

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

Attendance

November 13, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Superintendents

Present:

Janet Crawley, Charles City County
Linda Underwood, Goochland County
Stewart Roberson, Hanover County
Fred Morton, Henrico County
Richard Layman, King and Queen
James Victory, Petersburg City
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County
Jeffery Smith, West Point

Absent:

Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County
Margaret Meara, Powhatan County
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County
Yvonne Brandon, Richmond City

Others Present:

N. Douglas Hunt, Director
Crystal C. Charity, Clerk
Barbara Marshall, Deputy Clerk

Board Members

Present:

Barbara Crawley, Charles City County
Dianne Pettitt, Chesterfield County
Ivan Mattox, Goochland County
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City
Dudley Olsson, West Point

Absent:

Robert Cox, Prince George County
John Axselle, Hanover County
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County

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

Thursday, November 13, 2008

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Diane Pettit, Vice-Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Introductions and Recognition

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality.

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Valarie Ayres, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was approved. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting were approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Mattox has now joined us and is now presiding over meeting.

Public Comments

"Good morning. My name is Lynn Foshee Reed and I am the elected Faculty Liaison to this Board. I would like to present the board with the summary of results from the climate survey administered during the last week of the 2007-08 academic years.

You may recall from my remarks in September, the Faculty Council with Mr. Hunt's permission convened a faculty committee about a year ago and charged them with creating a school climate survey. The committee looked at examples of similar instruments used in Chesterfield, Henrico, and Richmond. They also considered the North Carolina survey which was used to create that state's Standards for Working Conditions for their schools.

The committee reconvened in September to analyze the data and to prepare the summary of results. This report has been recently shared with all the staff here at MLWGS, and I am giving each of you a copy. The first page holds the condensed information; the remaining three pages display more detailed results. The summary shows many areas that are working well and a few, most notably teacher empowerment, that could be improved.

If you were to distill the report into just three ideas, they would be COLLABORATION, CONSISTENCY, and VISION. In a school like ours, collaboration amongst members of the same

department as well as between disciplines is critical to providing our students with the highest quality of preparation for college and for life. Finding ways to enhance collaboration is a challenge we hope will be embraced. Consistency of message as well as consistency of practice is another area that we believe could be improved. And finally, a well-articulated and shared vision of the future is critical as we move into the transition of leadership.

It is the hope of the committee that this document be considered alongside of the collected surveys and comments gathered by the Director Search committee. Furthermore, it is hoped that similar survey be administered every year or two to measure progress as well as to identify areas that might need future attention”.

“My Name is Mark Bearden and I’m t a parent of two daughters, one a current Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Junior, the other a 2008 graduate of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School who is a freshman studying at Dartmouth College. I’m a resident of Henrico County. In the interests of full disclosure, I also served as the Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach this past fall season but my comments are those of a parent. I am here to speak on regard to the current search for a replacement for the school's Director, Mr. Hunt.

First, I would like to add my voice for those who have commended Doug's service and his performance these last years. I'd personally assess Mr. Hunt as one of the key assets of the school and believe the selection by the Board was inspired and his performance as the school's Director has been exemplary. I'd love to see him stay on.

Second, in looking at the candidates for Doug's replacement I hope the Board will keep in mind that in addition to providing a superior academic education to its students, Maggie Walker also offers those students other programs including extracurricular activities and – especially – high school athletic programs, which make up the total high school experience for our students.

It may seem strange to talk about the importance of sports in the context of the search for our next Director at Maggie Walker. But I firmly believe the various athletic teams offered by the school provide a key – and sometimes overlooked – avenue to our students. The experience of my daughters as well as what I've observed of others is the contribution of sports programs to the overall experience of Maggie Walker and has been significant and consistent.”

VI. Director's Report

Our fall athletic season was a very competitive season. Volleyball as we heard did very well, as well as golf and we are very proud of them. There are two sports that really stand out and one is our Field Hockey Team. They are in Virginia Beach today and will be competing against Lake Braddock High School in the State Quarterfinals. This is the second time our school has qualified for the State Quarterfinals in Field Hockey. Co-Athletic Director Paige Hawkins coaches them and they have already left for Virginia Beach so they could not be here with us. With us today is the girls Cross Country Team under the direction of Coach Holdren and Assistant Coach Deborah Snagg. Deborah is a qualified runner and has been all her life and we strive to make the girls better than the coaches. This young group here has exceeded everyone's expectations winning the District and finishing second in the Region and finishing second in the State meet.

Coach Holdren stated we had a spectacular season. The girls worked very hard and we are so proud of them and their accomplishments. So if they would introduce themselves and their district:

My name is Kelsey Miller 9th grade Chesterfield; Katie Ardoff 11th grade Chesterfield; Caroline Newcomb 11th grade Chesterfield; Laura Goodfellow 11th grade Henrico, Kelsey Green 11th grade Chesterfield; Clarissa Schick, 11th grade Richmond, Ann Spiers 10th grade Chesterfield, Rene Hamzey 11th grade Goochland, Susannah Peirsol 12th grade and I am Co-Captain; Caroline Vines 12th grade Henrico and I am also Co-Captain.

Mr. Hunt stated that we are all proud of you and are so happy that most of you will be back next year to compete. Congratulations.

Mr. Hunt continued by stating that on October 31st, we had to dismiss school at 11:00 a.m. due to a power failure. Transportation did a wonderful job getting back to the school for early pick up.

I would also like to report that we had our two open houses which was a huge success. They move about the building using four color groups. Pat Taylor has worked very hard to make this a success. We had parent to parent and student to student sessions. We had a session with Mike Geiger the Admissions Co-Coordinator, Guidance Director Karl Zweerink. We have a session in the classroom with the teachers, talking about curriculum and making a short presentation. Each of these presentations is twenty minutes long, followed by a social downstairs in the Commons.

We do have Parent Teacher conference today and then tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then it is a student holiday. Grades went out on Monday November 10th.

We have our Lego League Tournament here this Saturday all day. This is a Regional event for the middle school students. Also, there will be a drama presentation "Much a do about Nothing" here next Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There are tickets at your seat if you wish to attend.

We will have our third Parent Coffee on December 3rd which is before we meet again. Belle Bonner is our PTSA President and she is the one who came up with the idea and started it for us. We started with very few parents attending and now we are having larger turnouts.

Friday, December 12th is the Freshman Dance and Lock in. Mr. Tharp will be with them during this event. Also our Winter Concert will be held on Tuesday December 16, 2008 so you are certainly are invited to that.

VII. Action Agenda Items

- a. New Club Proposals: Architecture Club and Bridging Boundaries International.

On motion by Diane Pettit, seconded by Barbara Crawley the Board approved the new clubs. Motion carried.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

At your seat Mr. Hunt indicated there is a policy from Henrico County in which we have made revisions for the sponsorship of banners for our fields, gym etc. Please review the information and we will submit this back to you in our December meeting for your approval.

IX. Information

- a. Directors Search Verbal Report

The Open house has already been mentioned previously in the meeting. The Richmond Times Dispatch Advertisements as well as the Student Achievements are located in the informational section in the back of your packet.

X. Superintendents' Steering Committee Meeting

In Mr. Axselle's absence, he has requested that I report to you the Search Committee's update for the Director's Search. All the information is in and we have one late addition that came in today and we will put that with the others. The two Town Hall sessions were held on October 27th and were lightly attended. We have had 360 people to fill out the surveys online. Mr. Tharp has worked with Dr. Lyle Evans from Chesterfield County through the survey forms and has advanced that information to each member so they can go online and review the comments. The advertisement for the position is now published and circulated. The questions for the interview process are being worked on now and will be approved by the committee in time to use in January.

Mr. Mattox also added that there were concerns that were brought to his attention after the last board meeting about the Consultants from UVA. Doug, myself and the Planning Committee had a conference call with Carolyn one of the consultants. A solution was put in place to have a liaison from each of the divisions to aid in relaying information between the two parties. Also we met earlier this week and formed a letter that we will be sending to them to stress

those issues. The second issue is that they come up with a Calendar of Events. Giving us some idea of when things need to happen or when information need to be looked at or passed on to appropriate people so we can be more proactive with those request.

XI. Closed Meeting

None

XII. Certification of Closed Meeting


None

XIII. Announcement

There being no further business to discuss, Motion by Diane Pettit, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

XIV. Next Reorganization Meeting: January 15, 2009 at 9 a.m. MLWGS Board
2nd Floor


Ivan Mattox, Chairman


N. Douglas Hunt, Director