

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

Thursday, January 17, 2013

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Jeffrey McGee, Director of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, 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 (late arrival)
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, **School Board**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, **School Board**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, **School Board**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles 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 Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Shannon Smith for Dr. Joseph Melvin, **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
Mrs. Megan Marcinkevich, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent from Meeting:

Mrs. Diana Winston, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis and Patti Chappell – **Administration**
Hal Waller, Doug Scheibe (Chesterfield) and Burt Hazelwood (Henrico) - **GS Foundation**
Mary Phillippo Parker (Richmond), President and Marianne Macon (Richmond) - **PTSA**
Karen Akens (Henrico), Sidney Bland (Richmond), Kathleen Fulton (Henrico), Ben Lewis (Henrico), Penny Moss (Henrico), Laura O'Brien (Henrico), Michelle Oppenheim (Chesterfield), Jane Scheibe (Chesterfield), – **Parent Community**
Carson Brown ('13-Richmond), Natalie Bruno ('13-Powhatan), Aateeb Khan ('14-Chesterfield) and Michael Valacer ('13-Hanover) – **MLWGS Students**
Jeff Hall – **Faculty**
Kerry Sheppard for Michele Surat – **Faculty Liaison to the Regional School Board**

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Election of Chairman

Nomination: Kenneth Pritchett. With no other nominations, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Sarah Barber, Kenneth Pritchett was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman for 2013 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. After congratulations, the Director turned the gavel over to Mr. Pritchett.

V. Election of Vice-Chairman

Nomination: Kevin Hazzard. With no other nominations, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dianne Smith, Kevin Hazzard was unanimously elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for 2013 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Hazzard.

VI. Election of Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Nomination: Barbara Marshall for Board Clerk. With no other nominations, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Valarie Ayers, Barbara Marshall was unanimously approved to serve as Board Clerk for 2013 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board.

Nomination: Megan Marcinkevich for Deputy Clerk. With no other nominations, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Valarie Ayers, Megan Marcinkevich was unanimously approved to serve as Deputy Clerk for 2013 of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board.

The Chairman congratulated the Clerks.

VII. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, minutes as submitted for December 13, 2012 were unanimously approved.

VIII. Recognitions

Jeff Hall, Fine Arts Department Chair, was recognized as the first recipient of the annual Patricia E. Taylor Teaching Award for International Experiences. The award is a cash grant of up to \$7,500 for a summer international experience that will have a direct impact upon his/her classroom instruction.

Cameron Tarry-absent ('14-Richmond) was recognized as one of 41 Russian students nationwide to receive the “Russian Scholar Laureate Award” from the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

Athletics: Runners earned All-American Cross Country Honors at the USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship in Albuquerque, NM, December 8, 2012: *Rachel Galton ('13-Chesterfield), Daisy Banta ('14-Henrico) and Alex Fleckenstein ('14-Richmond).*

IX. 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.

Natalie Bruno ('13-Powhatan) addressed the Board. “Mr. Chairman and members of the Regional Board; Hi, my name is Natalie Bruno and I am a senior from Maggie Walker who proudly represents Powhatan High School. For four years Maggie Walker has been so much more to me than an education, it’s become my family. It offers a really unique type of education and countless opportunities. I find that our amount of clubs is really incredible! For four years I’ve been fortunate enough to be a part of our school’s Key Club and for two years I’ve served as the president. We are Maggie Walker’s main service organization and we focus on the school’s community service activities; whether fundraising through bake sales for St. Baldrick’s Foundation, or helping Santa Claus at the Children’s Museum at Christmas time. This spring we’ll be having our fourth annual marathon dance which is our fundraiser that lasts all night for the American Cancer Society and over the past four years we’ve raised over \$22,000 for the cause. I feel whether in or out of Key Club, Maggie Walker’s stress of community service, especially for its 140 hours, is really imperative because it teaches the students that true learning isn’t just in the classroom, its applying it to the real world and using it to help the real world. But Maggie Walker has also really helped me pursue my academic interests, especially in languages and business. I’m pretty sure I’m the only senior in the history of the world to drop study hall in order to take a sixth year of Latin

...*laughter*. I'm also taking an AP level Spanish and couldn't love it more. As far as business, Maggie Walker has been extremely helpful for me through its Mentorship program. Since I was thirteen I've had my own jewelry business and sold at dozens of local events, in bizarres and in several stores; and Maggie Walker has helped me translate this to the professional level through fine jewelry. Twice a week I have a mentorship at Capri Jewelers with the vice-president, and whether studying stones for a new line of jewelry, or writing research reports for the owner on the diamond economy, I have had experiences I definitely would not have had in the classroom. It also doesn't hurt that I get to wear \$20,000 necklaces everyday...*laughter*. But I feel that Maggie Walker has prepared me extremely well for my future career goals and also extremely well for college. As far as college, and all that leads me to what Maggie Walker has helped me accomplish in the last four years, last fall I was awarded the Richmond Scholarship for \$10,000. So I thank Mrs. Ayers especially, from Powhatan, so much for your support and all the Regional Board members and the Foundation for their support of the school."

Michael Valacer ('13-Hanover) addressed the Board. "Mr. Chairman and other members of the Regional Board, I am Michael Valacer. I'm a senior. I represent Hanover County here at the Governor's School. Maggie Walker really has been the best experience of my life thus far. You don't become a top tier high school simply by giving harder tests and there are many things about Maggie Walker that make it such a spectacular high school. Two that really jump out at me are social aspects and some of the great teachers I've had. Friends... having a social life at school sometimes gets overlooked when talking about a school itself, but having been in other school systems and at Maggie Walker I can attest to being able to have a lot of friends and just getting along with everyone really does help. I wasn't unhappy before I got to Maggie Walker socially, but I definitely am happier now that I'm here and I'm definitely over-performing because of that. Maggie Walker students come from all walks of life, we represent eleven-twelve counties, people live five minutes away biking, live forty five minutes away driving; and yet we all get along in a truly incredible dynamic that I just can't explain. And another great thing about Maggie Walker is the teachers. All of my teachers have been phenomenal in one way or another but one that's really inspired me, just done more than teaching, is my Latin teacher for the past three years, Dr. Broeniman. He's just been an incredible person in my life to talk to; a role model and it's more than just his teaching ability, which is phenomenal – last year every single student in his AP Latin class received a 5 on their AP exam, but he also is just fun to talk to outside of the classroom. His teaching actually inspired me, when I came into high school I had no idea what I wanted to study; somewhere in my second year with Dr. Broeniman I realized I wanted to continue studying Latin after high school, and I still intend to do that in college. So, just his incredible teaching ability, his inspiration; as well as other teachers, has driven my future goals and plans and really forced me to strive academically and I could not have done this without Maggie Walker. So, thank you Dr. Wilson and all members of the Board for your continued funding of Maggie Walker for me and then for future students like me. Thank you."

Carson Brown ('13-Richmond) and Aateeb Khan ('14-Chesterfield) for EduPac addressed the Board. Good morning Chairman and members of the Board, my name is Aateeb Khan and I'm a junior here at Maggie Walker, and I'm Carson Brown a senior. We represent EduPac, which is the student advocacy group here at the school. Recently we had representatives from each of your counties come and talk to students here at Maggie Walker for luncheons. It was a really good experience with the representatives who came to come and see what we really are about as a school. We'd like to thank the following counties who have come: New Kent, King and Queen, Charles City, Prince George, Powhatan, Goochland, Petersburg, Richmond and Hanover. We'd also like to thank Henrico whose luncheon I believe is today, as well as Chesterfield whose luncheon I'll be attending next week. We found the lunches to be highly successful and productive; it was a really good way for all the representatives who came to become really familiar with the school and the students right here. We gave tours to them and some had a chance to sit down and really talk to them.

While EduPac is really devoted to education and keeping that in mind, EduPac is actually holding a 'Capital Day' coming up in a few week in which we will be taking students to go to the capital to talk to legislators and the General Assembly about education policy and what they can really do to help support our school system. Additionally, we happily remind you that we'd really love for more people to come from different areas and the City Council, other Board members and Supervisors.

We'd also like to thank you for what you do for education here in the metro Richmond area. We're really living proof that investments in education really pay dividends. I really thought this was fitting, there's actually a poster in one of the English classrooms that states this and I do believe fits the mood of this meeting here today: "Out of public school grows the greatness of the nation." Thank you.

Mrs. Ayers and Mr. Axselle took the opportunity to thank EduPac students for hosting these luncheons, stating they were a great success.

X. Director's Report

- a. Scheduled Board photographs by Lifetouch Photography are delayed due to jury duty for the photographer.
- b. Night of the Dragon Auction Invitation by Karen Akens, PTSA Auction Committee Chair.
- c. Updates:

- **Admissions Testing** - Mr. McGee referenced the dates of January 26th (Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King & Queen and New Kent) and February 2nd (Charles City, Chesterfield, Hopewell, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George and Richmond). Testing snow date is February 9th. Regional Evaluation is scheduled February 20th.
- **RPS Redd Elementary School Visit** – Mr. McGee noted that Redd Elementary 5th grade students visited MLWGS on January 9th but deferred to Dr. Ellis for further reporting. Dr. Ellis remarked that this was a wonderful experience for their entire 5th grade initiated at the request of Redd’s Counselor, Ms. Henderson, so that students could see Maggie Walker as a potential school for them earlier and begin planning their academics accordingly. Part of the program designed for their visit included instruction in various languages and physical activities in the gym. Dr. Ellis thanked Dr. Brandon for sharing her students with us for a day.

Also, as a result of this successful visit, we are in talks with Charles City and Goochland about bringing their students. Dr. Ellis extended an offer for this opportunity to all MLWGS divisions.

- **VDOE- AYGS Peer Evaluation** – The group will be welcomed on February 19th and exit on February 22nd. At the table the Board was provided a draft itinerary for the evaluation team.
- **Strategic Planning** –Task forces have been established and we expect community engagement sessions this spring. One task force that is particularly hard at work deals with our operational systems and review of student safety protocols. Per their recommendation we are pursuing a forthcoming survey on school safety and have made adjustments to building access from the blue stone lobby. The Director anticipates other recommendations coming forward from this group.

d. MLWGS Coming Events: January 17, 2013 through February 21, 2013. See X.d.

Mrs. Barber left the meeting.

XI. Action Items

a. 2013 Calendar of Meetings of the Regional School Board

Submitted in December for Board review, the Director recommends approval of the calendar proposal as submitted.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Dianne Smith, Board members unanimously approved their calendar of meetings for 2013.

b. International Trip Proposal – Michael White, Sponsor (*Russia, summer 2013*)

Presented in December by Mr. White, the Director recommends approval for this trip proposal.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Board members unanimously approved Mr. White's trip proposal.

c. Personnel

Mr. McGee presented a request by faculty member Lynn Foshee Reed, currently on leave of absence, for a fifteen day extension to submit her intent to return to employment for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Director recommends the Board approve this request.

There being no additional questions or discussion on this matter, on motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Board members unanimously approved Mrs. Reed's request.

XII. Materials for Board Review

- a. None

XIII. Informational Items

- **Finance Committee Minutes, December 6, 2012.**
- **Planning Committee Minutes October 16, 2012.**
- **Planning Committee Minutes November 13, 2012.**
- **Student News**
 - Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield), selected as one of four National recipients of the 2013 Neuroscience Research Prize
 - Student Art Shown at General Assembly
 - Forensics Team Tournament Results

Mr. Hazzard requested an explanation of the discussion in Finance Committee minutes regarding the calendar being modified by two days and how this is coordinated with the calendars of the cities and counties. Mr. McGee remarked that the two-day reference is non-student days and asked Mr. Tharp to clarify.

Mr. Tharp noted his work with calendar committees from several divisions in the development of this proposed schedule. Also, the 2-day topic is a disparity issue regarding the number of days faculty are expected to be in the building verses other divisions.

XIV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

The group met this past Monday, January 14th in Richmond and the discussion was dominated by funding and budget. Mr. McGee presented a verbal report regarding Walker's anticipated plans and preparation for budget development and some of the tough decisions that may need to be made. All superintendents' shared an update on their budget status and anticipate that by next month we will have a better perspective to develop a plan that best meets the needs of this school (*MLWGS*).

A very productive VASS 'mini conference' was recently held and attended by several superintendents around the table. In addition, all major organizations that support education in Virginia also sent leadership representatives including members of VSBA, VaASCD, PTA, VASSP and VAESP to establish a dialogue so all will speak in one voice as to what is important to education. Dr. Newsome paraphrased comments made at their mini conference from a national speaker, "the critics of public education are the ones that are perceived as credible in the media." And, "the group that asks the questions are the ones that typically shape the policies." The speaker went on to speak of the importance of educators taking more ownership of the message.

Dr. Newsome invited Dr. Russo, VASS President Elect, to summarize remarks he rendered at the annual legislative press conference. Dr. Russo stated his area of presentation focused on funding; noting that state funding over the last four years has decreased by approximately 14% overall, translating to a reality of former funding levels comprising 34% of the state budget to under 29% today. VASS takes the position that new programs being implemented by the Governor are a cost item to the state which should first begin to fund SOQ's to the full abilities, which they are not. Approximately 66% of all funding comes from localities for school divisions. Dr. Russo acknowledged that a speaker noticed that we (VA) are the

fourth ranked state system in the country, behind New York, Massachusetts and Maryland yet our funding is ranked at a C- ; upon which it was remarked, ‘what could we accomplish with even B level funding?’. The aforementioned states are unionized and Dr. Russo estimates their per pupil expenditure overall is probably \$4,000-\$5,000 more than Virginia’s average. In the region, Dr. Russo stated that Chesterfield and Henrico are approximately \$9,000 average per pupil, and other local systems are comparable. So we (VA) get a lot of return on our investment from the school systems, due in large part from the efforts of school board members and school divisions to support additional positions above the SOQ’s.

Dr. Russo added that VASS also talked about the 2% raise and how costly it will be to fund, remarking that in Henrico it will cost approximately 6.2 million dollars, which will be difficult at best. Overall VASS tried to paint the picture to fund programs that are necessary now when we need to get back to funding school divisions at a higher rate that is more comparable to what the SOQ’s say we must have. Hopefully, our legislators and the Governor have heard this appeal. So, going forward, the goal is to get funding relief and support from the state.

Dr. Newsome agreed that it will be challenging for systems to match the Governor’s proposal, with most thinking the match is 50% but it is not, it is probably more 2/3 school system and 1/3 state funded. But for Maggie Walker it’s even more difficult. MLWGS isn’t even written into the proposal. The hope is that some members of the General Assembly will advocate for the same level of support for governor’s schools as other school systems.

Additionally, beyond the funding and the advocacy for the state to fully fund its SOQ’s, assessments were a key area of focus. Dr. Newsome quoted one student as saying “you don’t become a top tier school by giving harder tests.” If the students understand this, we hope that our legislators and those that make decisions give more authentic tests that assess what students need to know and to be able to do once they leave 12th grade. The superintendent organization came out with a bold statement that says they disagree with the state’s accountability system, it is outdated and it is time to come up with a more relevant accountability system.

Finally, it was agreed that Dr. Newsome was selected by the Superintendent’s Steering Committee to serve as Chairman and Dr. James Lane as Vice-Chairman.

XV. Closed Meeting

Mr. Pritchett asked the Clerk to announce items for closed session.

Mrs. Marshall stated: “It is my understanding that the School Board desires to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with §2.2-3711.A of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsections (7): “for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probably litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Regional School Board. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Members of the Board, you have just heard the items requested to be discussed in closed session. Do I have a motion in that regard?”

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Board unanimously approved and entered into closed session.

The room was cleared and the door closed.

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

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to reconvene in open session?”

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the board unanimously approved open session.

The door is opened.

Mr. Pritchett requested: “Mrs. Marshall (Clerk) please read the resolution certifying the closed session.”

Mrs. Marshall stated: “Now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Regional School Board.”

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to adopt the resolution?”

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Dianne Smith, the board unanimously approved this resolution:

Roll Call and Motion Vote (alphabetical order by locality)

Barbara Crawley: Aye

Dianne Smith: Aye

Kevin Hazzard: Aye

John Axselle: Aye

Diana Winston: Absent

Cora Armstrong: Absent

Sarah Grier Barber: Absent

Kenneth Pritchett: Aye

Valarie Ayers: Aye

Jerry Warren: Absent

Kimberly Gray: Aye

No action was taken by the Board at this time.

XVII. Announcements/Unfinished Business

Mrs. Ayers thanked Mrs. Marshall for ordering Board name tags and reminded members that a small fee is requested to offset this expense.

Secondly, Mrs. Ayers requests a budget presentation that would afford the Board options; offering more than one budget so the Board could see what the result of those numbers would be. Mrs. Smith supported Mrs. Ayer's proposal.

XVIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the motion to adjourn this meeting was unanimously approved.

XIX. Next Meeting

February 21, 2013 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