

BUDGET WORK SESSION

MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 16, 2014

10:35 a.m.

Call to Order

Kevin Hazzard, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the workshop to order in Room 153.

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 Montgomery, Jr., *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
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
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
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. Jeffrey McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Ms. Megan Rainey, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mr. John Axelle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell City Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Director of Schools**, Petersburg City Public Schools
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, **Interim Superintendent**, Richmond City Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis, and Karen Hoover– MLWGS
Others Not Recorded

Funding Proposal

A revised budget proposal was distributed to members.

Proposal Highlights

- ***Overall:***
- Proposal was vetted through a Budget Advisory Committee comprised of administrators, faculty, parents and a student with a priority to increase compensation by 2%,
- Increase for healthcare cost control. School will shop new plans for savings,
- The Director stated, “This proposal meets the goals of preserving, and in some cases begins to strengthen, the integrity of the program for students as well as providing support for instructional staff.”
- ***Revenue:***
- Tuition increase of \$423,
- Budget proposal includes FY12 actuals, FY13 actuals, FY14 amended totals and FY15 proposed totals along with exact dollar and percentage changes,
- Credits in revenue regarding private funding that is flow through (example: Foundation salaries),
- Increases in state funding are attributed to four additional students (2 Goochland and 2 Hopewell) and not from funding as a result of the 9/6 amendment adoption.
- ***Expenditures:***
- Department Chairs tasked to teach 5 out of 8 classes, as opposed to current 4 out of 8 classes. This change saves the school approximately \$100,000,
- Additional administrative days (Dr. Wendy Ellis moving from 11 month to 12 month employee), resulting in a line item increase of approximately \$13,000,
- Net savings between extra department chair classes and administrative days (with applicable benefits) is approximately \$82,000,
- GS Foundation will assume 100% salary and benefits of development officer, currently utilized 25% by MLWGS. The school will assume media (press releases) management, task force committee participation and website updates,
- Budget proposal includes 2% salary increases, but due to an inherit nuance, the results are a statistical outcome of 2.4% due to spread pay over two separate budget cycles,
- Reduction of one seminar class based on low student interest,

- Possibility of Arabic language being eliminated from curriculum due to low student participation,
- No reduction projected for full time staff,
- Four class faculty overages are included,
- Proposal includes 2.5% healthcare cost increases for employees. School will shop benefits with the assistance of new agent that may result in a net reduction to employees with decreased costs,
- Supplements: the proposal builds back an administrative aide position that will utilize a faculty member in a leadership program,
- Club stipends: reflects a 5% increase for paid club sponsorships as they have not been increased in several years. Overall, this action increases the budget by approximately \$3,000,
- Coaching pay plans are also increased; again, for the first time in many years,
- Slight increase for technology personnel to develop additional technology functions at MLWGS,
- Purchase twenty-two additional laptops to develop an additional mobile computer lab as per DOE recommendation. Increased machines require additional licensing,
- Slight reduction in service contracts due to increased support from Athletic Boosters to support field maintenance,
- Slight reduction for legal services,
- No change for Summer Governor's Schools admission services paid by MLWGS,
- Purchased Education Services reduction credit associated with dual enrollment fees moving line item from \$73,583 to \$27,000. Remaining amount represents .4 FTE position purchased from Chesterfield,
- Budgeting \$100/student for regular repair/maintenance of facility, representing a significant reduction. Future needs are addressed in the CIP. Should amount budgeted prove insufficient, an option would be to populate with funds from the contingency line,
- Interscholastic reflects an increase to offset transportation costs associated with participation in VHSL 2A East,
- Insurance and utility costs will be reviewed for potential savings,
- Instructional supplies reflect slight increase,
- Library expenditures increased restoring to 2012 levels,

- Textbooks: replacing current adopted editions only. Administration will look to combine textbooks and technology integration by providing for one staff member with a release period to explore options with staff and establish a consensus combination on best practices for high ability learners,
- Maintaining level funding for staff development and continuing education,
- Slight increase in copier services.
- *Contingency*
- Reserve for Walker has been further consolidated,
- Proposing \$30,000 for building maintenance fees,
- New line: Reserve for CIP. \$90,000 represents 75% of anticipated capital needs for the next five years,
- In the event of a surplus at the end of the year, said funds would be carried forward to populate reserve.

Discussion Items:

- Spread pay formula and how it is reflected on the proposal. Mr. Tharp remarked that the increase is reflected over multiple line items representing all staff, plus VRS and benefits. Approximately \$150 of the proposed tuition increase supports salary increases,
- Funding Reserve for CIP at 100% (\$119,407) over the next five years opposed to the 75% proposed would add approximately \$40/student tuition,
- Capital Fund current balance is \$857,658,
- Total teaching sections in various departments,
- Should the school lose a language currently offered due to student attrition at higher levels, is it possible to establish a dual enrollment partnership with VCU or other university,
- State funding is an ‘add-on’ to tuition, as written into the original charter language,
- Any additional state funding from re-benchmarking based on basic needs, will also flow to localities so they can support local tuition,
- In conclusion, Dr. Lane remarked that it is the Board’s discretion how to raise additional tuition dollars requested; i.e., all local funds or a combination of state and local funds, to meet the needs of this proposal,

- The Chair and Dr. Lane congratulated the administrative team that assembled this proposal for including actual expenditure columns, percentage changes and comments, making the Board's work straightforward,
- The Chair reminded Board members they would entertain another workshop in February with a goal of tentative approval so members will have opportunity to work with their respective boards, councils or governing bodies before formal adoption.

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Cora Armstrong and unanimously approved, the workshop was adjourned.