

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

Thursday, October 17, 2013

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, 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 (late arrival)
Mr. John Montgomery, Jr., *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell City Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen County Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg City Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jeffery Bourne for Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Steven Geyer for Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Daryl Chesley for 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. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Director of Schools**, Petersburg City Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George 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)

Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, **Interim Superintendent**, Richmond City Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis, Karen Hoover, Deborah Snagg, and Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS
Jane Scheibe – PTSA President
Marianne Macon, Laura O'Brien, Anne Hayes and Chamie Valentine – PTSA Advocacy
Bill Yates, Burt Hazelwood and Hal Waller – GS Foundation
Others in Attendance: too numerous to list

III. Approval of Amended Agenda (adding Item IX.d and Additional Club to IX.b)

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley; the amended agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Cora Armstrong, minutes submitted for September 19, 2013 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

- *None*

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.

Note: Use of _____ denotes inaudible word or phrase.

Mrs. Marianne Macon, Richmond parent, addressed the Board: "Good morning everyone."

The Clerk asked Mrs. Macon if she was representing herself or the Advocacy Committee as there is a difference in time allotment. Mrs. Macon stated she was representing herself.

"Good morning, I am Marianne Macon, a Richmond parent. At your place the Advocacy Committee has put together a packet of information that we hope will assist the Board and the Superintendents as you work on the budget...that is this set of documents here. I'll briefly go through the documents then leave them for you to review.

The first document is this spreadsheet of Maggie Walker budgets for the past five years consolidated on one page; I hope that will be convenient for you. This information comes from the Maggie Walker website. I'd like to call your attention to two items: first under total revenue, item 4199 – it's a pass-through expense reimbursement, the net revenue to Maggie Walker is zero. Second, under total contingencies, item 5962 – I just ask you to review the five year trend, it is significant. We would have liked to put full time equivalents on here, that might be beneficial but I don't have that information so we couldn't add it.

Going on to the second document, this is _____ information, we shared some of this information with the Board several months ago but since there are new members we thought we would provide it to you one more time. We revised the document in light of the DOE recommendations back in February that Maggie Walker align teacher salaries with the fiscal agents'. Fiscal agent...we're not trying to pick on you; everyone else we're not trying to exclude your information, we're just trying to do it the way the DOE directed.

The next document concerns basic aid. To let you know Governor's School students are counted in your local average daily membership, you receive state basic aid for these students. Column A: we provided you with the 2013 basic aid figures for students by locality. At the bottom of the page in italics what is included and excluded is spelled out, we tried to be very conservative here but I know there will be a difference of opinion regarding what should and shouldn't be included. Column F is the Maggie Walker tuition less basic aid from Column E. Now we believe this is the true cost for the localities to send students to Maggie Walker, it's not \$7,000 _____ whatever the number is. Of course, we do not have calculations for transportation costs and administration costs, so they should be included.”

At this point allotted time had expired but Mrs. Macon requested additional time which the Chair permitted.

“Going on to the fourth document, this is a summary of what we call the ‘_____ funding proposal,’ it's something that we formed an alliance with the Advocacy Group and Appomattox Regional Governor's School...their advocacy committee. We presented this document to the Secretary of Education or soon to be Secretary of Education and various legislators. Basically what it does is it increases the Governor's School add-on payment for full-time Governor's Schools and I'll be happy to go into that further but I know your time this morning is limited and I know you have a lot to get to.

[The] last document contains appropriate portions of the relevant portions of the Appropriations Act for your reference and there are a couple of very, very thorny issues here. First, with respect to the State's per pupil amount, otherwise known as the Governor's School Add-On; I think we have to pose a question: did the legislation intend for the State PPA to supplant local funding? Legislators tell us no; budget trends at Maggie Walker over the past five years tell a different story. And I just throw that out there, I hope we can talk about it and the Board can consider what the legislative intent truly was. And second, and this is the key to the budget process, is what is the appropriate portion of basic aid per pupil funding for students at this Governor's School?

I want to thank all of you; Superintendents and Board members, for your willingness to openly and candidly discuss these difficult issues. So those are the documents for your review, for your consideration, involving a qualitative analysis but there is also a very significant... quantitative analysis but there is also a very significant qualitative analysis that must take place as you consider the budget. What really is the value of this school to your communities and to the region and how do you as Board members and advocates for this school communicate that value to decision makers in your locality? Maggie Walker is a desperately needed and a desired regional program. The only way to fund a program at a level that meets the needs of gifted students throughout the region is to come together to support it. There is no formula to calculate the value of the regional cooperation, there's no dollar amount that can be placed on the magic and synergy that occurs when gifted students from twelve different districts go to school together here each day.

Other value arguments, and these are primarily taken from the school profile; students here take eight classes a day. That's one extra class more than other students; that's almost a half of year extra instruction time. Ten languages are offered. Twelve different AP classes are offered that result in college savings to your constituents. Sixteen VCU dual enrollment classes; high level math classes at VCU with automatic college credit if you get a 'C' or better, this is another incredible savings for your constituents. We have senior mentorships that forge business and professional relationships in the region; we have fascinating senior seminars that focus on community involvement. And now with the A-F grading system looming on the horizon keep in mind as SOL scores, graduation ranks, dual enrollment, all of that goes back to your districts and will count in that A-F grading system. Last year's class had 14 million in college scholarships. And the favorite thing I like to talk to people about is the 36,700 hours of community service that last year's class put in. We have a senior now who has I believe over 700 hours of community service. And I hope we can work together on ways to direct that community service back toward your communities. Maggie Walker is a community of givers; students, parents, administrators, alumni, and the greatest givers of all are our teachers. Please help this school flourish in your districts and build support for a budget that takes into account the school's financial needs and the value this school gives back to the counties and cities of the region.

Thank you...we're looking forward to seeing everybody at the regional luncheons beginning next Wednesday with Chesterfield County and thank you all for your _____."

Mrs. Laura O'Brien, PTSA Advocacy Committee, addressed the Board: "Good morning. Last month we had the pleasure of having a report presented on the funding level...a recommended formula to come up with a funding level and we wanted to respond to that this morning. So, at your table you have an analysis of the funding level proposal...this is just our observation and our ideas about how that could be interpreted and how we can use it as a launching point.

If you go to the second page, we tried to summarize that methodology that was outlined in the report for you because I think a few folks weren't here; I know that some parents hadn't seen it yet. Essentially what happened was the methodology that was outlined was the cost per student for the school divisions on a weighted average was compiled, and that was

approximately \$9,513 I think per student on a weighted average; so that's how much it costs to educate a K-12 child in our school divisions that participate on a weighted average. Then an estimate was made about maintenance of \$80 per student. So it came to \$9,593 as the kind of average weighted cost for educating K-12 in the school divisions.

The second step was the funding sources and basically what happened here was all the revenue for Maggie Walker was added up, both public and private, pass-through, reimbursed/not reimbursed was all added up and that was on the high side \$9,874/student. So, essentially the calculation was made with the difference of those two numbers. Is that something that can inform you as you go forward with the funding level for Maggie Walker? On the high side it would create a deficient or overfunding of \$281/student at current funding levels.

If you go to the next page, we just had a few observations. Of course, we're a small high school of 700 students with no central office and we were being compared to actual costs of a _____ school division so that's quite a difference. The way the formula and methodology was created kind of avoids some of the hard questions about equal playing field. There's a lack of buying power for the RFP's, as you've seen we're buying the locks from Pleasants not from some... you know we're not buying a million locks, we're buying a few hundred. So you've got a lack of buying power for everything; equipment, services, textbooks, everything.

We have teachers that are expensive because they we are teaching college level, they need advanced degrees and experience. Marianne told you we have eight classes a day, almost a whole semester more of instruction than a standard or typical high school, and 31 credit hours and I guess its 100% college matriculation as well. And as we've outlined the market this pay scale for Maggie Walker is not market based, so in comparing the school division to a small high school the salaries are off kilter to say the least.

So the methodology from what we can observe mixed actual numbers with some numbers that were estimates and it didn't really account for the 'no central office' and really weighted the calculation to the larger districts. So our recommendations are on the next page: we recommend that that report be viewed as one factor in your decision making, and maybe other factors be included as well and we had a few ideas; a needs based budget outlining the deficiencies here at the school would be our number one recommendation. The competitive analysis of the salary scale... we are happy to help with that as parents, please give us an assignment _____, we'd like to see that done. _____ purchase: how can we control spending, how can we maximize value? And then support us; we're going to the State, we're having meetings, we met with Senator Marsh yesterday, we're meeting with Senator Stosch, we're meeting and trying to get more State money, please support us in that effort (that's the 9/6 funding). And then please remember that basic aid follows the children to your school division and then you can pass it along as a subsidy to the \$7,000 that you pay here; please remember that that basic aid is coming to you first. Specifically, it's the 'Basic Aid, Sales Tax and Incentive Program' payments.

On the next page, there was discussion last month about maintenance, remember that \$80 maintenance estimate? Well, somebody mentioned debt service and facilities so we went ahead and went on the DOE website and we found out what the debt service and facilities were for each of the divisions, excluding two that don't make that report... Goochland and Hopewell. So this is Table 13, and on the next page you can see where to find Table 13 on the DOE website and we encourage you to look at that, Disbursements by Division. So what we did on this page, the \$11,633 that's sort of a new way..."

Time expired but the Chair granted Mrs. O'Brien additional time to complete her presentation.

"So on this page the \$11,633; this is just an alternative way of looking at that cost per student on the division side. If you look at the chart below, we retraced the math from the report from last month, the weighted average, so those first nine columns are exactly... we recalculated it but we got the same numbers, that's exactly the weighted average that \$9,563. The last three columns we incorporated the debt service and the facilities into the calculation and so we came up with a different number, quite different number. So it's for your consideration just to look at this a different way.

Next page, we looked at if you recall the methodology called for adding up the funding sources for Maggie Walker, all the revenue. And so we tried to retrace that as well and we couldn't do it, we couldn't get the valid number but there might have been some mixing in there too, so we went ahead just for your convenience; if you flip to the next page where it talks about public revenue and private funding, just for your convenience we separated out Maggie Walker's revenue in two buckets... one is public revenue – that's the state add-on and your local tuition, that's at the top, just those two payments. And then everything else in the middle, private funding are just various things that are kind of one-time, their reimbursed, it's not consistent and some of it's from our Foundation, its reimbursing from our Foundation for their salaries which they just run them through our books. And then just as reference you can see where we pulled that from, that's a screen shot at the bottom right of the FY14 budget that's on the website. And so we just screenshot that and filled in these boxes so you can see how that works out. And when we ran those numbers I think there was a little more savings there.

So if you'll flip to the last page, this just gives you kind of two very different ways of potentially using the methodology, using the logic that has been proposed to you; two different ways of interpreting that if you so choose. So here you can see is the big difference, on the one side it looks like its overfunded by \$281 and the other side underfunded by \$2,000 per student. And the last page really just gives you some ideas; again we are willing to help. We have a lot of school divisions in Virginia, twelve of them in fact with one thousand or less students, two of them are represented in the room; they know the economics of scale issues that they face in running their schools systems. We have Governor's Schools all over Virginia, we can look at what costs they have. There's one in northern Virginia, well in fact not even in northern Virginia, Prince William County; \$6,500/student total, public money, local tuition and State money is paid. Those students are at that Governor's School part-

time...three classes! You have eight here and \$6,500 is quite a lot but it's a brand new school and a brand new methodology.

Next we could look at an IB program, maybe a diploma program where the kids are in class all day working to that diploma program and look at the costs inside of one of those programs. And lastly we could work with you to identify a small high school and then kind of align, create a formula that aligns the salaries and makes some of adjustments on the economics of scale, etc.

Thank you so much for your time, we are here to help. We've had to do a lot of homework in getting ready to talk to the State and so now we feel like little mini experts and can come to the table and help you in more substantial ways. Thank you so much."

The Chairman thanked both speakers for their remarks.

VII. Director's Report

- **Slot Letters for 2014-2015:** Provided at table for each Superintendent and Board member is each division's 2014-2015 student enrollment commitment at MLWGS. Executed letters are due November 1st.
- **Strategic Plan Update (Policy No. 0013):** The Director recently provided members with a process plan that directs an 'annual plan' in FY14 and FY15, followed by a 3-year plan FY16-18. He advised that the Steering Committee had met the previous day and reviewed initiatives and made recommendation for slight adjustments; however, due to a quick turn-around the Director was unable to incorporate those adjustments into the process plan for this meeting. Dr. McGee additionally reported that Walker's task forces will each develop an action plan around those initiatives and will also determine how to measure the success of each. Regular updates from the task forces will be provided.
- **Verbal Updates:** Recruitment Efforts – 1) Public Information Forums will occur on October 28, 29 and 30, 2) radio advertising for information forums on Radio One and ClearChannel networks, 3) middle school visits, 4) Henrico Middle School Counselors Information Program on 11- 6 and 5) Planning Committee dissemination of application materials.

The Student Advisory Committee comprised of class officers from each grade level and the SCA has been formed and will meet with Dr. McGee monthly.

Fall Festival 10-4 was a fantastic success due to the efforts of the PTSA, parents, students and staff.

- **MLWGS Coming Events:** October 17th through November 14th.

VIII. Action Items

a. Policy Approval

The following policies presented at the September meeting are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for approval: **No. 1012.a** – Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board, **No. 1016** – Policy Adoption, **No. 2009** – Evaluation of the Director, **No. 2011** – *Amended* Policy Implementation (Adopted 12-13-2012), **No. 2022** – Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED Certified Personnel, **No. 2030** – Small Purchasing, **No. 5000** – Personnel Policies Goals, **No. 5001** – Personnel Records, **No. 5009** – Expense Reimbursements, **No. 5040** – Third Party Complaints Against Employees, and **No. 7001** – Support Services. 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. Upgrade Security Camera System, Software and Hardware

Presented last month for review, the Director recommends the Board approve an upgrade request to the security camera system. Funding for this project will be drawn from Capital Reserves.

There being no discussion on the matter, on motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Jeffery Bourne, the Board unanimously approved upgrading the security camera system.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal - Guatemala

Submitted in September for Board review; the Director recommends approval of Ms. Thornton's proposed interdisciplinary trip to Guatemala, spring break 2014 with interested students.

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Deborah Marks, the Board unanimously approved the Guatemala, spring 2014 interdisciplinary trip.

d. Personnel

The Director recommends approval of the personnel action listed on Attachment 'A' to add Kinsey Hall as a part-time teacher at MLWGS.

On motion by Deborah Marks, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved the personnel action requested.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. Policy Proposals

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for review: **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.

After discussion, the Board requested that policy proposal No. 1012.b be modified and resubmitted.

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

b. New Club Proposals

The following clubs are submitted for Board review: Irish Heritage Club, HOLA Club and Student Health Organization. In addition at table, the following is submitted as a late entry: Girls Lacrosse.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the Girls Lacrosse Club proposal with the following matters considered:

- Student generated proposal with significant parental interest,
- Contact Richmond Parks & Rec for additional field space as Walker’s field will be utilized by other activities,
- Have other sports teams been organized as clubs? Are there VHSL requirements, restrictions or regulations that must be adhered to? MLWGS competes in VHSL 2A District which has no other Lacrosse teams and there is no expectation it ever will,
- Would physicals be required for participation?
- Which league would the club compete?
- Transportation costs,
- Schedule of games,
- Parents committed to write grants for equipment,
- Liabilities and/or injuries covered by Walker insurance? VHSL provides catastrophic coverage for participating athletes which would not be available for this proposed club. Club members must utilize family insurance,
- In Hanover Lacrosse clubs must operate separate from the school system. While they are allowed to utilize the name and fields (with a fee), team(s) are not sanctioned by the Hanover School Board,
- Lacrosse national model is to start as a club and move into athletic (VHSL) status,
- If in VHSL status, teams can compete in higher districts (example: 3A, 4A, etc.),
- If the club is to be sanctioned it should first be able to demonstrate 3-4 years of consistent attendance to prove it can sustain revenue,

- Can this proposal be sanctioned as a community based club, not MLWGS club? If school sanctioned it would be covered under MLWGS's umbrella coverage; if it's a community based club it would not be covered,
- Liability issues are a major concern as this activity would have more exposure than the robotics team (example used). A definitive determination/contractual understanding with parents and students for replacement liability/catastrophic coverage would be needed that would be equivalent to what is offered by VHSL. Supplemental coverage should also be required to name the school as an additional insured,
- Under the Code of Virginia an entity cannot waive negligence for not issuing coverage,
- As Lacrosse is a spring sport there is more time to research concerns,
- The Board requested legal counsel review.

Approval for Irish Heritage Club, HOLA Club and Student Health Organization will be requested at the November meeting of this Board. A vote for Girls Lacrosse may be determined at a future after legal review.

c. Resolution of the Regional School Board

A resolution developed by the Advocacy Committee regarding language insertion into the 2015 Virginia Appropriations Act was introduced to the Board for first reading and consideration.

Unless changes to the resolution are requested, approval will be sought at the November meeting of this Board.

Mr. Bourne left the meeting.

d. Verizon Proposal

Shared at table by the Director, the proposal details an Infotel 'Agreement to Engineer Verizon FIOS Bandwidth.' Verizon agrees to double current MLWGS bandwidth with fiber optic cable at a rate lower than currently billed by carrier. In exchange MLWGS will allow Verizon antenna equipment to be roof mounted. After three years Verizon will pay MLWGS \$1,200/year/antenna for placement of their antennas.

Mr. Tharp was asked about terms regarding access to the roof which he proposed billing for personnel time during off-hours should Verizon require access. Also noted was Verizon would incur the cost of running fiber optic cable to MLWGS.

Unless additional information is required, approval will be sought for this proposal at the November meeting of this Board.

X. Informational Items:

- **Student News**

- Reshini Premaratne ('16-Henrico) won Gold at the US Figure Skating National Solo Dance Championship

- MLWGS RAMPS Club donates \$500.00 to Richmond RAMPS
- **Other**
 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, October 3, 2013

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome reported the committee held a brief meeting prior to the Board meeting today in which diversity and the admissions process along with budget development was discussed.

In clarification of Mrs. Kitchen's presentation from September, Dr. Newsome explained that her work was intended to be a starting point for budget development and not a recommendation. He stated the parameters Mrs. Kitchen was given by the Steering Committee were to look at the composite index each division uses to determine their funding and develop a comparison. Debt service was omitted from her formula as it covers capital costs in divisions, not operating costs.

After canvassing the participating divisions regarding how they report debt service; should the Board consider adding debt service to the comparison formula using divisions (Chesterfield and Hopewell) that carry it on their books as opposed to the county/city's books would add an additional \$200+/student. If the Board factors adding debt service for all twelve divisions it would add an additional \$600+/student. If there is a need to identify capital debt, it would require said debt be run through the fiscal agent (Richmond) with the divisions held responsible for making contributions that would come from their operating dollars.

Dr. Newsome stated his comments are not intended as a recommendation.

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

Ms. Armstrong thanked all that voted for her in the DMV Christian Music Awards.

XV. Adjournment

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

XVI. Next Meeting

November 14, 2013 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.