

## MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies  
Regional School Board Meeting  
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, September 15, 2016

9:10 a.m.

### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Moment of Silence

The Chairman called for a moment of silence.

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Regional School Board and visitors recited the pledge of allegiance.

### IV. Introductions

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

#### Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell 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. Reeve Ashcraft, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools  
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools  
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools  
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools  
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools (late arrival)  
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Jeff McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

**Absent:**

Mr. John Wright, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools  
Ms. Celestine Gaines, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools  
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

**Also present:**

Dr. Wendy Ellis, Phil Tharp, and Michael Smith – MLWGS Administration  
Lynn Reed, Deborah Snagg, Robinette Cross, Joy Davis, and Lisa Williams – MLWGS Staff  
Peggy Feldmann – Walker Parent  
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation  
Dr. Leslie Hausser – School Advisory Council Chair  
Nancy Reynolds – Community

Ms. Gray offered apologies for missing the August meeting, stating she was pulled into a last minute RPS committee meeting.

**V. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Deborah Marks, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Reeve Ashcraft, minutes for the regular meeting of August 18, 2016, were unanimously approved.

**VII. Recognitions**

Walker Athletics was recognized for winning its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Wells Fargo Cup in the VHSL 2A Division, which is presented to schools who succeed across all sports.

**VIII. Public Comments**

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes.

None.

**IX. Director's Report**

## ***A. Verbal Updates***

- **Opening of School**

Since the end of the last school year, our school has remained in a state of perpetual motion; our boot camp personnel coached freshmen, our custodial and maintenance teams have dealt with lots of facility upgrades, our office professionals have learned new software associated with automated processes and processed a lofty number of purchase orders for materials and equipment, our senior counselors gave our seniors a head start on the college application process, and our tech team has wrapped their minds around upgrading our network and distributed new laptops to staff.

Since the first day for department chairs in mid-August, to welcoming our new staff, and the return of our full cadre of teachers, our preservice days have been especially productive. The Director stated, “we have continued to enjoy working together in larger groups (clusters) and have seamlessly continued our work on curriculum, instruction, and assessment that we began in the last school year.”

Freshmen orientation, early AP, and fee collection have likewise been very smooth and productive because of planning and hard work by our office staff. There is a tremendous amount of excitement associated with the start of a new school year.

On September 5<sup>th</sup> we welcomed 752 students, including 197 freshmen from 12 school districts.

Transportation directors in the participating divisions worked hard to make sure that buses ran on schedule.

- **New Staff Update**

Walker welcomed David Bortz as its Network Manager who has been busy with deploying new laptops and school server upgrades. Dr. Lee Ridens, a new school psychologist, has already been working with students and collaborating with division personnel. Carlton Edwards of the MW Class of 1973 is the new head of security and a retired VCU Assistant Police Chief. Ms. Ruth Bradner, a Spanish Teacher, replaced Mr. Quintero who left for a University assignment. Ms. Allison Anthony, Social Studies, comes to us from the Humanities Center at Hermitage and has transitioned well. [*Inadvertently omitted: Emily Post, Science, coming from Richmond Public Schools*]. Seminar Instructor Dr. Jack Kangas is teaching American Foreign Policy in the Middle East.

- **Honor Council Update**

A committee draft report was presented to the RSB in August but there are still concerns about language around ‘stealing,’ which may be a violation of law. Also identified is additional work around first offense reporting; example, questions to be asked and reviewed on the college application form where we need to make sure the answer is clean and students and counselors can answer with a clear conscious. Currently as written into

the draft report the honor council can recommend a consequence; however, if the RSB sanctions the consequence, then that action is also considered a school consequence. Students faced with answering that question, even though we say the first offense is not reportable and doesn't become part of the student disciplinary record, that student has to answer this question with a clear conscience. The committee needs additional work to resolve this issue.

The Director is anticipating another draft first read from the committee in October.

- **Middle School Information Visits Begin Shortly**

***B. Coming Events***

September 15, 2016, through October 20, 2016 (*see packet, Section IX.b for details*)

**X. Unfinished Business**

None.

