

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, September 16, 2010

9:00 a.m.

#### I. Call to Order

Dianne Pettitt, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional School Board, called the meeting to order.

#### II. Introductions

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality, (listed in alphabetical order by locality).

##### Present:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. Ivan Mattox, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Mr. Lamont Bagby for Mrs. Lisa Marshall, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools  
Mrs. Teresa Lindsay, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools  
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools  
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools  
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point Public Schools  
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. Marcus J. Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Dr. Stewart Roberson, **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. Alvera Parrish, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Mr. Bill Craig for Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Shelly Bazemore, Assistant Superintendent for Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools  
Mr. Fred S. Morton IV, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

##### Absent:

Mr. Robert Cox, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Linda Underwood, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools  
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point Public Schools  
Mrs. Megan Marcinkevich, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Patti Chappell, and Wendy Ellis – Administration, Hall Waller - GS Foundation, Angela Dews – Richmond Education Association, Anne Napps – PTSA President, Brenda Thornton and Stephanie Welles – MLWGS Faculty, Sarah Mitchell, Brooke Nancekivell, Emlyn Crenshaw, Jackie Tissiere and Jennifer Hynson – MLWGS students.

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

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was unanimously approved.

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

On motion by Ivan Mattox, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the minutes as submitted were unanimously approved.

### **V. Recognitions (Occurred during The Director's Report)**

*Coach Jim Holdren* presented late to the meeting due to practice commitments. Upon his arrival, the Board recognized Mr. Holdren for being named the Girls' National High School Track and Field Coach of the Year by Gill Athletics, in conjunction with USA Track and Field (USATF). Mr. Morton stated that this honor is well deserved and that Coach Holdren maintains a record that is not matched by anyone else in the state. He complimented Coach Holdren for encouraging his athletes to achieve their personal best and concluded by congratulating him for his many career achievements.

Mr. Mattox spoke of his own experience as he is someone that is a product of Coach Holdren. Mr. Mattox stated that not only was Coach Holdren a great track coach, but he was also Mr. Mattox's 10<sup>th</sup> grade Geometry teacher – a subject where he earned the 4<sup>th</sup> highest score on statewide testing. Coach Holdren encouraged Mr. Mattox to change events in his sophomore year that produced placing in the state championship which he knew was one of his aspirations. As a team that year they won the state in AAA where they doubled the score of the second place team. "He knew my goals and helped me put it all together and to have success. He was great on the field and working with students on a personal level as well as in the classroom."

Dr. Roberson spoke to a recent event in a Hanover student's life regarding the passing of a parent and the concern and actions expressed by Coach Holdren and others at MLWGS that reinforced how he builds relationships with his athletes.

Mrs. Pettitt offered congratulations and admiration for all that Coach Holdren has done and accomplished followed by Mr. Morton's similar acknowledgement.

*Dr. Wendy Taylor Ellis* was introduced by Mr. Morton as the newest member of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Leadership team and emphasized a few highlights from her numerous achievements:

- High School Teacher for Henrico County in the IB Program
- Worked at the Central Office level in Gifted Education
- Middle School Principal
- High School Principal for a small rural school division

Dr. Ellis and Mrs. Pat Taylor spent several days in June and July working together to allow for her smooth transition into this position.

Mrs. Pettitt welcomed Dr. Ellis to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.

## **VI. Public Comments**

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes (in the discretion of the Chairperson) to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes. Citizens must schedule their appearance with the Board's Clerk, not later than 10:00am on the last business day before the meeting at which they desire to be heard.

There were no public comments.

## **VII. Director's Report**

Mr. Morton updated the following activities for the Board:

**Guatemala Community Service.** Brenda Thornton and Stephanie Welles, along with students Sarah Mitchell, Brooke Nancekivell, Emlyn Crenshaw, Jackie Tissiere, and Jennifer Hynson described their experiences and work in Guatemala this past summer with a slide show presentation and shared their interactions during a two-week service learning project. Today a photograph of MLWGS students and teachers hangs on the wall of a 100 sq. ft. library in a small Mayan village.

The students thanked the Board for allowing their efforts and time in Guatemala to be included in their community service requirement for MLWGS.

Dr. Newsome commended the students and teachers for an excellent presentation and suggested that the Board consider going on record as endorsing this type of international activity for the school. Mr. Morton agreed with Dr. Newsome that the alignment of these experiences fits with the original belief and work contained in the school mission statement.

Mrs. Pettitt commended the teachers for their courage to take a group abroad and making this commitment and opportunity happen for the students.

Mr. Morton mentioned that MLWGS had a half day visit with a delegation from Singapore from the **National Junior College** (7-12 Program that functions under the middle and

senior years IB Program) that is interested in building a partnership with MLWGS. He stated, “It was interesting to learn that all 1,800 students at NJC spend a minimum of six weeks in another country as part of their educational experience. We saw a lot we could learn from them, while at the same time they saw a lot they could learn from us.”

**Work Session at Jepson Center, August 26, 2010.** Mr. Morton distributed informational packets from this work session to each Board member with digital media copies of each guest speaker’s speech in the Superintendent’s packet. The first speaker, Dr. Tom Huff, Vice Provost at VCU, spoke of the “Life Sciences Revolution for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. Compelling points he made include science no longer being science as we once knew it, and also how it has changed in terms of discreet subjects with connections across the sciences and the way research is conducted by teams. Dr. Huff spoke of the notion that the ability to work together with other people is a skill. The second speaker, Mr. Marshall Morton, President of Media General, spoke on the subject “Media: Both the Customer and the Product are Changing”. He spoke to what he sees as the hiring needs for future employers. The last speaker, Dr. Ed Ayers, President of the University of Richmond, spoke to the value of each content area and how technology has changed research and connections.

Questions asked by the staff during this session have set the stage to do powerful work throughout the rest of the year and fits into this year’s theme: “Celebrating the Past On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Planning for the Future”. Mr. Morton shared preliminary anniversary planning ideas with the Board that include active engagement with parents and alumni in this work.

**Constitutional Plaque Dedication.** Mr. Morton has received final communication from the Governor’s office and the Governor will not be available before the end of October. At this time, the goal is to build an event to coincide with the October Board meeting utilizing former Governor’s of the State of Virginia, all of whom have a connection to the school.

**Policy Manual.** Over the course of the next 12-18 months, a Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional School Board Policy Manual will be constructed and implemented. Parts of the Chesterfield County Public Schools manual, which has passed legal review, will be mirrored as a base model. This effort will involve faculty, Advisory, and Planning Committee members for pertinent policy issues. Mr. Morton asked for assistance from a Board member for this work and Mr. John Axelle offered his service. Mr. Morton thanked him and indicated the process for development will be one which Board members are familiar with through their respective divisions.

Mr. Morton will compile and post to the MLWGS website a list of all committee members of the Policy Manual Development Committee.

**Enrollment Update.** MLWGS has an enrollment of 717 students; all slots have been filled and school is off and running.

**Middle School Recruitment Visits in Divisions.** About 70% of what was scheduled last year has been coordinated and MLWGS is still working with select divisions to finalize

their visits. Mr. Morton stated that he anticipates that MLWGS will conduct approximately 40 of these visits over the next 6-8 weeks. An Administrator covers each of the night visits and the Director of Counseling manages daytime visits which are an orientation to provide information about MLWGS.

Mrs. Pettitt requested follow-up to Mrs. Litchfield's previous suggestion involving MLWGS students attending recruitment visits. Mr. Morton responded that the only time off for students this fall that coincides with daytime visits is one half-day in October for Homecoming, but providing an open invitation to students as part of their community service is certainly something we could do. He also added that most evening visits incorporate MLWGS student(s) attending and assisting, and our team tries to coordinate a student to attend a visit at their particular home middle school. We find students talking to other students a very powerful tool.

