

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 16, 2013

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order in the auditorium.

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
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen 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. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools (late arrival)
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:

Mr. John Montgomery, Jr., *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis, Karen Hoover and John Piersol – MLWGS
Others: too numerous to list.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Jerry Warren, seconded by Barbara Crawley, minutes submitted for April 18, 2013 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

- *Newtowne Tutoring Project*. Student leaders **Kelsey Anderson ('14-Henrico)**, **Virginia Byrd ('14-Henrico)** and **Catesby Wolski ('14-Henrico)** and their sponsor **Mrs. Barrett Brown**, were recognized for their efforts leading (40) MLWGS students to contribute (490) hours of community service for students in the local neighborhood that seek help with their school work.

Bandyopadhyay, Jones and Marquez were recognized in absentia

- *2013 Presidential Scholars Finalists*. **Saamil Bandyopadhyay (Henrico)** and **Robert Jones (Chesterfield)** were recognized for advancing in the nation's most distinguished honor for high school seniors. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and from U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large and 20 Presidential Scholars in the Arts.
- *Student Invited to White House*. **Saamil Bandyopadhyay ('13-Henrico)** was invited to present his research on quantum engineered light and beta particle detectors on Monday, April 22nd.
- *Gold Medal at the U.S. Physics Olympiad*. **Robert Jones ('13-Chesterfield)** is one of the top (45) performers in the United States and a candidate to represent the USA in the International Physics Olympiad in Denmark over the summer.

- **BioGENEius Challenge.** **Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield)** was named one of ten finalists at the national challenge held in Chicago on April 21st. Two days later, Samantha was selected as finalist for the **International BioGENEius Challenge** representing the world's best young minds in Biotechnology and Biosciences.
- **Minor Planet 28433 Samarquez.** In recognition of achievement as a top award winner in the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, MIT's Lincoln Laboratory named a planet for **Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield).**
- **Leadership Recognition.** **Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield)** made Newsweek and the Daily Beast's list, Women in the World: 25 Under 25, Young Women to Watch.
- **MLWGS History Bowl Team.** David Madden, Director of the National History Bowl and Bee was on-hand to formally congratulate Walker's varsity team for their 3rd place finish and **Connor Wood ('15-Henrico)** for winning the National Junior Varsity Bee. The team is sponsored by Mrs. Stephanie Burr and Ms. Hana Reed.
- **Retiring Faculty.** **Eileen Barrett Brown**, September 1994 through June 2013 and **Dr. John Barnes**, September 1997 through June 2013 were presented a commemorative award by the Chairman in recognition of their service to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. Statements of honor were expressed by Mrs. Dawn Grois and Mr. John Walter respectively.

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.

Note: Audio quality is poor during house comments due to the projection of the speaker. Portions of remarks were unintelligible and denoted by ____

Paul Fleisher, representing the **Richmond Peace Center** addressed the Board: "Good morning everybody. ____ Genevieve Seigel-Hawley is unable to be here today, she is out of town. So, and also I'm speaking on behalf of a group... I was kind of hoping I'd get a little extra time this morning."

"So, I'm here to talk about the Office of Civil Rights Complaint that Genevieve and I and several others filed earlier this year and I want to start by apologizing to the Board. Before we filed the complaint last fall we met with the school administration to let them know that we were about to do that, we didn't want to do anything under the radar or behind closed doors. We should have met with the Board as well, and so my apologies for that. So ____ make amends and do some of that now."

"Each of you have a copy of the complaint...by the way I hope this is not the first time you have seen it. This comes as a result of about a dozen years, we've been working on this issue for a dozen

years now, looking at...by race admissions to the Maggie Walker program. Data in that report is there for you to look at so I won't go over it with you."

"We further made the decision not to go to the media about this because we want to do whatever we can to work with the school and the board to try to address this problem. Now this is a...we first started gathering data in 2001 and around the middle of that decade the Board was also convinced by the data that there was a problem that needed to be addressed which is why the Board then commissioned the UVA study later in the last decade."

"I'd just like to point to the data from one particular county, my own, to point out why this is really needed. I'm a Henrico County resident. Henrico County is a majority/minority district. Over the twelve years that we've studied this; approximately...or six of those twelve years there were zero black students admitted from the County of Henrico; Henrico sends about forty students per year to the school. Now I know and you know that there are more than zero black students qualifying to attend Maggie Walker in the entire County of Henrico. In other years there were no more than two sent in a given year. So there is a long standing, persistent problem despite the efforts of the administration and Board and recommendations of Maggie Walker to address it. It has not been addressed satisfactorily."

"I want to make it clear that we've never advocated any sort of quota system in which students are accepted based on race, nor are we advocating lowering the school's high academic standards in order to make the student body more closely...we want to make the student body more closely reflective of the student population of our region. Our intent is to make sure that an equitable number of highly qualified _____ applicants are accepted and we firmly reject as we believe you will, any notion, any suggestion that increasing the number of qualified black and Latino students equates with a lowering of school standards, it simply does not. There are qualified students in the population but they are not getting into this school."

"The UVA study made a number of recommendations and very few of them have yet to be implemented. We've made additional recommendations on top of that...I'm just going to give you one key example: Maggie Walker in its process continues to aggregate student data into a single 100 point scale score, what the UVA study refers to as a "matrix score." When you use an average score like this, all _____ information on each student disappears, it goes in a _____. Students may be accepted or not on the basis of a tenth of a point difference which has absolutely no statistical significance. This method of identification has not been considered best practice for more than 30 years, yet Maggie Walker continues to use it."

"Meanwhile and finally, the students who apply to Maggie Walker next year hadn't even been born when we began studying this problem. So I hope you will understand why we feel the need to take additional steps before a second generation of black students are denied equal access to this great school. And we want to finally, on behalf of Genevieve and myself and the others that are named in the complaint, we want to reiterate our willingness to work with the school. We've offered on numerous occasions to work with the school as together we seek ways to solve this problem. We hope you see this complaint as an opportunity to improve the process by which students are admitted to the school. I would be more than happy, and Genevieve would be happy to meet with you either

as a group or individually to talk more about our findings and our suggestions. Thank you very much.”

Bill Yates, Richmond parent, addressed the Board: “Good morning. I’m Bill Yates and I have been a Maggie Walker parent since 2005. I served on the diversity study committee back in ‘07-09. I know we all share a desire to increase racial diversity at Maggie Walker while maintaining our exceptional program.”

“I am concerned today by the complaint that’s been lodged with the DOE’s office of Civil Rights. I find the complaint misleading and inaccurate. So, today I’d like to highlight aspects of diversity here at Maggie Walker and some compelling efforts being made by Maggie Walker to reach out to, and accept, the most qualified and prepared students – regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status – all while remaining a top academic institution.”

“Maggie Walker has a tremendously diverse population. We have students from virtually all heritages. Our students have ancestors from every corner of the globe – but our diversity goes far beyond a narrow, color oriented view. Our school has students from rural, suburban, and urban areas; we have students of all faiths, we have students of different sexual orientations, we have students from all socio-economic levels. We have students with political leanings across the board, and we have students from tremendously varied cultural backgrounds. We are an extraordinarily diverse school. In fact, the common thread at Maggie Walker is not race, or income, or political affiliation, or locality – it is the desire and proven ability to perform at a rigorous and demanding academic level.”

“Maggie Walker continually reaches out to the feeder schools. The administration, students, and PTSA make extensive efforts to educate and excite young students about Maggie Walker. These include year round visits to schools and hosting programs that draw students to Maggie Walker. Model UN, Middle School Science Day, Robotics, Model Congress, We the People, Middle School Language Day, and Newtowne Tutoring are just some of the programs which involve younger students with the Maggie Walker community. These programs expose and inspire students to consider a spot in a Maggie Walker class.”

“These efforts, in keeping with the study, are targeted at increasing the pool of African American and Hispanic students. This process depends heavily upon the school divisions’ participation and it takes time.”

“A 2nd grade student identified as gifted when the diversity study made its recommendations, may have been guided and encouraged in all the ways needed to ensure future success at Maggie Walker. However that student will not even apply to Maggie Walker until 2015! No one can judge the efficacy of the Maggie Walker and districts’ focused efforts by looking at aggregated statistics from ‘01 through ‘12, as cited in the complaint. That number crunching starts 9 years before the recommendations were made and ends before the full effect of changes can even be seen!”

