

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

**Attendance**

**September 18, 2008**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Superintendents**

**Present:**

Janet Crawley, Charles City County  
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County  
Linda Underwood, Goochland County  
Stewart Roberson, Hanover County  
Fred Morton, Henrico County  
Richard Layman, King and Queen  
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County  
James Victory, Petersburg City  
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County  
Yvonne Brandon, Richmond City  
Jeffery Smith, West Point

**Absent:**

Margaret Meara, Powhatan County

**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  
John Axselle, Hanover County  
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County  
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County  
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County  
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City  
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County  
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City  
Dudley Olsson, West Point

**Absent:**

Robert Cox, Prince George County

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

**Thursday, September 18, 2008**

**9:00 a.m.**

I. Call to Order

Ivan Mattox, 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 Dianne Pettit, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion was carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the minutes of the August 21, 2008 meeting were approved.

Public Comments

Lynn Foshee Reed – Faculty Liaison

*Good morning. My name is Lynn Foshee Reed and I am the elected Faculty Liaison to this Board. I have three topics that I would like to address.*

*First of all I would like to express the faculty's appreciation to Mr. Axselle and Mr. Mattox for coming to our faculty meeting in August and bringing us up to date on the plans for the director search. We fully support the committee's intention to include all constituencies via surveys and town hall style meetings. I am happy to provide assistance in communicating details of such activities to the faculty.*

*This leads me to my next topic. Because I serve as the two-way communication conduit between the Faculty Council and this board, I thought it might be helpful to tell you a little about Maggie Walker Governor's School Faculty Council. I am giving you excerpts of the By-Laws of the Faculty Council; in case you would like to read a more detailed description of the Council, I have provided the web address where you may find this document. To summarize, there are five members of the Faculty Council, elected by their peers, serving staggered terms so that there is continuity and institutional memory. This body meets nearly every week, and approximately once a month, the Council meets with Mr. Hunt. Please recall that the School Evaluation Team recommended creating the faculty liaison position in order to establish direct communication between the board and the faculty. Thus I also attend Faculty Council meetings.*

*I would like to emphasize that the Faculty Council strives to work WITH the director on issues that have significance for the faculty as a whole. As an example, we worked with Mr. Hunt to create a vehicle for faculty to give feedback on members of the*

*administrative team. Dubbed "Roses and Thorns," this evaluate process was conducted in spring 2006 and in spring 2007.*

*Another example is last year's creation and administration of a climate survey. With Mr. Hunt's permission, the Faculty Council convened a faculty committee and charged them with creating such a survey for our school. The members first 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 MLWGS survey was administered on-line during the last week of school. Therefore, the Faculty Council has only just recently received the collected data. After analyzing the data, the Faculty Council intends to prepare a summary and to share it with the faculty, administration, and this board. I hasten to emphasize that it will represent only a "snapshot", and therefore such a survey ought to be administered every year or two.*

*Finally, I would like to share with the board the faculty's deep sadness and sense of loss following the death of our friend and colleague, Joyce Charity. We are currently planning to make a donation in her name to the group working to establish a safe house for abused children, a cause that was near and dear to her heart.*

*Thank you for your attention.*

## VI. Director's Report

Today we have with us Joyce's daughter Kristi and son Jamie. As you know Joyce was very special to all of us at this school. She was the constant at our board meetings. We could always see her smiling face and could depend on her to have the minutes ready. Joyce was a very special person to us all and the way we lost her was very sad. I am encouraged by the warm support from our community as well as from the student body, Board, Superintendents and everyone that knew Joyce. This Board at the last meeting approved a resolution in Joyce's honor, thanking her for her dedication and at this time we would like to present this resolution to her children. Patti Chappell read the resolution as Mr. Mattox and Mr. Hunt presented. We also have a copy that we will hang in the Board Room.

The new faculty was bought in and introduced themselves and shared a little of their experience and what they teach.

"Megan Marcinkevich, Administrative Assistant to Pat Taylor, Christine Chiodo 14 years with Henrico County, teaching Geometry and Trigonometry; Max Smith from Henrico County teaching Global Studies; Celie Boswell coming from a high school in Chesterfield and St. Catherine's teaching Public Speaking for 9<sup>th</sup> graders and American Literature; Kerry Sheppard coming from Henrico and Chesterfield County respectively teaching English 9 and 12; Lisa Williams coming from Clover Hill High School teaching AP Literature and World Literature; Rachel Loving most recently from Caroline County Guidance Director for three years and two regular years as a Counselor and I am a Senior Counselor here; Joy Davis Sophomore Counselor her and I just finished a semester as Counselor in Spotsylvania County; Margaret Sorti I am a career switcher. I did Music Ministry for 33 years and last year was my first year of public school at Dumbarton Elementary and I teach Chorus; Leo Wibberly I have been teaching at University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University and I teach a couple of the dual enrollment math classes here; Samer Abuchkheidem and I teach the new Arabic Language course; Sharon Meng coming from the Chinese Academy of Foreign

Language and I teach Chinese; Kori Mosley and I am teaching two sections of Art II; Stephanie Wells coming from Hanover Country and I teaching Spanish; Karl Von Klein coming to you from 6 years at Collegiate. I am the Instrumental Music Director teaching Jazz Band I, Jazz Band II, Jazz Improvisation a senior seminar entitled Jazz Composition Recording Ensemble and the Orchestra; Jafnar Gueye teaching AP Economics. I have taught in France on a college level.

Mr. Hunt continued by recognizing a few students for their accomplishments over the summer. Michael White is multi purposed. He teaches Russian and he sponsors the yearbook. He also teaches Social Studies, English and does whatever is asked of him and is very involved with our students. He has a young lady that he wants to recognize.

Michael White stated that The American Council of Teachers of Russian presents an award every year, The National Russian Scholar Laureate Award. This year Caroline Martin (Chesterfield) was the recipient of that award. Ms. Martin is a member of a highly selected group of Russian students from secondary schools all over the US - all of whom were selected by their teachers and principals as the most outstanding Russian student at their school. She traveled to Russia this summer with a local Russian teacher who happened to be me. The Russians loved her because her language was terrific and she made an effort to meet as many people as possible. She formed relationships with other Russians and learned as much as she could about Russian the culture.

Caroline Martin introduced herself and continued to say she was honored for the things Mr. White said about her especially since he is my favorite person. He is a fantastic teacher. We don't get to see a lot of Russian culture in our everyday lives. He really brings it with stories, movies and going to Russian events. I am a senior from Chesterfield Country and I am looking to apply at William & Mary and major in Linguistics eventually becoming a Speech Language Pathologist.

Mr. Hunt stated that each summer we have students apply to attend the Governor's School Foreign Language Academy. We have the Chair of the Foreign Language Department here Dr. Cliff Broeniman with five students who attended this academy.

Dr. Cliff Broeniman – Good Morning everyone. I have five wonderful students who will introduce themselves to you and tell a little about their experience at the Academy.

"I am Matt Burnett (Hanover) I attended the German Academy. I enjoyed the total emersion speaking only German; Kaitlin Lawrence (Henrico) I attended the Russian Academy and really enjoyed learning about Russian culture. We also got to sample the cuisine as well as dance and theater; Adam Zedler (Chesterfield) and I attended the Spanish Academy who won every single game; Hanlu Ye (Chesterfield) and I attended the Latin Academy and it was the best experience I have ever had. We learned about the culture, history, music and art; Laura April (Henrico) and I attended the French Academy and enjoyed total emersion speaking French for three weeks. I also enjoyed listening to the native French speakers who were there".

Mr. Hunt - We have another special recognition. Ms. Sharon Fuller is with us and she has been here a few years as the previous GS Foundation Chair. This program would not be what it is today had it not been for Sharon going out raising money for programs at our school. Quietly in the past they have provided money to support our teachers. Momentum was building and it was building because of Sharon's devotion, her leadership, and her willingness to do whatever necessary to make this school better.

This probably would have ceased to exist if it was not for her leadership. She was influential in recruiting members and working behind the scenes to make things happen. That is just a part of the story and she has been a part of this school since it was originally formed. She had two daughters to graduate from here. She was PTSA President, she worked in so many activities to provide and support this school. She is one of the five people that put their name on the dotted line for the LLP to back the tax credits. It is that kind dedication that Sharon has devoted to our school. As a small token of our appreciation we would like Mr. Chairman to present this award to her.