**Middle School Counselors Workshop on October 6, 2010.** In an effort to work closely with the counselors in the divisions and to develop a better understanding of MLWGS, this first informational activity is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. An estimated 80 middle schools feed students to MLWGS and the expectation is one counselor from each middle school will attend. Activities will include an in-depth overview and tour of MLWGS led by ambassadors. Next spring the program will be duplicated for elementary school counselors.

Mrs. Pettitt inquired about Henrico's Young Trail Blazers program. Dr. Russo and Mr. Morton responded that this division-wide program was created for elementary students that have gifted potential, even if that potential is not traditionally identifiable, and in most cases these students come from circumstances of poverty. A teacher who was trained as a gifted specialist was identified to work with these students and what they found was that by the end of the third grade, when doing the assessment for the gifted programs, these students were being identified and attending their zoned gifted programs.

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning.** Phil Tharp will Chair the committee for this event. At this time, other Committee members include Hal Waller representing the Foundation, Debbie Sawyer - Parent, Dawn Grois - Faculty, Dr. Stewart Roberson, and Dr. Janet Crawley. Activities under discussion include an alumni showcase day in the spring.

**Singapore Delegation Visit.** Discussed at the beginning of the Director's Report – See Guatemala Community Service. Mr. Morton noted that MLWGS goes through global rotations in its World Literature and Global Studies classes. This year China, Africa, and Latin America are being covered; making this visit was a nice connection.

**Invisible Children Assembly.** On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, MLWGS will host this group which works to recover children who have been recruited as soldiers. In addition to the school-wide assembly planned, Invisible Children members will be visiting classes and hosting an after school session for students interested in getting involved.

**Mali Delegation Visit.** No assembly is planned on October 8<sup>th</sup> for the Mali delegation as they are more comfortable working in small groups. This is a great opportunity for our

students to interact with someone (The Mayor of Segou) who is providing leadership in the setting of a fledgling democracy.

**Faculty Appointment:** Heidi Taylor – One section of Chorus. Mrs. Taylor will also be working part-time with Richmond Public Schools at Patrick Henry Charter School.

**Coming Events.** See Pages 22-23. Of note: Back to School night is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **VIII. Action Items**

### **a. New Clubs**

Submitted in August for first review, the Director requested approval of The Write Thing to Do Club and the Japanese National Honor Society.

There being no questions or discussion regarding these activities; on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Ivan Mattox, both clubs were unanimously approved.

## **IX. Materials for Board Review**

None.

## **X. Informational Items Provided**

MLWGS News Items:

- Back to School Night- September 23, 2010
- Assembly for Guest Author Charles Shields, author of Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee – October 7, 2010
- Fall Festival – October 8, 2010
- PSAT Testing, Field Day & Pep Rally – October 13, 2010
- Homecoming – October 15, 2010
- 2010-2011 Student Awards and Recognition
- News: We the People Team Collaborates with Professor Rowley
- News: NASA Summer Academy – Simon Hwang (Henrico)

## **XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting**

Dr. Newsome reported that the group met this past Tuesday. Mr. Morton presented to them on three major topics, all presented to the Board today: the policy manual, activities associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as well as recruitment efforts. The Superintendent's support him unanimously.

Dr. Newsome announced that the 2010-11 Region 1 Professional Development Consortium's next session will be Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> with a reception at 5:30pm and a presentation from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Jepson Center on the campus of the University of

Richmond. Support from divisions in attendance as well as MLWGS would be welcome. The local presenter on October 4<sup>th</sup> speaking on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Relationships is Dr. Billy Cannaday.

As an extension of Dr. Newsome's report, Mr. Mattox recommended that a historical perspective be produced of the Maggie Walker transition and its various milestones and that such a document would be beneficial to new Board members and Superintendents allowing them to add to this body as quickly as possible. Mrs. Pettitt asked if that type of information would be included in the work Mr. Morton indicated he would be sharing in the coming months. Mr. Morton agreed it is an important part of the work that needs to be done.

**XII. Closed Meeting**

None

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

None

**XIV. Adjournment**

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

**XV. Next Meeting**

October 21, 2010 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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Fred S. Morton IV, Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk