeavor.

- **Opening of School and Back to School Night** – School opened smoothly on September 4th welcoming 719 students that were greeted with complete schedules. Back to School activities will occur this evening at MLWGS.
- **2013 National Merit Scholarship** – (19) MLWGS seniors have qualified as national semi-finalists in this annual prestigious program by scoring at or above the 99th percentile on the PSAT test.
- **ACT Scores** – We are proud that Walker scores continue to represent this school and our regional divisions as among the best in the nation.
- **Middle School Visits** – The MLWGS team will conduct (34) visits to schools in this region. This year the program focus is toward increasing the diversity of the pool of candidates who are eligible to make application to this school.

- **Fall Festival** – Friday, October 5, 2012.
- **NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame Ceremony for Willie Lanier** – Tuesday, October 9, 2012. Mr. Lanier will be recognized as a hometown hero.
- **PSAT Testing** – Wednesday, October 17th 2012.

Coming Events: September 20, 2012 through October 18, 2012. See VII.c

VIII. Action Items

a. Personnel

The Director recommends the hiring of David Hillgrove (Part-time) and Phil Sorrentino (Part-time) to fill the opening made by the late retirement notice presented to the Board in August.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved the personnel action requested.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. New Club Proposals

The following club proposals are submitted for Board review and consideration: Origami Club, Maggie Walker Unicycle Club, International Club of Exchanges and the Education Policy Advocacy Club (EduPAC).

Approval of these clubs will be requested at the October meeting of this Board.

b. Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Constitution & By-Laws Amendment

As currently written Article XI of the MLWGS Constitution states: "notice of any proposed amendment shall be given to all members of the Board or body by lettered mail to their usual place of business or residence." In keeping with current practice the Director proposes the Board consider changing this section of Article XI to: "notice of any proposed

amendment shall be given to all members of the Board or body via electronic communication, or should a member of the Board or body not have access to electronic communication, then by letter mailed to their usual place of business or residence. Notification preferences should be communicated to the school board clerk.”

Approval for this amendment will be requested at the October meeting of this Board.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip: Grecian Odyssey, March 29, 2013 through April 6, 2013

Ms. Gabriela Georgiadis, MLWGS Mathematics Teacher, presented this interdisciplinary trip proposal for Board consideration. At the conclusion of Ms. Gerogiadis’ presentation, Dr. Wilson requested clarification of the trip timeline where the Board will be asked for approval in October yet noted that the first informational meeting for parents and students is scheduled for September 25th. To the degree that Board members have a question regarding authorization of this trip, what process is in place for insuring that the Board is comfortable before moving forward with information and expectations being created for families? Ms. Georgiadis replied that during the informative meeting she would inform families the trip was pending approval by the Regional Board. Also, parents will be informed that if there is insufficient time for planning once approval is obtained; the trip will be postponed to the summer of 2013.

In response to a query by Mrs. Ayers, Ms. Georgiadis stated she is planning on 30-40 students participating based on survey results from the last academic year.

Ms. Gray asked for consensus of the Board that they are comfortable with Ms. Georgiadis proceeding with the proposed informative meeting, with no dissenting voices to her request.

Mr. McGee assured the Board that the September initial informative meeting is more of an assessment of interest by participants in order to better prepare trip planning and cost.

Approval of Ms. Georgiadis’ proposal will be requested at the October 18th meeting of this Board.

X. Informational Items

- Summer Governor’s School Programs Attended by MLWGS Students (Seth Bright – ’13-Chesterfield, Lucas Condon – ’13-Chesterfield, Christine Gao – ’13-Chesterfield and Ryan Oppenheim – ’14-Chesterfield)

- MLWGS Students Turn Japanese in Princeton (Matthew King – '14-Henrico, Mackenzie Neal – '14-Chesterfield and Kevin Yuan – '14-Henrico)
- Junior Presents Seminar in Beijing (Samantha Marquez – '14-Chesterfield)

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome reported that the committee met just prior to the Regional Board meeting regarding areas of focus consistent with what Mr. McGee presented in August; strategic planning, diversity, budget, policy and new mandates as they relate to teacher evaluation. This morning the committee focused on issues discussed previously by this Board, specifically a letter relating to diversity from the June meeting, and reported that Mr. McGee had followed up with staff and put a process in place that provides greater opportunity for these types of conversations prior to them coming to this Board level. Dr. Newsome thanked the Director for resolving issues around this matter. The other matter discussed dealt with the budget process for FY14 and their intention to improve the process over last years' noting that specifics cannot be discussed until after the Governor releases his budget, typically the third Wednesday in December. Work will begin in earnest around January with a target for Board action of April 2013.

Ms. Gray inquired if there were any legislative actions or agendas that Board members should be promoting from the Superintendents point of view. Dr. Newsome stated this was a good idea and would include looking at issues beyond funding that might impact the school, but at this time most Superintendents' had probably not gotten very far with their legislative agendas.

XII. Closed Meeting

None.

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

None.

XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business

None.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Diana Barbara Crawley, the motion to adjourn this meeting was unanimously approved and this meeting was adjourned.

XVI. Next Meeting

October 18, 2012 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

Kenneth Pritchett, Chairman

Jeffrey W. McGee, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk