

MINUTES

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

Thursday, April 16, 2009

9:10 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.

Present:

Dr. Janet Crawley, Superintendent, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus J. Newsome, Superintendent, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, School Board, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Ivan Mattox, School Board, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Stewart Roberson, Superintendent, Hanover County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, School Board, Hanover County Public Schools
Mr. Fred Morton, Superintendent, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Lisa Marshall, School Board, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Richard Layman, Superintendent, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield, School Board, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, School Board, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. J. Roy Geiger, Superintendent, New Kent Public Schools
Mrs. Teresa Lindsay, School Board, New Kent Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, School Board, Powhatan Public Schools
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, Superintendent, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. Kim Gray, School Board, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, School Board, West Point Public Schools
Mr. N. Douglas Hunt, Director, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, Deputy Clerk, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, School Board, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Linda Underwood, Superintendent, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. James Victory, Superintendent, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Frances Moore, Superintendent, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Robert Cox, School Board, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, Superintendent, Powhatan Public Schools
Mrs. Crystal Charity, Clerk, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the agenda was approved.* Motion Carried.

*See Page 6 of this document for agenda amendment.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Dianne Pettitt, the minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting were approved. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Director's Report

Doug Hunt reviewed key activities from the Coming Events calendar, specifically highlighting the spring drama production, 'We the People' nationals in Washington, DC, spring concert, AP and SOL exams, New Student Registration night, and the Junior-Senior Prom.

The absence of Mrs. Barbara Crawley, one of our most faithful board members, was noted due to the passing of Mrs. Crawley's mother. This also affected our current board clerk, Mrs. Crystal Charity, as she is the granddaughter.

Mr. Hunt presented the following to the board for their recent accomplishments:

English teachers Lisa Williams and Sherri Arnold for their selection to attend the Gilder Lehrman Institute Seminar this summer. Teachers selected are offered the opportunity to devote a week of intensive study with distinguished experts. Mrs. Williams will attend a seminar on 'Jim Crow and the Fight for American Citizenship' at Yale University and Ms. Arnold will attend 'The Sixties: A Historical Perspective' at Georgetown University.

Sharon Parker, Mentorship Coordinator, presented Law Seminar students Megan O'Donnell and Madelaine Spangler, both from Chesterfield, for their successful argument before the Virginia Supreme Court of the Model Judiciary Program on March 17, 2009. The students discussed their winning case for the board.

Senior Hillary Hurd from Chesterfield was acknowledged as a 2009 Jefferson Scholar; UVA's prestigious and rigorous scholarship program. Hillary described the selection process for the board and thanked them for their support, along with Mr. Hunt. Hillary also acknowledged the unique resources and the education that she received at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School to prepare her for this endeavor. Mr. Hunt advised the board to remember Hillary's face because one day we'd be voting for her or working for her and acknowledged her many accomplishments during her time at Governor's School.

Fine Arts Chair, Jeff Hall, presented senior Leaf Elhai from Henrico, who won a National Scholastic Art Gold Key for her mixed media entry. This is an extremely rare honor, but Leaf is the second MLWGS student to win in two consecutive years. Leaf's entry will be on display in NYC during the month of June. Leaf will receive her award for this piece on June 4th at Carnegie Hall.

Science Teacher, Jeremy Clark, introduced sophomore Anthony Henning from Powhatan, who took a first place at the Metro Richmond Science Fair in Earth and Space Science, US Navy Research Prize, and the Astronomy Science Prize; and was selected as an alternate to the culminating ISEF competition. Anthony discussed his work for the board.

Mr. Hunt introduced sophomore Lindsay Maguire from New Kent and congratulated her for being chosen by In Style Weekly '16 Under 16,' based on her overall performance and accomplishments at school, which include carrying a 4.3 GPA, playing varsity basketball and softball, girl scouting, volunteering at the Science Museum, Caritas, Salvation Army Tree and the Junior Assembly Cotillion. Lindsay also teaches piano and works as a lifeguard.

The last student for recognition by Mr. Hunt was Callie Guy of Richmond, who will be attending the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership – High School Leaders Program at UVA during the summer of 2009.

VII. Action Agenda Items

a. Textbook Adoption

Mrs. Taylor thanked the board for the input and expertise received from their respective divisions to formulate a recommendation for the textbooks noted for adoption today. As in past years, this has been a successful, cooperative collaboration.

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Board unanimously approved the Textbook Adoption Recommendations.

b. Waiver of 2-Year Language Requirement

There being no discussion on this request:

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved this waiver requested on behalf of one specific current MLWGS student.

c. 2009-2010 Operating Calendar

Mr. Hunt recognized Phil Tharp as the author of this calendar and noted his efforts to coordinate with the divisions to align as closely as possible to their operating calendars.

Gwynn Litchfield requested future calendars be constructed using primary colors as the current design was difficult for color blind people to read.

There being no further discussion on this request:

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Dianne Pettitt, the Board unanimously approved the operating calendar proposed for 2009-2010 as submitted.

d. MLWGS Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010

Phil Tharp highlighted a PowerPoint presentation of the budget proposal submitted, a copy of which is attached to this document. 3% operating reduction is achieved through decreasing tuition, carryover fund balance, building maintenance, staff development, deferring computer equipment, reduction in part time teaching positions, frozen salary scales, and the Contingency Fund.

Lisa Marshall inquired about the status of Stimulus funding and if that impacted this proposal. Stimulus funding is received by the divisions only, MLWGS is not eligible.

Dianne Pettitt expressed a concern about the reduction to staff development funding, and the issue of maintaining and enhancing, through education, the best and brightest faculty. She expressed a desire for the divisions to explore including MLWGS in their various professional development opportunities. Dr. Newsome stated the Superintendent's will be meeting prior to the Appomattox Governor's School Board meeting and would discuss an arrangement.

Mr. Hunt stated the school also had access to two other streams of funding; one through the PTSA and another through the “Teachers Are Learners” program which Dr. Mark Edwards has been fundraising.

There being no further discussion on this matter:

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Lisa Marshall, the board unanimously approved the operating budget for FY2010 as submitted.

e. Food Services for MLWGS, 2009-2010

There being no discussion on this matter:

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved Serve! as the recommended contractor for services to be rendered in the 2009-2010 academic year at MLWGS.

f. Lawn Care Services for MLWGS, 2009-2010

There being no discussion on this matter:

On motion by Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved Shelton’s as the recommended contractor for services to be rendered in the 2009-2010 academic year at MLWGS with an option for renewal of 2 years.

* At this point the board viewed a personnel action rationale sheet that had been included in the packet, but not listed on the original agenda. On motion by Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Lisa Marshall, and unanimously approved, the board amended the agenda to include this item.

g. Personnel Action

Mr. Hunt requested approval of the resignation of Lindsay Hawkins, Facilities Assistant, enabling the school to recruit and fill this position. Also for approval, the one year family leave request of Mrs. Maria Cuellar, Mathematics Department.

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Board unanimously approved the recommended personnel actions.

VIII. Material for Board Review

None

IX. Information

Student Awards and Recognition 2008-2009 List

X. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

None

XI. Closed Meeting

None

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

None

Open Discussion

On request of Valarie Ayers, a contact phone number will be added to the cover page of the monthly board packet. Mrs. Ayers is also requesting a reminder to the upcoming Dogwood Dell performance by MLWGS'S Faculty Lounge Lizards.

Dudley Olsson requested an update on the UVA Consultant status. Mr. Hunt thanked her and apologized for forgetting to include this update in his report. Mr. Hunt stated he'd recently been contacted by the UVA team and they are requesting a preliminary meeting on May 15th with key members of the school board committee and administration to discuss their findings before a formal presentation to this board, which could possibly come as early as the May 21st meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

XIV. Next Meeting

May 21, 2009 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St.,
Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2191.

Ivan Mattox, Chairman

N. Douglas Hunt, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Deputy Board Clerk