**XI. Consent Items**

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Martha Harris, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions and fiscal status report July 31, 2016.

**XII. Action Items**

**a. Policy, Regulation and Form Proposals**

The following are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for RSB approval:

- 1001 – Conflict of Interest *Amended*
- 1010 – Constitution and Bylaws *Amended*
- 1014 – Closed Meetings *Amended*
- 1024 – Public Participation at School Board Meetings *Amended*
- 1030 – Admission of Students *Amended*
- Reg 1030-R2 – Admission of Students
- 2023 – Threat Assessment Team *Amended*
- 4090 – Student-Athlete Concussions During Extracurricular Activities *Amended*
- 5011 – Prohibition Against Harassment – Employee *Amended*
- 5012 – Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination *Amended*
- 6000 – Requests for Information *Amended*
- Reg 6000-R – Requests for Information *Amended*
- Form 6000-F1 – Requests for Public Records *Amended*
- 6030 – Public Participation at School Board Meetings (New – cross reference to 1024)
- 8000 – Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation – Student *Amended*
- 8001 – Equal Education Opportunity/Nondiscrimination – Student *Amended*

Proposed, policies, regulation and forms are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Deborah Marks, the above listed policies, regulations and forms were unanimously approved.

### **XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

#### **a. Policy Proposals**

The following are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board review:

3001 – Instructional Goals and Objectives *Amended*

3002.1 – Class Size

5001 – Personnel Records *Amended*

5004 - Professional Staff

5089 – Staff Weapons in School

7014.1 – Purchasing Procedures

7015 – Small Purchasing *Amended*

8003 – Compulsory Attendance

8004 – Religion in School

Proposed policies are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association. Approval will be requested at the October 20, 2016, meeting of the Regional School Board.

#### **b. International Trip Proposal – Morocco, Spring 2017**

Director McGee introduced Ms. Robinette Cross, trip sponsor and Global Studies instructor, for a presentation, overview, and description of this newly proposed seminar international travel proposal. The trip will be partially supported by a GS Foundation offset.

Ms. Cross described her connections to Morocco, having lived there three years while on a Fulbright scholarship and mastering the language during that time, detailing her hopes to offer this experience for her MENA students (Gender and Culture in the Middle East and Africa) as global citizens and cross-cultural representatives. This trip lends itself to the mission of the school to provide comprehensive educational opportunities that advance gifted student's understanding of world cultures and languages. Students attending will conduct a service project while abroad.

Approval for this trip proposal will be requested at the October 20, 2016, meeting of the Regional School Board.

### **XIV. Information Items**

New Approved Student Interest Club: Maggie Walker Generation Action Chapter

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

Dr. Gill reported the committee met this morning and discussed four items: 1) an update on the questions that have arisen around the honor council review which was also heard by the Board this morning, 2) the 2016-2019 Technology Plan, 3) the student-interest club presented today [*information section*], and 4) a personnel matter that will be discussed in closed session.

**XVI. Closed Meeting**

The Chairman announced the item for closed session:

Do I hear a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with Sections (§) 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsection, the following items:

Number 1: [*Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the School Board. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter which involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the School Board.*]

On motion by Dianne Smith, seconded by Deborah Marks, the Board unanimously approved moving into closed session. The recorder was paused and the door closed.

At the conclusion of the closed session, the Clerk was invited back and asked to record a motion to reconvene in open session.

On motion by Deborah Marks seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Board unanimously approved moving into open session.

**XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting and Any Action Taken if Necessary as a Result of Closed Meeting**

The Chairman directed the Clerk to certify the closed session:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Regional School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i-one) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and (ii-two) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. Any member of the Regional School Board or committee who believes that there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place.

The Chairman asked if there were any statements or concerns from Board members. Being none, a motion was requested for closed session certification.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Deborah Marks, the Board approved closed session certification.

### **Personnel Action**

The Chairman called for a vote to certify a personnel action.

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved a confidential personnel action discussed during closed session.

### **XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

None.

### **XIX. Adjournment**

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Dianne Smith, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

### **Next Meeting**

October 20, 2016, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

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John Axselle III, Chairman

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Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D., Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk