

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Meeting
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, December 17, 2015

9:05 a.m.

Intermediate chorus students, under the direction of Mr. Frank James, performed a holiday tune prior to the start of this meeting.

I. Call to Order

Kevin Hazzard, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Chairman called for a moment of silence asking all to remember the late Izzy McKinney, Class of 2018-Richmond.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

A student from the intermediate chorus class led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality (listed in alphabetical order by locality). Welcome Dr. Michael Gill, Superintendent-Hanover and congratulations to Dr. Melody Hackney, Hopewell's newly appointed Superintendent.

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

Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools

Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools

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. Kristen Larson, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools

Ms. Wendy Cauley, **Director**, for Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools (late arrival)

Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools

Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools

Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools

Dr. Kim Evans, **Assistant Superintendent**, for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Jeff McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Linda Shifflette, **Interim Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Interim Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat, Crystal Charity, and Deborah Snagg – MLWGS Staff
Laura Lewis – GS Foundation
Peggy Feldmann – PTSA President
Raleigh Brown – MLWGS Alum (Class of 2015)
Sydney Bland - Citizen

V. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Cora Armstrong, minutes for the regular meeting of November 12, 2015, were approved with Barbara Crawley and Kristen Larson abstaining, and all remaining members voting aye.

VII. Recognitions

- **Shanthi Hirmath** ('16-Chesterfield), Lexus of Richmond, **Pursuit of Perfection Leadership Award** weekly winner, December 2, 2015.
- **2015 Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams** '3-peating' State Champions. Both teams are coached by Jim Holdren, Deborah Snagg and Ryan Webb. As reported by Coach Holdren, 22 runners from these teams competed this past weekend in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship with the following highlights: (7) All-Americans and two national titles: Girls 17-18 with the lowest score in the history of the championship, and the Boys team defending their title winning by two points.
- **Distinguished departing Regional School Board Members and Superintendent;** *Barbara Crawley* – Charles City County Public Schools, MLWGS Regional School Board

2004-2015, *Kevin Hazzard* – Goochland County Public Schools, MLWGS Regional School Board 2012-2015, *Cora Armstrong* – King & Queen Public Schools, MLWGS Regional School Board 2012-2015; in absentia *Jerry Warren* – Prince George Public Schools, MLWGS Regional School Board 2012-2015. Also, with notice from the table, *Dianne Smith* – Chesterfield County Public Schools, MLWGS Regional School Board 2012-2015 announced her departure to chair the CCPS School Board in 2016.

Recognized in absentia; *Dr. Joseph Melvin* – Petersburg Public Schools, departed member of the Superintendent’s Steering Committee.

VIII. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes.

There were no public comments.

IX. Director’s Report

A. Verbal Updates

- New Calendar Item: January 14, 2016-Orientation for New Board Members from Goochland and Prince George [*late addition of Chesterfield and Charles City*]. Assignments for King & Queen will be determined at their local meeting occurring after January 14th. Orientation for this division will be determined at a later date.
- Budget Town Hall, December 2, 2015. Speaker remarks provided in a separate document attached to the record of this meeting. The Director noted that Mr. Hazzard attended representing the regional school board as well as Dr. Lane representing the superintendents. Speaker themes revolved around operational expenses that parents are asked to fund, support for extracurriculars, class sizes, instructional materials, healthcare and salaries benchmarked against our partners, athletic needs, and the wireless/technological infrastructure. All constituent feedback from the town hall will be considered during FY17 budget development.

Mr. Hazzard encouraged board members to review the notes and remarks provided by Mrs. Marshall from the town hall, noting the overall theme of all comments related to “what does it take to run an ordinary high school versus what does it take to run a school for exceptional students. Each one of the speakers, for the topic they spoke on, asked us [*the board*] to consider each line item in the budget with those constraints. I think that makes a lot of sense given that over the years we’ve seen a shift from operational to non-operational things being handled by entities outside our normal sources of revenue. I won’t be here for that process in January or February, but if you would take that as your mantra or your goal for the next budgeting process, I think that will add a lot of value.”

At this point in the meeting, the Director’s Report – Verbal Updates, was inadvertently concluded after the town hall remarks. The remainder of the Director’s Report – Verbal

Updates was reviewed out of agenda order, and occurred after Action Item XI.a; however, is listed in this record using regular agenda order.

