

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

Attendance

December 13, 2007

9:00 a.m.

Superintendents

Present:

Janet Crawley, Charles City County
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County
Linda Underwood, Goochland County
Stewart Roberson, Hanover County
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County
Alvera Parrish, Petersburg City (Representing
James Victory)
Bill Craig, Prince George County (Representing
Margaret Meara)

Absent:

Fred Morton, Henrico County
Richard Layman, King and Queen
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County
Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Richmond City

Others Present:

N. Douglas Hunt, Director
Joyce H. 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
Eileen Long, King and Queen County
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County
Cindy Blanks, Prince George County (Representing
Hugh Mumford)
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City

Absent:

Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County
Lloyd Jackson, Henrico County

Minutes

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

Thursday, December 13, 2007

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

John Axelle, 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 Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was approved. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Diane Pettitt the minutes of the November 8, 2007, minutes were approved. Motion carried.

At this time, Mr. Hunt introduced Bob Mooney of the Maggie Walker Governor's School Renovation Foundation. Mr. Mooney introduced George Gibrall, a member of the Limited Partnership, and Sharon Fuller, a parent and member of the Limited Partnership, both of whom represented many individuals who spent hours of their time fundraising. Also, present were Lynn Ivey and Richard Gratton. Mr. Mooney stated they are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the idea of taking the old Maggie Walker High School and making it the permanent home of the Governor's School (GS). Mr. Mooney further stated a key milestone being celebrated today is the deed of gift made between the Maggie L. Walker High School Renovation Foundation (grantor) and the regional board of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's school for Government and International Studies (grantee). For a sum of \$1.00, Mr. Mooney stated it was his pleasure to present to the grantee (the Regional Board) the warranty and title to the Governor's School (land and building).

On behalf of the Regional Board, the Chair thanked Mr. Mooney and the foundation for their partnership with the community and business community in helping to make the GS possible.

Recognitions:

Mr. Hunt recognized the following groups:

Grant Mudge – Drama Instructor and English Teacher – Some of the players in the school's production of *Hamlet* introduced themselves - Doc McConnell (Henrico), Suzanne Vaughan (Henrico), Nora Byrd (Richmond), Alex Wiles (Chesterfield) and Emma England (Chesterfield). Mr. Mudge stated the GS is having a film day after the winter break and the community will be invited to see the film version of *Hamlet*. Mr.

Hunt stated the school's production of *Hamlet* was outstanding and one of the best he has ever seen in a high school. He thanked Mr. Mudge and the students for an "unbelievable performance" and all of their efforts.

James Holdren – Cross Country Coach and Co-Athletic Director. The following All Regional students introduced him or herself. Suzanna Pearsol (Richmond), Clarissa Shank (Richmond), Rena Hemzey (Goochland) Marc Breidenbaugh (Hanover), Natalie Davis (Henrico), Peter Askin (Richmond).

Paige Hawkins – Field Hockey Coach and Co-Athletic Director. Paige proudly announced that the field hockey girls were the 2007 Colonial District Champions and placed 3rd at the Regional's. The following 1st Team All Region winners introduced themselves and their accomplishments: Sarah Burcher (New Kent) – 1st Team All Region and Honorable Mention All State and an Alexis Scholar; Amarachi Eseonu (Chesterfield) – 1st Team All District, player of the year in the district, 1st Team All Region, Player of the year Regional, and 1st Team All State, and an Alexis Scholar; Carley Beckner (Chesterfield) – 1st Team All District, and 1st Team all Region; Katelyn Daugherty (Chesterfield) – 1st Team District, 1st Team Region, and Honorable Mention in the state; Kelsey Huffer (Chesterfield) – 1st Team all District, 1st Team All Region, and Honorable Mention All State.

V. Public Comments

Lynn Reed – GS Faculty Liaison.

"Good Morning. My name is Lynn Foshee Reed, and I am the elected Faculty Liaison to this board. This morning I would like to speak to two issues.

