

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

Thursday, November 14, 2013

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kevin Hazzard, Vice-Chairman serving as Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order in Room 153.

II. Introductions

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

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
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell City Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Pete Gretz for Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Deputy Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell City Public Schools
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen County Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, **Interim Superintendent**, Richmond City Public Schools
Dr. 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: (listed by locality alphabetical order)

Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen County Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg City Public Schools

Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond City Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg City Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis, Karen Hoover, Anna Shore and Deborah Snagg– MLWGS
Jane Scheibe – PTSA President
Marianne Macon, Laura O'Brien, Anne Hayes - PTSA Advocacy
Chamie Valentine – School Advisory Committee Chairman
Bill Yates, Burt Hazelwood and Hal Waller – GS Foundation
Christian Goodwin ('14-Chesterfield), Hannah Lyons ('14-Richmond), Lucy Conte ('14-Richmond), Matthew King ('14-Henrico) and Chris Benos ('14-Chesterfield) – MLWGS Students
Others in Attendance: too numerous to list

III. Approval of Amended Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Dianne Smith, seconded by John Axselle, regular meeting and work session minutes submitted for October 17, 2013 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

- **Anna Shore-Science Department, with students Christian Goodwin, Hannah Lyons, Lucy Conte; Epidemiology Class Trip to Boston, November 3-5, 2013.** Mrs. Shore and 15 students in the Epidemiology Seminar attended the American Public Health Association Conference. The conference consisted of more than 1,000 scientific sessions, round tables, poster sessions, learning institutes and panel discussions with over 5,000 scientific papers presented. The students and instructor made connections with the association's information health informatics section for the purpose of mentoring student research, scholarship and research publishing opportunities. In addition, during this event, Walker students were highlighted on the APHA blog.
- A history project assigned to **Matthew King** ('14 - Henrico) by teacher John Wilkes has been accepted into the Library of Virginia archives. King's oral history project for his advanced seminar in American Historiography focused on Mr. Terence A. Smit and his life as a soldier, farmer, and refugee who grew up in Rhodesia. Smit spent his early career on the land in Zimbabwe,

and then fled to the United States following the occupation of his farm under the confiscation policies of President Robert Mugabe.

- **Christopher Benos** ('14- Chesterfield) authored a white paper which was presented to the Governor on ways to improve Virginia's high schools of the future. The paper will serve as a resource to the Secretary, the Governor and the General Assembly to outline new innovations for classrooms and schools. Benos has served as an intern to Laura Fornash, Virginia's Secretary of Education. After meeting Secretary Fornash when she visited MLWGS in March, Benos expressed his interest in matters of education policy and ways to improve education in the Commonwealth, and volunteered to be of service to the Secretary. Benos was then given the opportunity to research and write outside of the school's curricular offerings.

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.

The following comments are not transcribed verbatim:

Mrs. Marianne Macon, Richmond parent and Advocacy Committee member, addressed the Board in support of the 9/6 funding proposal that relates to State funding for Maggie Walker and at present accounts for approximately 25% of the funding for this school. MLWGS is one of three full day Governor's Schools across Virginia.

The General Assembly has in the Appropriations Acts (quote provided in resolution) stated a legislative intent to encourage more full-day 9-12 program Governor's Schools. Looking at how money coming from the State is distributed among all the Governor's Schools, we (*Advocacy Committee*) discovered a funding formula that is listed at the bottom of the sheet we are providing. Four factors comprise State funding: 1) starts with a base amount of \$4,369, 2) apply local composite index, 3) multiply the enrollment number for each school, and 4) factor for program length.

The Advocacy Committee discovered that part-time or half-day schools receive 5/6 funding, while full time programs only receive 1/6 more. The committee's proposal asks that the 6/6 multiple be increased to 9/6 to reflect true operational costs for a full time program. If the committee succeeds getting this proposal into the Governor's budget it could result in an additional \$919,428 for MLWGS.

In response to a question from Mr. Hazzard, Mrs. Macon stated there is no clear definition in State code of a part-time or half-day school. The only definition Advocacy found is buried in DOE.

Mr. Burt Hazelwood, Parent and GS Foundation Chairman, addressed the Board in support of the 9/6 Resolution.

Mr. Hazelwood described a recent visit by Foundation and Advisory Committee members to the Darden School where they discussed their public/private partnership and governance structure to see if there are any similarities with MLWGS. What they discovered was their pillars are similar to Walker's: students, teachers, programs, infrastructure and recognition. Also, Darden considers itself one Darden; they don't say we're the Foundation or we're the university. This is a practice we (*leadership*) should bring to Walker.

Mr. Hazelwood stated the Executive Board of the GS Foundation voted unanimously at its recent meeting to support the 9/6 resolution and requested the support of the Regional School Board.

Mr. Bill Yates, Richmond Alumni parent and GS Foundation, addressed the Board regarding funding.

Mr. Yates stated that Maggie Walker was a marvel of regional cooperation. The education and experiences his two sons received from this school would not have been possible at any other school in Central Virginia. The successes of Maggie Walker are palpable and infectious and the educational results are outstanding. Walker students graduate fully prepared for the most rigorous college program, while allowing students to become active, contributing members of their communities.

A program like Maggie Walker's takes investment; time, money, energy, thought, emotion and heart. The central element in that investment is the shared recognition of this program and the need to do one's part. As Chairman of the Foundation Development Committee, Mr. Yates stated he works with a remarkable team of volunteers committed to Maggie Walker that has helped to raise funds to enhance the experience here. Today we are ready to expand corporate efforts to help Maggie Walker bring expanded academic experiences to the students. What does this mean to the Regional School Board? Mr. Yates stated he was here today to ask Regional Board commitment to fairly and fully fund Maggie Walker whose students are your students and deserve to be funded as well as students in your other programs and should not be affected by either the state's contribution or by funds raised by the Foundation.

In order for the Foundation to effectively raise funds at a higher level, we must be able to assure donors that they are making a difference. They will not donate if they see that this Board uses outside funds, state or Foundation dollars to cover basic costs. Donors need to know that their contributions are additive and will allow the program

to soar higher. They will not give if they believe their contribution will result in less tuition from you.

Mr. Yates asks the Regional Board to commit to adequately funding Maggie Walker and to remember the purpose of the State contribution and Foundation support and to keep those revenues out of tuition calculations. Together we can assure the brightest years for Maggie Walker are still to come.

Mrs. Chamie Valentine, School Advisory Committee Chairman, addressed the Board in support of the 9/6 Resolution.

Mrs. Valentine stated the SAC held a special meeting on November 12th regarding support for the 9/6 Resolution. By unanimous consent the SAC respectfully asks the Regional School Board to adopt this resolution which requests an update to the methodology funding for academic year Governor's Schools. The SAC further requests that any State acquired funds will not negatively impact the current or contemplated support that the Regional School Board provides to Maggie Walker.

Mrs. Jane Scheibe, PTSA President, addressed the Board in support of the 9/6 Resolution.

Mrs. Scheibe stated the PTSA voted unanimously at their November board meeting to support the Regional School Board's adoption of the 9/6 Resolution requesting the Governor and General Assembly update the funding methodology for full day academic year Governor's Schools.

Also, on behalf of the PTSA and the entire Maggie Walker community, should this resolution be successfully inserted into the 2015 Virginia Appropriations Act and result in increased funding for Maggie Walker, that participating school divisions do not regard this as an opportunity to decrease per pupil funding for any reason.

Mrs. Scheibe told the Regional Board of her pleasure to participate in the Open Houses for perspective students a couple of weeks back and stated that for three nights there was more than standing room only crowds. She said, "I can assure you that the excitement and interest in this school is as high as it's ever been."