“We need to remember that there are options for bright students who haven’t been prepared for the exceptional rigor of the Maggie Walker program. Students who thrive at Maggie Walker must be highly intelligent but in particular must be extremely well prepared, motivated, and committed in

order to handle the demands of Maggie Walker classes in advanced languages, history, math, and science. Thank you.”

James Kunka, Powhatan parent, addressed the Board: “Thank you, thank you for your dedication to Maggie Walker. Mr. Chairman I’m a parent of a senior and sophomore and also a member of the Powhatan County School Board, but my concerns about Maggie Walker go beyond two years obviously. I want to talk about the budget, but not the budget to be approved, let’s talk next year; before you do a budget you need a plan. Maggie Walker needs a six year plan...these are the goals that drive a budget. Sometimes it’s also painful to see where you are right now relative to where you want to be in a six year plan, so for the next fiscal year a needs based budget must be developed probably starting in September. This budget can present some options, but we need to begin showing the true costs of what an excellent education should be; with staffing levels where they should be, with competitive staff salaries, with all your instructional supplies and technology needs met, with all your _____, etc. We know from the education community at our local governments what this number should be...we’re never going to get there.”

“A budget that is based on aggregates is unacceptable. We don’t invest the same amount to educate every child _____. If our budget process is ‘here’s how much we’re going to be willing to pay,’ that’s unacceptable. We don’t walk into any one of your facilities and say ‘we’re going to give you X dollars per child’ because no facility is average. Every facility has its own cost structure, seniority, qualifications of the staff and _____. Specialty centers like Maggie Walker are certainly not average and that’s why kids want to go there. They have a better pupil/teacher ratio, more labs, better technology; maybe just because everyone there wants to learn. Look at your return on investment.”

“Also, regarding your constitution; it’s a somewhat confusing circle of authority pertaining to the budget with the Regional School Board, the Steering Committee and the director. I’m going to remind the Regional School Board who’s in charge. I suggest that you amend the constitution and clarify the budget process and have the director answer to the Steering Committee only in matters of instruction as it pertains to the six year plan. There is nothing _____. You approve the budget; if you don’t like it, reject it and reprioritize. We did so in Powhatan this year.”

“We’ve all chosen to fight for public education. We deal with unfunded mandates, we deal with local governments that are unable or unwilling to make up for lost state and federal dollars. We deal with people that want to siphon public money away from public education and put it in private hands. We’re criticized for our decisions, but when we make our decisions there are three important factors we consider in this order: is this the best decision for the students, is this the best decision for the staff, is it the best decision for the parents. We’ve done our job. So we’re all on the same side in this _____, be that Maggie Walker. Thank you.”

Don Ashburn, Goochland parent, addressed the Board. “Good morning. I’m Don Ashburn and the father of a sophomore here at Maggie Walker. I’m actually here this morning to ask you to re-examine a policy that is not nearly as weighty as admissions or dealing with the budget.”

“There are students and families that are offered admission to Maggie Walker each year who have to make an awesome decision. And that decision is whether or not to accept a world class education or

follow a passion that they might have. What I'm specifically speaking about are activities that are not offered here at Maggie Walker but that are offered at their home school. I'm here today to ask you to re-examine the policy that prohibits those students from participating in activities in their home schools if they are not offered here at Maggie Walker."

"As a public school administrator myself I do understand that activities, particularly athletics that are governed by the Virginia High School League, there are eligibility issues that really cannot be overcome. So for instance a student... I fully well understand would like to play football for the home school probably cannot. But there are activities that are not governed by eligibility standards, in particular one that my son is interested in, and it is obviously a personal fight but it is a fight for all the students here at Maggie Walker, is marching band. Maggie Walker obviously does not have a marching band and my son would like to participate in one, it has always been his passion. But he had to make, along with his mother and I, a difficult decision because of that passion that he has."

"I have spoken to the head of the Virginia Band Association and there are no prohibitions there, and it is possible for students to participate in those activities that aren't offered here. And again, I would just like you to take a look at that policy and see if there is anything to be done at this time. Thank you."

Rosemary Viera, Chesterfield parent, addressed the Board: "Good morning. Last week Maggie Walker Governor's School was ranked 14th in the country by Newsweek Magazine. Last year it was 16th...I think that's pretty good. In fact it's great! They did this in spite of the budget cuts, but if our budget continues to shrink the way it has, especially in terms of teacher salaries that won't last. I know that some of you _____ seem to have forgotten that other people pay for their educations and other people pay for their children's educations. These people don't want to _____ the children now and I understand those constraints. I understand the kinds of budgets that you're looking at and I understand the cuts you have to make. However, no matter how much our teachers like our students and enjoy teaching them, and I'm sure that they are...okay sarcasm _____, umm, they have families to think of. This Sunday on the front page of the Washington Post newspaper there was a story about a teacher who moved to another district in the DC area for the money. Simply by moving schools he could make \$8,000/year more. He said he loved where he was, he enjoyed teaching those students but he had to think of his family."

"Two teachers at this school are going to be getting married this year; they will have families, they will need to think of this. Our younger teachers will leave because you have to go with the money. Not one on this board can say you haven't done something or made a move or made a career decision because you had to think about your family and they have their families too. I can see our younger teachers doing this; I can see our older teachers retiring."

"We moved here from Florida where teachers received no raise for several years, not even step increases. I can tell you what that does to teacher morale; I can tell you what that does to teacher quality. I can tell you what it does to learning. You don't want to see that here. There are a lot of parents that are involved with this school; some have graduated seniors and they are still here. So why is that? It's because this is a legacy to support quality education for future students. This is also your legacy. On your watch this school _____ rises _____, or it will fall. You need a budget that maintains quality and gives teachers a competitive salary. It's too late for this year but we need to

catch up. As a board you must develop a plan to catch teacher salaries up in the short term and you need to fund capital improvements because when you look at it, this is your legacy. Ten years from now do you really want people looking and going... 'it was a great school, and then they stopped funding it so it went...(gesture).' Do you want that? Or do you want everybody to say ten years from 'wow, it's still a great school.' I know people whose children went here years ago; it was a great school then, let's not make this happen. Thank you."

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked all speakers today for their comments.

VII. Director's Report

- **Senior Showcase Report by Sharon Parker, Program Coordinator.** Showcase Day on June 5th is the culminating activity for the program and is entirely devoted to seniors who have spent the last year in either a seminar or researching a field of particular interest. Students present their specific type of experience in a creative presentation. The entire student body will participate by selecting presentations they are interested in attending. The freshmen class participates in two morning sessions, then dismissed at lunchtime for a community service activity, field activities and cookout.
- **Special Olympics VA Richmond Track and Field Day, April 26th, Hosted by MLWGS.** Over 150 students from various Richmond Public Schools student organizations and Maggie Walker PE classes volunteered to serve as buddies to athletes, presented awards, assisted with the logistics of the event and cheered for over 200 Richmond athletes that competed.
- **Diversity Seminar.** Sponsored by the MLWGS PTSA on April 16th, the seminar's aim was to prepare students to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world, recognizing that parents and guardians are critical partners in this endeavor.
- **Paint the Town Orange.** Students rallied in support of Katie Anderson ('15-Goochland) who was recently diagnosed with an illness through a school-wide event raising \$1,332.50 and counting as of April 26th for Katie's family to use on medical expenses.
- **Reminder: Graduation for the Class of 2013, Friday, June 14, 2013 at Richmond CenterStage.**
- **College Acceptance Information.** At table, the Board was provided preliminary information regarding college acceptance for the Class of 2013. Final information by division will be available at a later date once all the information is compiled.
- **VDOE Final Report.** At table, the Board was provided with the final DOE evaluation report, noting this edition does not substantially differ from the preliminary report the Board previously received.
- **Community Engagement Survey Results:** At table, the Board received survey results. All major areas came in over target of 3.0; Mission and Beliefs, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, School Culture and Partnerships for Learning, Access to Teaching and Learning, Faculty and Support Staff and Operational Systems. Subcategories that came in below 3.0: food service, school divisions effectively preparing a diverse pool of potential students and a financial plan that provides resources necessary to accomplish the school's mission, will be addressed by established task force teams.

- **Budget Public Comments:** Provided to the Board at table.
- *MLWGS Coming Events:* May 16, 2013 through June 20, 2013.

VIII. Action Items

a. Bidder Approval for Improvement Project

Parking Lot Resurfacing - No action is recommended at this time. Qualified contractors are still being considered.

b. Personnel

The Director recommends approval of the personnel actions listed on VIII.b: 1) Resignation of Patricia Chappell effective April 26, 2013, 2) full time employment effective FY2014 of Ryan Webb – Mathematics Teacher and 3) part time employment effective FY2014 of Dr. Leonard Wibberly – Mathematics Teacher.

On motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved personnel actions requested.

c. 2013-2014 Operating Budget

The budget proposed is the same as viewed at the Board's April meeting that includes a full complement for VRS adding an additional 4% to the existing 1% plus a 1% offset. A fee for dual enrollment classes has been included of \$20.00/credit hour per semester excluding senior seminar and mentorship where students receive two dual enrollment credits as it is a required course.

The Director recommends Board approval of the proposal submitted for FY2014's operating budget.

Calling for comments by the Chair, Mr. Hazzard responded. "As some of you know, some of you I'm working on right now for the budget process for next year, I did vote against the budget last year because I felt we were putting the administration in an untenable situation having essentially guaranteed a number of slots to the school divisions early in the process then waited until after the county and city budgets were passed before we finished our budget process. This creates a ratio, a really cruel numerator and denominator that put the director and his staff between a rock and hard place. And we really don't have the process refined or architected in the way it needs to be between the cities and counties that participate. So while I don't like this budget, I'm inclined to vote for it because we need to move forward and change the process." Referring to remarks made earlier by Mr. Kunka, Mr. Hazzard agreed...we need to change the process such that we have a preliminary budget that is presented to the regions in February so that they can plan accordingly for proposing their budgets to their boards of supervisors or city councils. Mr. Hazzard urged fellow Board members to begin thinking along these lines; begin the process early in September/October, and finish a preliminary (not approved) budget by February so we at least can have an idea of what is required. The other outlier that is of concern is that testing and letters of acceptance potentially happens a bit too early in the process, but it may be that we can work around it. The key is having information in

the hands of Board members who can then advocate for gifted education; if we're not here to advocate for gifted education then we have a problem.

Mr. Hazzard continued, "We're at a perfect storm right now...the process is backwards, when we're sending out acceptance letters is potentially wrong, and we don't put our regional board members in a position to where they can advocate for this school. So I'm inclined to vote yes on this budget because I think we need to do that to move forward; but I don't like it and I don't like the process, and I'd really like to see it changed next year."

Mrs. Smith added, "Mr. Hazzard, thank you for your comments. Earlier in the week I had an opportunity to meet with Marianne Macon and her commitment and her request was what else could the parents here do, what else could the administration do to facilitate moving forward on a budget that would effectively be _____ at Maggie Walker, and Mr. Hazzard that's exactly what I said to her. It's time for our group to take action and direction in moving forward to affect a budget that fulfills the needs here at Maggie Walker. And again while I appreciate the work that has gone into this budget, I think that we as a group need to direct ourselves in both the set-up and the process much earlier next year."

Mrs. Ayers added, "I do agree with Mr. Hazzard and Mrs. Smith 100%; my question is when is it not going to be too little too late? We have to stop the process that is going on now and change it as Mr. Hazzard and Mrs. Smith commented. I did ask for a budget that reflected an increase in tuition to support the needs of the school...we didn't get it! There was no such option presented to us, and yet our localities have already funded their budgets, it's too little too late. So if I vote for this budget, which I'm still at this moment not sure I'm going to do because of that reason, we as a regional board have to make the commitment not let this happen again."

Ms. Gray added, "I'm in the same vein because I think we haven't done enough, soon enough to really fully fund what's needed and I think public education in general is under attack. I'm willing to work hard as are many of you to put in the hours to advocate at the local level, at the state level in all of the jurisdictions and I think we have a commitment here. I do think we need to move forward so I'm going to support the budget presented today with a lot of reservation and a lot of heartache, but I do think that moving forward we need to come up with a better plan to fund this school fully and make sure we're giving our students everything they need to move forward."