The first item is the Exam Guidelines Policy which you were first given at the November Board meeting and which, I believe, you have an amended version to consider today. Mr. Hunt briefly described its history last month; I would like to elaborate on part of its evolution, specifically the faculty's involvement. I was still a member of the School Advisory Council in 2003-04, and I recall hearing many concerns expressed about the exam process, especially regarding freshmen performance and stress during the first semester exams. Soon the faculty, as well as other groups, began brainstorming possible equitable changes. The exam evaluation committee, made up of faculty members from many departments was formed, and in June 2006, it submitted its recommendations to Mr. Hunt. Not only did it address procedural issues such as the Thursday/Friday, Monday/Tuesday 'wrap-around' schedule for first semester exams and the percentage weight reductions for certain freshman classes, but it also made suggestions for ways in which to improve the pedagogical aspect of exams while validating the professionalism and expertise of the faculty. Some of these recommendations did not make it into the final version of the guidelines. To give you an example: 'Teachers exercise discretion in formatting semester exams that are consistent with the testing experiences students have had previously in the course and that will serve as an appropriate culmination for the semester's learning experience.' This past August during the teacher workdays we were given the copy of the guidelines that you saw last month. Concerns began to trickle in to the Faculty Council, but it wasn't until I became aware of your impending action, that the Faculty Council organized a Faculty Forum to solidify and clarify the concerns into suggestions. We then went to Mr. Hunt who worked with us to amend the guidelines. While not a perfect document, the exam guidelines are now in much better form. Many teachers are pleased with the flexibility in the document, yet I would be remiss if I did not also note that there are many teachers who still believe that the option of peer review of

exams would improve and expedite the approval process while maintaining the goal of appropriate assessment.

The second item that I've been requested to address is concerning establishing a process for the eventual selection of a new director. I'm a bit like Pat Taylor in that I save just about everything, and I did find a document from 2002 that outlined a search process. I'm not suggesting that this very same procedure is what should be used, but it may provide a framework so that the board does not 'reinvent the wheel.' I would be happy to provide any board member with a copy of that document. On behalf of the faculty, the Faculty Council and I are respectfully requesting that the Board please address our call for initiating the planning and vision stage for the director search process. Thank you!"

VI. Director's Report

Mr. Hunt mentioned that he was approached by a parent who is the executive director of the Read Center and distributed a copy of a letter the parent sent him. The Read Center is looking for a location to house its program on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:30. This is a non profit organization and, like many non profits, do not have a large budget and feel they are not able to meet the fee schedule the Board has set for the use of the GS. After speaking with the parent and some of the staff, administration concurs that this program would be a good way for the GS to give back to the community and for the school to have community service. Mr. Hunt asked the Board to consider at the January meeting the waiving of the fees for the Read Center to use the GS. The Read Center has agreed to extended security for two additional hours up to 9 p.m. Their entrance into the building will be the side door by the student parking lot where one of their members will greet them and open the door. There are four teachers with 10 students each, totaling 40 students assigned to four different rooms. The two nights they are using the building they will have an hour in four different places. This is a year long program and Mr. Hunt informed them that administration does not want to create any expenses for the GS and the Read Center has committed to working with administration. They understand that when some events occur, there may be some cancellation of sessions. Mr. Hunt noted that Chesterfield and Henrico Counties currently provide space for the Read Center at their adult education centers. Again, he noted that the GS would be providing a valuable resource for the community and it would be a way for the GS to share its building in this area and preserve it. Mr. Hunt stated he would be glad to entertain any questions once the Board has reviewed the information. Mrs. Dawson cautioned there are many groups wanting to use schools for various programs and all are very good. She felt the Board needs to think about some guidelines rather than considering waivers for individual requests. Superintendent Geiger concurred that one needs to be careful. However, he felt the Read program falls under the umbrella of the GS concern for education and is a valid reason to make an exception. Anything that will help educate individuals is important.

