

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

Thursday, February 21, 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.

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
Mr. John Montgomery, Jr., *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
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 (late arrival)
Dr. Eric Jones for 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
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. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis and Patti Chappell – **Administration**
Hal Waller, and Burt Hazelwood (Henrico) - **GS Foundation**
Linda Cauley – **VDOE Evaluation Team Leader**
W.R. Gay – **Cherry, Bekaert & Holland Auditors**
Mary Phillippo Parker (Richmond), President and Marianne Macon (Richmond) - **PTSA**
Shelley Allen (Chesterfield), Sidney Bland (Richmond), Ben Lewis (Henrico), Julie May (Hanover), Penny Moss (Henrico), Laura O'Brien (Henrico), Doug Scheibe (Chesterfield) , Trish Sigler (Hanover), Chamie Valentine (Richmond),
Bill Yates (Richmond) – **Parent Community**
Matt King ('14-Henrico) – **MLWGS Student**
Karen Hoover – **Staff**
Michele Surat – **Faculty Liaison to the Regional School Board**

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

With the deletion of duplicate Certification of Closed Meeting listed as Item XVIII; on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Valarie Ayers, minutes as submitted for January 17, 2013 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

- **Student Leaders in Community Service by Locality:**

Charles City: Mallari Sizemore ('14) for 199 hours

Chesterfield: Leon Jia ('13) for 755 hours (recognized later in meeting)

Goochland: Christopher Ashley ('13) for 277 hours (not in attendance)

Hanover: Corinne Bowers ('13) for 698 hours (not in attendance)

Henrico: Thu Dao ('13) for 755 hours

King & Queen: Joshua Pate ('15) for 318 hours

New Kent: Parker Greene ('14) for 207 hours

Petersburg: BreAnna Vinson ('15) for 353 hours

Powhatan: Brennan Kunka ('13) for 217 hours (not in attendance)

Prince George: Angela Yoo ('14) for 381 hours

Richmond: Georgina Coffee ('14) for 468 hours (not in attendance)

- **Students Selected as Candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program:**

Saumil Bandyopadhyay – ('13) Henrico

Robert Jones – ('13) Chesterfield

Raleigh Matteo - ('13) Henrico

Students were selected based on earning a perfect 1,600 on their SAT's in Critical Reading and Math.

- **MLWGS Students Coach Winning *We the People* RPS Middle School Team**

Lucille Brown Middle School's (LBM) first ever *We the People* team won the Congressional District 3 competition on January 16th and will be headed to Williamsburg for state competition on February 16th. The LBM team was started as an afterschool program by Maggie Walker students: **Johnny Mac Yates** ('13-Richmond) and **Annie Valentine** ('13-Richmond). Additional coaching help was provided by **Abigail Simon, not in attendance** ('13-

Richmond), **Gray Whisnant** ('13-Henrico), **John Darr, not in attendance** ('13-Henrico), **Selina Kitchens** ('13-Hanover) and government teacher **Matt McGuire**. The student coaches are all alumni of the MLWGS *We the People Team XV* which placed second in the nation in 2012, coached by Mr. McGuire.

Additional congratulations were extended to Johnny Mac Yates who was recently recognized as a Harry Byrd Scholar, one of eleven Virginia students recognized with this honor.

- **Students Win Scholastic Art Awards**

Introduced by Mr. McGee; MLWGS students who participated in the **Alliance for Young Artists & Writers 2012-2013 Scholastic Art Awards** doubled the number of awards earned compared to last year, capturing three of the five American Vision awards for the entire region and won the most overall awards for any program in the region. In all, Maggie Walker students received 23 Gold Key Awards, including 2 Gold Key Portfolios and 3 American Vision Nominees, 22 Silver Key Awards including 3 Silver Key Portfolios, and 27 Honorable Mention Awards including 5 Honorable Mention Portfolios. Winners recognized were:

American Vision Gold Key - **Ryan Duncan** ('13-Henrico), **Jennifer Harlow** ('13-Henrico) and **Benjamin Wong** ('15-Henrico)

Gold Key Portfolios – **Ryan Duncan** ('13-Henrico), **Jennifer Harlow** ('13-Henrico)

Individual Gold Keys – **Colin Alexander** ('14-Henrico), **Nicole Belgard** ('13-Charles City), **Weston Broache** ('13-Richmond), **Alexa Buchin** ('13-Hanover), **Reed Canaan** ('15-Henrico), **Lucy Dacus** ('13-Hanover), **Eliza Goodpasture** ('14-Richmond), **Jennifer Harlow** ('13-Henrico), **Jason Hunter** ('13-Henrico), **Noma Illmensee** ('14-Richmond), **Selena Kitchens** ('13-Hanover), **Brennen Kunka** ('13-Powhatan), **Jack Oliver** ('14-Richmond) and **Liz Wolfe** ('14-Henrico).