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Barbara Crawley to approve the FY2014 operating budget proposal presented, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the motion carried with the following vote:

Roll Call and Motion Vote (in order by locality)

Barbara Crawley: Aye

Dianne Smith: Nay

Kevin Hazzard: Aye

John Axselle: Aye

John Montgomery: Absent

Cora Armstrong: Aye

Sarah Grier Barber: Absent

Kenneth Pritchett: Aye

Valarie Ayers: Nay
Jerry Warren: Aye
Kimberly Gray: Aye

d. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2013-2014

The Director recommends the Board approve this annual authorization action giving the Director authority to apply human resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff. Salary scales are listed in the information section of this meeting packet and reflect a 4% VRS increase and 1% offset as issued in the budget. The Director also noted a change in the compression range in the lower years (0-5) of this new scale.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the annual authorization for the Director to issue contracts was unanimously approved.

e. 2013-2014 School Operating Calendar

After a brief overview by Mr. Tharp, the Director recommended approval of the 2013-2014 school operating calendar as submitted.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Dianne Smith, the 2013-2014 school operating calendar was unanimously approved.

f. Approval of the 2013-2014 Governor's School Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

The Director recommends approval of the nominees submitted.

There being no discussion on this matter, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the nominees as submitted for the Governor's School Foundation Board of Directors were unanimously approved.

g. Approval of the 2013-2014 School Advisory Council Members

The Director recommends approval of the candidates provided noting additional membership is still under development and will be provided at a future meeting for the 2013-2014 School Advisory Council.

There being no discussion on this matter, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Jerry Warren, the candidates as submitted for the 2013-2014 SAC were unanimously approved.

h. Policy Approval: Equal Employment & Educational Opportunity for Staff and Students

The Director recommends approval of the following policies presented for Board review in May: **No. 5012** – Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination–Employee, **Form 5012-F** – Report of Discrimination-Employee, **No. 8001** – Equal Educational Opportunity/Nondiscrimination-Student

and Form **8001-F** Report of Discrimination-Student. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

There being no discussion on this matter, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, policies submitted were unanimously approved.

i. Fee Waiver Request for Building Usage for Richmond Parks & Recreation, Summer Camp 2013

The Director requested waiver of the usual review process due to the timing of the request made by Richmond Parks and Recreation and when the activity will occur, and additionally to waive the normal fee schedule allowing for an affordable program for area youth. Proposed fees to be charged will cover MLWGS operating expenses.

There being no discussion on this matter, on motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley, normal fees are waived for Richmond Parks and Recreation to be replaced by a proposed fee schedule that covers expenses to utilize MLWGS for the Mayor's Youth Academy Life Stage was unanimously approved.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. VRS Member Contribution Election for School Division Resolution

All Plan 1 and Plan 2 school division and political subdivision employees must begin paying the 5 percent member contribution effective July 1, 2012. All employees hired on or after July 1, 2012 must pay the full 5 percent upon employment with no phase-in allowed. For current employees, the above noted bill allows governing bodies to phase in the member contribution in each of the next five years or until current employees are paying the full 5 percent contribution, whichever is earlier. Phase-in increases must be in whole percentages of at least 1 percent of creditable compensation per year, with comparable offsetting salary increases.

By no later than July 1, 2013, the regional board must approve the amount of the member contribution that Maggie L. Walker Governor's School employees will pay beginning July 1.

Beginning July 1, 2013: increased creditable contribution rates by salary reduction on a pre-tax basis to 5% for Plan 1 and Plan 2 employees and 0% employer contribution rates. The second enactment clause of Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB497) requires an increase in total creditable compensation, effective July 1, 2013 to each such employee in service on June 30, 2013 to offset the cost of member contributions.

VRS Contribution Rates Resolution approval will be requested at the June 2013 meeting of this Board.

b. 2013-2014 Student Fee Schedule

The Director reviewed the proposed fee schedule with Board members noting it will be posted on the MLWGS website for public viewing immediately following the conclusion of this meeting.

Ms. Gray requested a financial assistance statement be added to this schedule.