Mrs. Scheibe congratulated the Regional Board for offering this excellent program to some of their top students. She added that the localities have savvy education consumers; they know what they want and if you have any opportunity to expand your student participation at Maggie Walker, she knew their constituents would thank them.

In conclusion, Mrs. Scheibe thanked the Regional School Board for what they do for students.

VII. Director's Report

- **Slot Letters for 2014-2015:** Reminder that executed letters were due November 1st. Dr. McGee shared parental concerns expressed at the Open Houses that divisions were reducing their support of Maggie Walker. Dr. McGee assured the Regional Board that we communicated clearly to constituents that divisions are not reducing support and the smaller than normal incoming class of freshmen is attributed to the small graduating class of 2014.
- **Verbal Updates:** 1) Partnering Board Opportunity sponsored by the PTSA, 2) Audit Status and 3) Finance Committee Meeting feedback.
- **MLWGS Coming Events:** November 14th through December 12th.

VIII. Action Items

a. Policy Approval

The following policies presented at the October meeting are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for approval: **No. 1012.b** – Policy Steering Committee, **No. 3002** – Curriculum Development and Adoption, **No. 4050** – Release of Student Data/Records, **No. 5015** – Professional Staff Contracts, **No. 5016** – Supplementary Pay and **No. 5030** – Professional Staff Development. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

The Director recommends approval of the policies noted.

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved policies submitted as noted above.

b. New Clubs

Presented in October for review, the Director recommends the Board approve the Irish Heritage Club, HOLA Club and Student Health Organization.

After brief discussion, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved the specific clubs mentioned above.

c. Resolution of the Regional School Board

Presented in October for review and discussion, the Director recommends Board approval of the 9/6 Resolution in support of updated funding methodology for academic year Governor's Schools.

After additional discussion, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by John Montgomery, the Board unanimously approved the 9/6 Resolution.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. Policy Proposals

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for review: **No. 4010** – Substance Abuse, Student Assistance Program, **No. 5020** – Professional Staff Discipline, **No. 5021** – Professional Staff Grievance, **No. 5022** – Suspension of Staff Member, **No. 5060** – Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force and **No. 6002** – Parental Involvement. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

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

b. Verizon Proposal (2nd Review)

Reviewed in October, the Director offered a status update to this proposal. Counsel has been consulted and recommends that once the formal proposal is received it be presented to them for review and investigation of the compensation structure.

Mr. Tharp added information regarding the signal that will be sent, which is voice over internet protocol that covers voice communications and multi-media. The other question raised dealt with roof access and costs associated during non-school hours; Verizon responded that they would incur any costs of custodial or security staff to open and would also absorb the cost of installing electric connections to the emergency generator. Mr. Tharp reached out to Verizon on October 22nd to have their engineers look at where the location line is and what it would cost to get to MLWGS, although they have yet to respond.

If a formal final proposal is received and vetted prior to the December Board meeting approval will be requested; otherwise approval will be postponed until these actions are completed, but the review process will have been satisfied.

X. Informational Items:

- **Student News**
 - Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield) Named NBC Latino Inventor
 - MLWGS Robotics Hosts Lego Tournament, November 9th
- **Other**
 - Foundation Supports Counselor Development

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome reported the committee held a brief meeting prior to the Regional Board meeting today with a full quorum at which they discussed the budget forecast. No specific items are available today as a consequence of that meeting. Additionally, there is not much information available until the Governor releases his budget in

December, but there could be significant changes with a new Governor coming into office, so the situation could be fluid for several months. Dr. Newsome encouraged all to continue to advocate with their representatives.

XII. Closed Meeting

The Chairman directed the Clerk to announce items for closed session:

It is my understanding that the School Board desires 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:

Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Regional School Board.

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

At the conclusion of 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 Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved moving into open session.

XIII. Certification of Closed Meeting and Any Action, 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 John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved closed session certification.

XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business

None.

XV. Adjournment

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

XVI. Next Meeting

December 12, 2013 at 9:00am. MLWGS Room 153, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.