Students were accompanied by Jeff Hall, Fine Arts Department Chair and Georgianne Stinnett, Fine Arts Faculty.

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.

Doug Scheibe (Chesterfield) addressed the Board stating, “Good morning...good to see you all again. I would like to thank you for your ongoing service to Maggie Walker, your students here and in your districts. I would also like to say I’m excited to have come back from Friends of Virginia Governor’s School (FOVGS) where we lobbied on behalf of public education and Governor’s Schools in the state...you might have seen that on the news. Also, happy to be working with Chesterfield County to work with our Board of Supervisors...because I want you all to understand that we understand pie growth, the Maggie Walker slice of the pie – that’s a big part of it. And we ask all of our parents from all of our districts to talk with their Board of Supervisors or City Council, or whoever that may be so we can help; so please utilize us as a resource. At our Chesterfield County meeting there were eight speakers at the last school board meeting on public hearing for public education, and six of them were from Maggie Walker. We care...we care not only about Maggie Walker but about public education. So I wanted to bring some comments to you, some additional comments about our budget. So I’m here to ask you for your continued support of your students here as you make decisions on the budget. I’m also here to encourage you to carry on the whole decision making that established this school; to make it one of the best in the nation. I have three points: first, please remember the premise on which the school was founded, that the participating districts by working together form a Governor’s School taking advantage of the state’s most innovative public education programs. Becoming a Governor’s School meant that the districts could fund the school with an average cost per pupil and the state’s Governor’s School funding would then provide additional funding necessary for the gifted education curriculum and programming that these students would not otherwise have seen. Second, as we discussed last year, the funding from the districts has been dramatically below an average cost per pupil no matter how you slice it. The current Maggie Walker cost per student to each district for tuition is \$7, 079.00, which is about \$2,000 less than the lowest per student cost among the four largest participating districts which is Chesterfield ...22% less. Lower than any district here spends on an average student, and even farther below any average. Remember that because the school is its own district it has expenses and needs normal high schools will not. It should cost more than average, yet it is funded less. Its administrative ratios are going to be different than any average high school, yet it is viewed through a generic lens. I would think the school would have less security personnel and more guidance counselors; makes sense to me. The participating districts are not making the best use of the state’s money to provide additional resources. Third, the school has been well run while providing the top educational experience for your students. The school has been a partner that has done more, pulled its fair share; the administration has done this with an efficient budget that has also taken into account savings in physical planning...maintenance considerations. The school administration in these thin times with full support of parents and students has chosen to cut everything possible before eliminating teachers. For instance, the athletic budget here is \$17,000 this year, that’s less than most of the high schools spend on a football program. Teachers have done this with no district level resources and programs, and substandard pay compared to their value. We appreciate your support and ask for your continued support for the budget and hope that you will consider bringing our costs back to average. Thank you.”

Student **Matt King** (Henrico) addressed the Board representing **EduPac**. “Good morning everyone...members of the Regional School Board and Superintendent’s Steering Committee. I’m Matthew King, I’m a junior from Henrico County and I’m very happy to be here today because I come bearing very good news. I’m here to speak to you today about **Capital Day** which happened this past Tuesday. We had over 60 students from just about every single locality visit the General Assembly to talk to their legislators. They were constituents and you know legislators listen to constituents. They talked to their legislators about Maggie Walker, about public education and encouraged them to demonstrate their support for this program and for programs all across the metro Richmond area. But this wasn’t just about our area; it was also about the whole Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia has a network of Governor’s schools...a pipeline of schools that produce highly trained workers for the work force which is good for Virginia’s economy. And so we were here as part of that group; we met fellow Governor’s School students from all the way up in Fairfax at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and then down in Petersburg from Appomattox Regional Governor’s School, and then from other Governor’s School students from part-time programs across the Commonwealth. And so it was a wonderful experience. We met with seventeen delegates and nine state senators which is a pretty incredible accomplishment. They went into session early; sometimes we were meeting with legislative assistants, but never fear I think we all had an impact. Our voices were heard and we found this whole experience very encouraging for us.”

“For me as a student at this school it was a tremendous opportunity to learn. I learned a great deal about government just in those few minutes we were in offices and dealing with legislators with the warm receptions and sometimes not so warm receptions. And so I think that was a wonderful experience for each student that went on that trip and that they will have memories from this and from future trips that they will treasure as they go into careers, hopefully in public service. It complimented, for me certainly, programs like AP Government...classes that I’m taking...American Historiography. We had students who met with Delegate Delores McQuinn, some of the same students who are in our Historiography class in school who had visited the Richmond Slave Trail, which was very much a product of her efforts and the efforts of other like minded people in Richmond. And so we were able to get our voices heard within the public policy arena.”

“As President of EduPac it was my honor to organize the student contingent of this to get students trained and ready and informed. I actually made phone calls on Monday afternoon to make sure everyone was on the same boat and to my disbelief and great pleasure I found that students were practicing and getting together and having Skype dates and everything to get ready. There were three students; two from Petersburg and one from Prince George, who had gotten together and who were meeting and practicing as I called them, which was highly impressive. A few of them, I think Angela Yoo who was one of the people recognized for her community service, she was one of the ones there. So anyway I thought I would run through a quick list of the delegates and senators we visited: Delegate Kirk Cox, Delegate Peter

Farrell, Delegate James Massie, Delegate Lee Ware, Delegate Richard Morris, Delegate Riley Ingram, Delegate Jennifer McClellan, Delegate John O'Bannon, Senator Stephen Martin, Senator Thomas Norment, Delegate John Cox, Delegate Rosalyn Dance, Delegate Betsy Carr, Delegate Keith Hodges, Delegate Delores McQuinn, Delegate Joe Morrissey, Delegate Roxann Robinson, Delegate Manoli Loupassi, Senator Henry Marsh, Senator Ryan McDougle, Senator Don McEachin, Senator Walter Stosch, Delegate Chris Peace, Senator Thomas Garrett, Senator Frank Ruff and Senator John Watkins.”

“With each of those twenty-six names I just read we had student constituents from just about every single locality, which is again a huge accomplishment. I’m so proud of all of the students and maybe the little teacher in me saw that their interest in this and their research skills coming out and was very pleased by all that. So, I’d like to close by reading a bit from a letter to the Editor I sent about this program to encourage students to do it. So...Maggie Walker is the place where smart is cool, where tolerance is the rule and not the exception, where honor is both code and creed. And that’s the place that’s worth fighting for.”

Lastly, **Laura O’Brien** and **Trish Sigler**, representing ***Friends of Virginia Governor’s Schools (FOVGS)*** addressed the Board. “I’m Laura O’Brien, a parent from Henrico, and I’m Maggie Walker’s representative to Friends of Virginia Governor’s Schools. We had bipartisan support from four legislators for a \$300,000 budget increase for state funding for nineteen Governor’s Schools. To advocate for this budget increase we executed a public relations campaign; parents of 6,500 Governor’s School students were asked to email their legislators. In meetings at Capital Day, which FOVGS coordinated, parent chaperones handed out a leave behind which we have at your desk...you have a copy of the leave behind which outlines our talking points for the budget amendment that we were supporting. We also alerted the media and we wanted to share with you a report from Channel 6.”

A video copy of the CBS 6 news report which aired locally was played.

“Hi, I’m Trish Sigler; I’m the outgoing chair of FOVGS, we’re the organization that sponsors Capital Day every year. And I wanted to thank Maggie Walker in particular for their heroic efforts on behalf of Capital Day. In the past we haven’t had as much participation as we would have liked. And thanks to Marianne Macon, Hal Waller and in particular that young man, Matt King over there, to get sixty-seven students I think from Maggie Walker and chaperones to boot to show up on Capital Day was amazing. This was our largest, largest turnout ever. We had fourteen of the nineteen Governor’s Schools participate and we had over two hundred students launch themselves from the fifth floor to all these delegates and senators offices. It was really an amazing experience for all of them. I would also like to thank in particular Laura O’Brien for the public relations she put out; it’s because of her efforts that we got onto camera, and Marianne Macon and Kim Dwyer for

appointment scheduling. Kim Dwyer is a parent of two juniors here at Maggie Walker and she's passionate about this and she and Marianne were the ones that got the three amendments that didn't get off the table, but we got amendments going so we know what we're doing for next year to the house and to the senate to bring some light to our cause. Thank you."

VII. Director's Report

- a. Lifetouch individual and group photographs were deferred to the conclusion of this meeting.
- b. Updates:
 - **Capital Day** - Mr. McGee referenced the variety of advocates the Board has already heard from during this meeting for this update.
 - **VDOE Evaluators** – The State Board of Education requires all Governors' Schools be evaluated every five years; our last review was in 2005 which would have meant upon the sixth year we would have been evaluated but a bye was granted last year so the evaluation is being conducted this cycle. The evaluation rubric is based on standards for Gifted Education and NAGC Standards. The team is comprised of six individuals from around the state including representatives from Henrico and Chesterfield. Ms. Linda Cauley, who introduced herself at the beginning of this meeting, is the team leader. Board members who have a few minutes at the conclusion of this meeting are invited to stay and answer a few questions from the team regarding Maggie Walker's governance structure.
 - **Budget Development** – The Director proposed a brief regular business meeting followed by a budget work session on March 21st.
 - **Strategic Planning** – As of January 31st against the AYGS standards as well as international standards, our task forces have gathered information relevant to our present level of performance and current practices. We will now use the information that we gather from the VDOE Evaluation as well as community engagement to inform our work moving forward. We anticipate two annual plans, an annual for FY14 and FY15, followed by our first 3-year strategic plan. The Policy Steering Review Committee is currently engaged in VSBA policy updates and sees its work in that regard to present policy to this group.
- d. MLWGS Coming Events: February 21, 2013 through March 21, 2013. See VIII.c.

Regarding the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for March 7th, Mr. McGee requested a greater representation from members should scheduling allow to assist with budget development. Also noted was the recent constitutional change allowing for membership from a smaller division to this committee. Ms. Lynn Bragga of RPS proposed the gentleman from New Kent; subject to the approval of the Superintendent's Steering Committee.

VIII. Action Item

a. Personnel

The Director recommends approval for the retirement request of Mrs. Barrett Brown and the extension of one year leave (year two of two) request of Mrs. Lynn Reed.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Cora Armstrong, Board members unanimously approved the requested personnel actions.

Mrs. Barber left the meeting.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. FY11 & FY12 Audit Reports

Mr. W.R. Gay of Cherry, Bekaert & Holland was available for questions regarding the firms work on the audit reports submitted for Board review.

The Board had no questions.

X. Informational Items

- **Finance Committee Minutes, February 7, 2013.**
- **Planning Committee Minutes December 4, 2012.**
- **Student News**
 - Junior (Lily Hargis) Wins Poetry Out Loud Regional

- Forensics Team Garners District Honors
- Students Win Top Honors in International Math Modeling Competition
- College Kick-Off for Juniors
- MLWGS Ramps Club Donates \$500 to Local Recipient

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome did not have an official report, but stated the next meeting of this group is scheduled for March 11th whereby they will be focused on the budget in preparation of the work session for March 21st.

Dr. Newsome briefly spoke to issues of timing regarding locality budget submissions to their respective Boards of Supervisors (et al) and the possible impact of sequestration on locality budgets. Because this school does not receive direct federal dollars it would not impact Maggie Walker but all of its participating divisions do. That translates to an immediate loss of funding of these dollars plus elimination from subsequent years.

The other issue that has yet to be discussed is that FY15 looks to be daunting because of the significant increase for contributions to VRS, estimated at 30%; with two years past that doubling again. Dr. Newsome stated it would be prudent for everyone keep a serious eye on budgets going forward because if you get to 2015 it's too late.

In conclusion, Dr. Newsome thanked the Administration, volunteers, staff and students for hosting all of the participating Boards for visits, tours and luncheons with students. It was incredible!

Dr. Browder added an additional comment regarding sequestration. He stated that not all districts will be impacted the same way. Those districts that have military bases are impacted very differently, which Prince George does. PGPS has been notified that as of March 1st of this year they will lose \$231,000 and will continue to lose \$200,000 every year. Their major concern is how the shortfall will be borne by the locality to educate the students of military dependents.

XII. Closed Meeting

Mr. Pritchett asked the Clerk to announce items for closed session.

Mrs. Marshall stated: "It is my understanding that the School Board desires to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with §2.2-3711.A of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following

enumerated subsection (7): “for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probably litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Regional School Board. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.”

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Members of the Board, you have just heard the items requested to be discussed in closed session. Do I have a motion in that regard?”

On motion by John Montgomery, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved and entered into closed session.

The room was cleared and the door closed.

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

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to reconvene in open session?”

On motion by Dianne Smith, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the board unanimously approved open session.

The door is opened.

Mr. Pritchett requested: “Mrs. Marshall (Clerk) please read the resolution certifying the closed session.”

Mrs. Marshall stated: “Now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Regional School Board.”

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to adopt the resolution?”

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the board unanimously approved this resolution:

Roll Call and Motion Vote (alphabetical order by locality)

Barbara Crawley: Aye

Dianne Smith: Aye

Kevin Hazzard: Aye

John Axselle: Aye

John Montgomery: Aye

Cora Armstrong: Aye

Sarah Grier Barber: Absent

Kenneth Pritchett: Aye

Valarie Ayers: Aye

Jerry Warren: Absent

Kimberly Gray: No Vote (out of the room)

No action was taken by the Board at this time.

XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business

Mr. Montgomery was welcomed to the Board representing Henrico County.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the motion to adjourn this meeting was unanimously approved.

XVI. Next Meeting

March 21, 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