“For Recognition of Leadership and Dedication to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and GSGIS Foundation Chairman 2004 – 2008 Sharon Fuller.”

Ms. Fuller – I am a Richmond City parent and would like to thank the Board for giving my children the opportunity to attend this wonderful school. I want to personally want to thank Richmond City which was the district who gave them that opportunity.

Mr. Hunt reported that Mr. Waller had a meeting last week which filled up this table with high powered people, not only willing to give money but are willing to give time, energy and expertise. I have asked Hal to be here to share with you his job description and make some remarks.

This job is really two strands. Mr. Waller went on to explain that one strand is community relations and that is outreach for the school. Up to now that had been done by Pat Taylor. So this is a great year for her to pass her knowledge and wisdom over to me. That includes working with the PTSA, newspapers, grants and other partnerships. The other part is working as the Developmental Officer for the Foundation. This is a new position and had been done by a lot of very active volunteers and Foundation Board Members. The best part of this is speaking with people who really love this school.

Mr. Hunt - Hal is an employee of the Governors school and the Foundation purchases his time from us. He actually teaches one class and also the PR responsibilities which was done by Pat.

Back to School Night was a success. Parents walked through the student's schedule. We got to see our parents in large groups. They got a chance to meet the teachers and to hear what the expectations for the classes are. It began at 6:30 and was over at 8:50 p.m. Everyone felt good about the night's activities and was very supportive of our school.

Middle School visits are getting ready to start in October. For those of you who are not aware, we schedule visits to the middle schools in the various divisions and make presentations to parents. Each division will be visited. If there are visits that we are not making and you would like for us to make please let one the administrators know.

The Fall Festival will occur on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and I encourage all of you come out and support our school. We have decided to have a rain date which is October 10<sup>th</sup>. It is a nice activity for the whole community, parents, staff and students.

Next Friday we have all the Directors from all the Governor's Schools meeting in the Board Room @ 10:00 a.m. We will also have a concurrent meeting with the Friends of Virginia Governor's Schools. Parents from all the divisions have organized and they come together and discuss problems from a parent's standpoint.

## VII. Action Agenda Items

### a. New Course Proposal for Health & PE – Science Department

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Lisa Dawson the Board approved the new course. Motion carried.

### b. New Club Proposals – National High School Slavic Honor Society; Italian National Honor Society

Motion to accept new clubs by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, Motion carried.

### c. Personal Action

On motion by Diane Pettit, seconded by John Axelle, the Board approved the personnel action listed in the informational packet. Motion carried.

### d. Resolution to Comply with Internal Revenue Code

On motion by Lisa Marshall, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board approved the Resolution to Comply with the Internal Revenue Codes. Motion carried

## VIII. Materials for Board Review

### New Course Proposals for Fine Arts

Pat Taylor stated she first mentioned this in last months meeting the Fine Arts Course which is tied in with the new Multi Media Lab. The original course was developed not knowing whether we could get the renovation grant from Lowe's which was presented at our last meeting for \$25,000.00. We got the grant and it is moving forward and raised an additional \$10,000.00. We are moving towards completion of the facility.

## IX. Information

- a. Signed Contract with Admissions Review Group
- b. Free Lunch Discussion

This came to our attention from Ms. Dawson and Mr. Tharp. How do we provide our students with a free lunch program? What we have done in the past is chipped in and bought a meal if needed. Mr. Tharp has done some investigating and has spoken with the Appomattox Governor Schools' Director and what they do to offer the free lunch program...