Mr. Hunt directed the Board's attention to the news release referencing the Knowledge Master Open. Dr. Barnes, who worked with the students, witnessed the event and the GS students performed well. Twenty plus students participated after school by accessing a computer program with 200 multiple choice questions covering content areas across the curriculum. The students had seven seconds to answer each question with one student inputting the answer. If the question was missed, the students were afforded a second chance. Seven hundred forty eight schools from all over the world participated and the scores were tallied. The GS scored second and only two points from being first place winners. In the Junior High Division, the GS placed first, winning by 100 plus points. Mrs. Long asked if the students could be brought before the Board. Mr. Hunt informed her he would invite them to a future meeting.

a. Coming Events - See page 8 in the meeting packet.

b. Comments – None

VII. Action Agenda Items

a. Personnel Action

On motion by Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board approved the personnel actions listed on the amended handout. Motion carried.

b. Re-admission of the Town of West Point Public Schools to MLWGS

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Ivan Mattox, the Board approved the re-admission of the town of West Point Public Schools. Motion carried. Mr. Hunt reminded the Board that small divisions who come on board are held responsible for the building in the same manner as the other divisions who have already paid. He stated the additional moneys to be paid are added to their tuition until they reach the threshold of \$40,000.

c. 2007/2008 Exam Guidelines

Mr. Hunt distributed an amendment to the 2007/2008 Exam Guidelines to replace the copy in the meeting packet. He noted the changes which were highlighted (Items (b), 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14) On motion by Cindy Blanks, seconded by Eileen Long, that the Board support the spirit by which the 2007/2008 guidelines were proposed and supports the director's discretion and guidance. Motion carried.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

a. January Elections

The Chairman announced for next year Ivan Mattox has been nominated for Board Chairman and Mrs. Pettit as Vice Chairman. It was recommended the Board be prepared to vote for a Chairman and Vice Chairman at the January meeting and other nominations can be submitted at that time. Also, a Clerk and Deputy Clerk will be up for election. Mr. Hunt noted that the Superintendents will recommend a chair and vice chair for the Superintendents Steering Committee.

b. Proposed Calendar of Meetings

Mr. Hunt requested a change in the February meeting date as it conflicts with the National Principal's Conference that he will be attending. He requested to meet either on the 14th or 28th of February. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the February meeting on the 14th of February. The calendar will be voted on at the January meeting.

c. New Clubs/Activity

It was recommended that the Board consider the requested new club and be prepared to vote at the January meeting.

IX. Superintendents' Steering Committee Meeting

None

Update on RFP – The Chairman stated that three RFPs were received and the Board appointed sub committee will meet on December 17, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. to review the responses. The scores will be tallied and will be sent to the representative at Henrico County who will compile them. The deadline for the scores is noon, December 14. On the 17th of December, under Ivan Mattox's leadership, the committee will review the scores, discuss and evaluate the RFPs, and discuss the interview process. The tentative date for the interview is January 9. If everything goes according to schedule, hopefully by the January meeting and no later than the February meeting, a recommendation will be made to the Board. Dianne Pettitt noted that in the Finance Committee's Report, page 29 of the meeting packet, it discussed expenses for the RFP and the Audits. She questioned if the school divisions understand how this will be dealt with as some of the divisions have already started their budget process. The Chair informed her that as the committee moves forward with the RFP process, expenses will be part of their discussion. She was concerned that the smaller divisions are made aware of this and it be a part of their budgets.

X. Closed Meeting

None

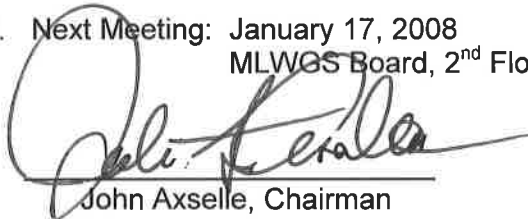
XI. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XII. Adjournment

On motion by Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Ivan Mattox, the meeting adjourned. Motion carried.

XIV. Next Meeting: January 17, 2008
MLWGS Board, 2nd Floor



John Axelle, Chairman



N. Douglas Hunt, Director