Approval of the 2013-2014 Student Fee Schedule School will be requested at the June 2013 meeting of this Board.

c. Policy Review

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for review: No. 2013 – Building Administration, 1013 – Notification of Regional School Board Meetings, No. 1014 – Closed Meetings, No. 1015 – Calling and Certification of Closed Meetings. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

Mrs. Ayers reiterated to fellow board members the value of their input and careful review of policies submitted.

Approval for these policy proposals will be requested at the June meeting of this Board.

Ms. Armstrong left the meeting.

d. One-Time Only Compensation Adjustment

The Director requests Board consideration of a one-time only compensation adjustment not to exceed 1.5% for the MLWGS faculty and support staff from FY2013 budget resources.

Approval for a one-time only compensation adjustment will be requested at the June meeting of this Board.

e. Assignment of Reserve Funds

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board statement 54 (GASB 54) establishes fund balance classifications and provides a hierarchy of spending constraints. MLWGS implemented GASB 54 beginning in FY 2011.

Under GASB 54, *Assigned fund balance* represents amounts *intended* to be used for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority. Assigned fund balance also includes any portion of fund balance that will be incorporated into the subsequent year's budget. The governing body must take formal action that specifies to whom the delegation of authority to recommend fund balance assignments is given (i.e., the Director).

Unassigned fund balance represents resources remaining after all other classifications have been met, and that are available for any purpose.

Currently 100% of the Board's fund balance is unassigned. In line with GASB 54, the Director recommends the following assignment of the Board's fund balance.

830....3218	Capital Improvement Funds-Construction Major Repair/Replacement	\$1,007,685.00
830....3224	Technology Upgrade	\$200,000.00
830....3225	Benefit Reserve (@70%)	\$246,911.00
830....3223	Unassigned	\$105,819.00
	Sub Total	\$1,560,415.00
	Anticipated Restoration Pending FY13 Audit	\$250,000.00
	Total Pending FY13 Audit	<u>\$1,810,415.00</u>

Approval for the assignment of reserve funds will be requested at the June meeting of this Board.

Mr. Axselle left the meeting.

f. International Trip Proposal – Istanbul Turkey, April 2014, Max Smith Sponsor

Faculty member Max Smith and student Matthew King made presentation for his application to sponsor an interdisciplinary trip to Turkey, April 2014.

Approval for this proposal will be requested at the June meeting of this Board.

X. Informational Items:

**The Washington Post, April 14, 2013 – Top-performing schools with elite students 2013
Newsweek/Daily Beast Ranks MLWGS 14TH Best School in Nation**

Student News

- 2013 Allstate Foundation/VHSL Achievement Award, Group AAA Female Athlete of the Year – Rachel Galton (Chesterfield)
- Italian Students Win National Honors
- Academic World Quest Team Places 3rd in National Competition

FY14 Salary Scales

Finance Committee Minutes, April 11, 2013

Mr. McGee acknowledged receipt of several artifacts received from Richmond Public Schools relating to Maggie Walker High School.

Dr. 's Richardson and Russo left the meeting.

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome stated the committee met just prior to the Regional School Board meeting, and while there are no recommendations at this time, he offered highlights of their discussion. The

committee's attention is focused on FY15 budget knowing there are some serious challenges ahead associated with a significant increase in VRS. Recognizing these challenges, the committee would also prefer to get started as quickly as possible next year.

We also want to assure that there is a process in place to ensure equity in the structure of the funding in respect to the budgeting process so the committee will be shifting to a consultant to work with the school and the board to help advise and to look at what is the philosophy, design and resources necessary to support the Governor's School.

The committee also discussed the evaluation of the Director based on standards from the state. Also discussed were preliminary plans for next year to move the school forward; example: several Governor's Schools work with a funding agent, but in addition to specific funding alignment to a specific division, they look at alignment with procurement, HR practices, and other functions of the school. Dr. Newsome said it was his understanding that in past meetings of this committee the recommendation was not to go forward, but the current committee thinks this may now be the time to revisit this item for discussion going forward.

This concludes the Steering Committee report.

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 Barbara Crawley, seconded by Jerry Warren, the motion to adjourn this meeting was unanimously approved.

XVI. Next Meeting

August 15, 2013 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