Mr. Tharp spoke with Dr. James Ruffa who has been working with the free lunch program at the Appomattox Governors School for a number of years. He qualifies students based on the same criteria as the local schools. They bill back the school divisions for the lunch money on monthly bases. It is a matter of keeping accurate records. What I can see us doing here is following a similar pattern. Those parents,

who would qualify, would qualify thru their local divisions. That information would be submitted to us. Our current lunch program is a debit card system. Students can load money onto it. Part of that tracking for us would be not to separate those qualifying students from any of the other students. Preload the money on the card, so when they go to lunch they would swipe the card and we can keep track of it that way, then bill back to that school division. There should be a way for our service personnel to identify them perhaps with a picture on the card so when that card came thru they could eyeball the individual and know who it is. We have such a small student body that I don't think we would have fraud issues or the card be used inappropriately. That is one possibility for you to consider. When I spoke with Dr. Ruffa this summer they were looking at \$5.00 a day. We do offer a breakfast program. But transportation is usually the issue there. We have some students that are here at 7:30 a.m. and others are getting here at 8:30 a.m. Some of those students would not necessarily be able to take advantage of it. We could limit the amount of money and not let the cards continue to build. The students would actually have to use the card each week and we would put a max on the card of \$20.00. I think I can monitor it if the Board agrees to pursue it.

One of the questions that was asked of Mr. Hunt was how many students are we talking about? He replied right now it would be 2, 3 or 4 people. If a program like this is known and is out there, then those numbers may increase. We certainly would like to follow Mr. Tharp's wishes and his direction. We would certainly need to work on how to identify those students who are eligible. Everyone now has the same card it would just be a matter of providing the cashiers with a list, and getting to know them.

Ms. Dawson replied that this issue arose because I was told of a parent who said their child was not going to apply to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School because they could not get free lunch. Looking at approximately \$24.00 a week in food, would not work for that family. So I think we should at least explore what the potential cost and what the numbers are and how big of a problem it is.

Mr. Mattox stated he thinks this is an issue that we need to pursue. It obviously has some merit based on your conversation. I just could not imagine students losing the opportunity to come here because we did not take a proactive measure to address this issue.

Mr. Tharp asked, "Who makes the final determination whether a child is qualified for the free lunch program?"

The Central Office.

When we moved from relying upon the city for its services to become stand alone, I have to imagine that we had not gone thought our history without providing free or reduced lunch services to eligible children. At the home school we would load up the account with X numbers equivalent to free or reduced lunch. If we use the debit card system we do not need an identifier at all. Someone just needs to be loading up the account with the amount of money. Knowing that we are not offering free and reduced lunch I think we should move with all due speed to irradiate that issue now.

Mr. Mattox and the Board requested Mr. Tharp to come back with a proposal on how he would perceive the program and present it back to the Board as an Action Item in the next meeting October 16<sup>th</sup> for a vote.

X. Superintendents' Steering Committee

We are conducting a Director's search because our current director will be retiring after this school year. We have had two meetings and this morning put the final touches on the survey tools we plan to use as discussed in the last meeting. In addition we took things to Chesterfield County and they are in the first review of the notice to go out for the position. We are meeting again Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> and hopefully after that meeting the survey will start going out in the community, meeting with stakeholders, over the next two to three months. We hope to have the application public the first of November and have it out until December with recipients for the position in January. Down to the interview process beginning in February. The plan to culminate this by March is still our goal. The members on the committee are Vice-Chairman Diane Pettit (Chesterfield); Dr. Newsome (Chesterfield); Dr. Stewart Roberson (Hanover); Dr. Underwood (Goochland); Dr. R. Francis Moore (Prince George); Chairman of the Steering Committee, Dr. Janet Crawley (Charles City); and myself, John Axselle (Hanover). So far we do feel good about where we have proceeded so far in the search and we are on schedule. Our plan is to advertise this locally, regionally, national and also internationally. We will discuss the avenues on how to get this accomplished.

Ms. Dawson asked do you think just putting the notice out there you would get a qualified candidate for the position instead of hiring a firm?

Mr. Axselle responded and said he could speak for the committee, and there will be a broad spectrum for advertising using the intranet, publications, State Department etc. We have gone through this process of choosing a Director before with the expertise of some of the larger school divisions; I really don't think that it would be money well spent.

XI. Closed Meeting

None

XII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XIII. Announcement

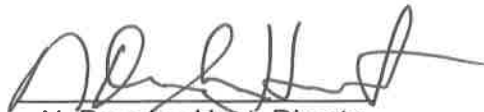
There being no further business to discuss, Motion by John Axselle, seconded by Diane Pettit, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

XIV. Next Meeting: November 13, 2008 at 9 a.m.

MLWGS Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



Ivan Mattox, Chairman



N. Douglas Hunt, Director