

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

Thursday, November 8, 2012

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, 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 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
Mrs. Diana Winston, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, **School Board**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, **School Board**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Pete Gertz, **Assistant Superintendent** and **Dr. James Lane, Incoming Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Stanley Jones, **Interim 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

Absent from Meeting:

Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, **School Board**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mrs. Megan Marcinkevich, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Patti Chappell – **Administration**
Hal Waller, Barbara Reese, Burt Hazelwood, Julie Weissend and Bill Yates - **GS Foundation**
Marianne Macon - **PTSA**
Julie May, Dr. Manuel Marquez and Ms. Carolina Marun – **Parent Community**
Samantha Marquez, Brian Walter, Tariq Hamzey and Je'Briesha Craddock – **MLWGS Students**
Michele Surat – **Faculty Liaison to the Regional School Board**

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Diana Winston, seconded by Cora Armstrong; minutes as submitted for October 18, 2012 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield) was recognized for winning 1st Place in the research competition at the International Space Olympics held in Korolev, Russia, October 16-28, 2012.

Samantha was also acknowledged for her recent placement to 'Richmond's 40 under 40' list in Style Weekly Magazine, recognized for her work in science research.

Samantha took the opportunity of this recognition to state she was both honored and grateful to the Board and Maggie Walker for providing her with wonderful teachers and mentors and giving her the tools and skills while here to continue on with her science; and further to Chesterfield County for providing her with the roots of her inspiration and learning tools that she needed throughout the years, specifically thanking Dr. Newsome and Mrs. Smith.

Tariq Hamzey ('13-Goochland) was recognized for participation in the Virginia Aerospace Science & Technology Scholars [VASTS] program (exclusive to 144 rising seniors across Virginia) this past summer at NASA Langley Research Center. Tariq earned college credit(s) for his successful design of a manned mission to Mars and back.

Tariq thanked Maggie Walker and each of its participating localities for giving him this opportunity along with the proper preparation in order to succeed.

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.

Mr. Brian Walter ('12-Chesterfield) – MLWGS EduPac Policy Club addressed the Board. "Hello ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for letting me speak today. I want to thank you for your time and everything you guys do for our state's education. Like she said, my name is Brian Walter, I'm a senior here from Chesterfield County and I'm also the Vice-President of Advocacy for Maggie Walker's brand new Education Policy Advocacy Club or EduPac. But I promise, election season is over, we're not that kind of Pac. ...*(laughter)*...but a Policy Advocacy Club. I just wanted to thank you all for approving this club last month. We believe that as students of the Governor's School for Government and International Studies that it is our duty to learn more about local government and improve our school environment by fostering candid discussion of education policy and providing community service activities in the educational field; and by advocating for the Governor's School and education in general, this organization will serve the Maggie Walker community

and provide an outlet for student concerns and hopes for the future of education. That's really what brings me here today; I've spent the last four years of my life at this school living and learning by the mantra of becoming a more academically engaged and educated individual. I strongly believe in the idea that I can use the education I received here at Maggie Walker to be an agent of social change, and to be a spokesman for the student body who believes like I do, that this school is a unique institution which challenges and inspires the future leaders of the community, state and the planet. I just want to thank you guys for your time today, and I look forward to being here and speaking and updating the Board at future meetings about the accomplishments of this club. We are really excited for what this fledging organization is going to be able to accomplish this year. From the bottom of all of our hearts at EduPac, I want to thank you for letting us form our club."

Dr. Manuel Marquez (Chesterfield Parent) addressed the Board. "Good morning and thank you very much members of the Board. I'm totally biased here...let me start by reading something that was just published recently by American Science Magazine, an interview with Samantha. And when you have a father and a daughter in the same room, one wants to talk about how proud we are, not only about the daughter but also about the system of the school, it's a little difficult. So I want to take these two minutes making the connection between how we see ourselves as a family, as members of the community, as Virginians and also as the parents of one of your students. She said recently about the mentoring and engaging power that we have in Virginia, and they say that the power of youth at the university of service is the best way to change the process of socio influence. She finished that interview telling that leadership is not about ability, it's about responsibility. So when I see myself as a parent and see she's winning awards and recognitions; wow, of course we played a role...Maggie Walker played a role. But let me tell you in that particular interview in American Science what made me very proud of Samantha was about her memories of Betty Weaver [ES] or Robious Middle School. Her middle school teacher Stephanie Estes; that was really important. Really important for them to remember that their achievement are not coming from one spot, it's coming from this huge and diverse influence of wherever they go. So, what Chesterfield has done in giving my daughter an opportunity to come to this school, we are extremely grateful. Samantha doesn't represent only Maggie Walker when she goes outside and do her thing; she represents Henrico and Hanover and Richmond, Chesterfield. Maggie L. Walker Governor's School is more than that; it's a huge collage that we call Maggie L. Walker; it's the mentor, the woman, it's the government and the government is there to serve and I am very proud we serve. And it's also international; it's about how global we see ourselves serving our community. And that is what I want to tell you, that as soon you continue supporting this unique collage the sooner we still continue being a huge and united community. Thank you very much for your support."

Je'Briesha Craddock ('12-Henrico) addressed the Board. "Mr. Chairman and members of the Regional Board, my name is Je'Briesha Craddock and I'm a senior at Maggie Walker and I represent Henrico County Schools. I'm not actually from Henrico County; I'm from West Clay Street which is like a couple of blocks over. And, when I was growing up I always knew what I wanted to do; I want to be a lawyer, I want to go to Maggie Walker Governor's School and I want to go to VCU afterwards. I always had this big plan because when I would look down the street I would see a bunch of different

people, people from different ethnic backgrounds; it was just a huge melting pot of different people and I've always felt like I was a kid that could never fit in because I didn't know which part I wanted to belong to. And coming here I get a glimpse of every culture and I'm Vice-President of Peer Mentors Club, and Arabic Club, and Spanish Club; and just being a part of so many different cultural groups just gives me a sense a preparedness for the real world and for college and for everything else and I'm so grateful that you guys allowed me to come here and represent myself, and my county, and my city, and my state, and I can flourish here and I'm so glad that I had four wonderful, wonderful years here. Finally, thank you Mrs. Winston and Dr. Russo for your support of the many outstanding programs that Henrico students have opportunities to attend. Your support sets Henrico Schools and our region apart from others across the state and the nation."

VII. Director's Report

Mr. McGee reminded the Board that slot commitment letters for 2013-2014 were due November 1st. Some localities were still finalizing approval through their boards and are expected to submit letters shortly.

Updates:

- **Director's 90-Day Entry Plan** - Mr. McGee referenced his plan implemented at the outset of his tenure, noting he has been at MLWGS just slightly over 90 days, and stated that he has accomplished his goal to firmly get his feet on the ground within the region. Mr. McGee thanked individual members for the opportunity they extended to meet with him so he could learn the complexities of this environment.
- **Hurricane Sandy Damage Report** – MLWGS experienced no damage.
- **(2) Information Forums Rescheduled Due to Hurricane Sandy** – October 29th and 30th were rescheduled to November 5th and 7th. November 1st Informational Forum was not disrupted. The Director thanked each locality for their efforts getting rescheduling information to their communities. Mr. McGee also thanked Mrs. Chappell and her committee for updating and upgrading our Information Forum program.
- **PTSA Outreach to locality boards** – MLWGS's PTSA is finalizing plans and will be sending invitations to locality boards to participate in a connection opportunity with their students here. Expect a January timeframe for this program.
- **Strategic Planning** –Included in each packet is a Planning Process Outline and the Charter of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee which members were encouraged to review. Initially, the plan will consist of two annual plans (13-14 and 14-15) to get the process institutionalized followed by a 3-year strategic plan. The Charter document describes who will comprise this Steering Committee which will function as a clearing house for the work of each of the designated task forces. Opportunities exist for parents, the Planning Committee, faculty, etcetera, to be involved in the development for each of the seven designated task force teams built around recognized and publicly stated international standards in education. The plan is to have captured by the end of this current academic year the current initiatives underway in the building but also mapped out an annual plan for next year that is our first foray into insuring our program is in-line with the best programs in the world.

- **MLWGS Coming Events: November 8, 2012 through December 13, 2012. See VII.c**

VIII. Action Items

a. New Clubs

Submitted in October for Board review, the Modern Dance Society Club, Project HappyFace Club, Futsal Club, Ballroom and Latin Dance Club, Club Feed RVA and NeuroPsi Club seek approval of the Board to operate within the structure of MLWGS.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Board members unanimously approved the charter of these clubs as requested.

b. New Policies Approval

The following policies were submitted in October from the Policy Steering Committee for review: *No. 0011 – Nondiscrimination*, *No. 0012 – Educational Philosophy* and *No. 0013 – Strategic Plan*, all pertinent to the foundational commitments of the Regional School Board. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association. The Director noted that Board members should have received via email the mark-up version of these policies subsequent to their last meeting.

Following a brief discussion regarding the spelling of ‘biennially’ in Policy No. 0013, on motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Board members unanimously approved the policies submitted.

c. Part-Time Support Position for Foundation

The Director requested and recommended approval for a new .1 (up to 5 hours per week) support position to be fully funded by the GS Foundation.

There being no additional questions or discussion on this matter, on motion by Kevin Hazzard, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Board members unanimously approved this position.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. New Policy Proposals

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board review: No. 1010 – Constitution and Bylaws (new revision), No. 2010 – Administration Goals, No. 2011 – Policy Implementation, No. 2012 – Administration in Policy Absence and No. 5010 – Supplemental Compensation for Administrators. The Director recommended members review the policy proposals attached as they will be asked for approval action on December 13, 2012.

Mr. Hazzard questioned if it was correct that previous locality members were being invited back to MLWGS. The Director confirmed communication with Caroline County and Hopewell but no formal action has been requested on their part at this time. Should MLWGS receive a re-participation request in writing, this Board would take action upon their request. Additional action would require the Board to amend Article III, Section I dealing with membership.

X. Informational Items

- **Finance Committee Minutes, November 1, 2012.** The Director noted that one of the revisions proposed to the Constitution from the Policy Review Steering Committee included the addition of a fifth locality representative to this committee to ensure a broader representation of our region.
- **News**
 - Pro-Football Hall of Fame Official Website Story regarding MLWGS.
- **Student News**
 - Saumil Bandyopadhyay ('13-Henrico) – Regional Finalist in the 2012 Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology.
 - Bobby Bohnke ('13-Henrico) – 2012 Junior Travel Award recipient from The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.
 - Shweta Tembe ('14-Henrico) – 2012 Global Citizen Scholarship recipient from The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.
 - Karthik Chetty ('13-Henrico) – Excellence at the Economics for Leaders Conference at Babson College.

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome reported that the Superintendent's Steering Committee met this morning prior to the Board meeting. In his opening remarks Dr. Newsome welcomed their newest colleague Dr. James Lane, incoming Superintendent for Goochland, assuring him that this Board is one of the finest he'll have an opportunity to work with.

The committee discussed two major topics, one being diversity and commended Mr. McGee for working with the Planning Committee and the Virginia Department of Education for an ongoing review of the admissions process, remarking that they hoped in the not too distant future to come back and give this Board an update on some of the findings from that review. Also discussed were preliminary budget projections for the upcoming year with Dr. Newsome stating, “While we believe that some of the media reports may give a false impression regarding projected school funding, as we talk to members of our localities and budget staffs it appears we are in for another very challenging year. We will ask the Finance Committee to work together to develop a methodology for determining how we articulate the budget issues and how we look at Maggie Walker for the upcoming year. As was referenced in one of our last meetings, we did not all have the same understanding last year and we hope to improve upon that process this time. When we receive a recommendation from the Finance Steering Committee we will determine if we support, reject or need to modify and then bring it to this body.” Dr. Newsome stated that the Governor is scheduled to release his budget on December 19th which will then give a better perspective [*on funding*].

Lastly, the Superintendent’s have been asked to speak to legislative issues to which Dr. Newsome shared some dates: next week [*November 14-16*] is the annual VSBA [*Virginia School Board Association*] Conference that will offer some opportunities to start talking about the legislative agenda for next year. VASS [*Virginia Association of School Superintendents*] will hold a press conference regarding the budget on the 14th of January and the VSBA will hold its Legislative Session on January 23rd. At this time many school districts are holding preliminary discussions with members of their General Assembly delegation to help them understand some of the local issues before they meet before the full body [*GA*]. Dr. Newsome stated that he believes that several divisions have posted their legislative agendas on their respective websites.

XII. Closed Meeting

None

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

None

XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business

None

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axelle, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the motion to adjourn this meeting was unanimously approved.

XVI. Next Meeting

December 13, 2012 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