- Director attends VASCD Annual Conference in Williamsburg on Deeper Learning, December 3 & 4, 2015
- Strategic Plan Implementation Update: an 11-page handout was provided at table by the Director and reviewed as follows:

Goal items on the first five pages are designated by ‘Start’ in the fiscal year work will begin and ‘X’ in the fiscal year it will be implemented; however, as many goals are front-loaded, some may require moving to an outlier year.

Page 6 illustrates the action steps taken for each goal statement developed last year for this school year; including information about the Planning Committee, new assessments, advance course registration and FIRC, and the Mindfulness Committee that pertains to student stress and anxiety [*\$50,000 grant received from the Atwell Foundation for this work*].

Page 7 denotes actions for goals 2, 3 and 4 in year one. Items include the current grading scale review being undertaken by the School Advisory Council to ensure Walker’s scale is tailored to its particular context. Also, all teachers are working on curriculum mapping to digitize their curriculum into a digital platform with customized electronic instructional materials that will offer more flexibility and agility moving forward.

Expanding university dual enrollment opportunities through VCU, anticipating, at least, one new offering that will come before the Regional School Board for the next school year.

Page 8 – marketing electives of rigorous faculty-developed courses to students is underway. Instructional technology assessment of facility indicates more infrastructure is needed to have a robust wireless system in place to handle student/faculty needs and will be included in FY17 budget development. The 5-year technology plan should include a 1:1 device aspect moving forward.

Page 9 –to support strong professionalism and strong school climate required a reorganization into professional learning communities (page 9a) led by a leadership team (LT) comprised of thirteen individuals, ten of whom are department chairs/teachers, and are involved in all decision issues with the exception of personnel. Also, the plan supports Faculty Council (FC), which was in place when the school moved here from Richmond, as it captures a broad-based approach of feedback. And so within the policies that the Board has adopted around board/staff communication and the organization chart, we will continue to work with FC to capture concerns such as the location of a copy machine that is channeled by FC to the director, then taken to the leadership team, and finally back to FC. Dr. McGee remarked that many staff members still prefer to handle their suggestions in this anonymous manner as opposed to talking to their department leader and we want to support this level of anonymity for staff.

The Richmond Education Association (REA) was invited here during August as a professional organization offering training opportunities for staff. As there is currently only a small number of staff involved with the REA; we may begin exploring the possibility of establishing our own association, perhaps a Governor's School Education Association (GSEA) that would be affiliated with the Virginia Education Association (VEA).

A state and national search platform has been established with LinkedIn for school personnel recruitment. Hiring Practices are currently in-line.

Page 9a is a picture of the current organization chart illustrating Walker's reorganization out of the department approach into more of a professional learning community (PLC) approach. The theme this year was creating connections; such as those organized around math/science and health/PE, and working through collaboration while developing a digital platform with curriculum so teachers are able to meet face-to-face and work together, or work with the administrative team or PLC leaders.

Page 10 is the last piece and focuses on the facility and on recommendations for capital improvement. One of the things to be developed this year as part of the budget is a capital improvement plan moving forward which aligns with a policy adopted last fall. This building is approaching 20 years of age so it is important to annually evaluate the facility.

- Student News: Remembering the late Izzy McKinney (2018-Richmond)

B. Coming Events

December 17, 2015 through January 21, 2016 (see page IX.b, for details)

X. Unfinished Business

None

XI. Action Items

a. Policy Proposals

The following were submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval:

Policy No. 1029	Allocation and Commitment of Slots <i>Amended</i>
Policy No. 7003	Annual Budget
Reg. No. 7003.1	Annual Budget Calendar, Guidelines, Amendments, Transfers, Reappropriation of Balance, and Reserve Funds (<i>updated from Board Discussion 11-12-2015</i>)
Form No. 2065-F2	Acceptable Computer System Use Agreement <i>Amended</i>

Reviewing each proposal, Dr. McGee noted **Policy No. 1029** recommends moving the local division slot commitment date back a full month to allow a one board meeting cycle. If approved, it will also stipulate that annual tuition invoices will be mailed each May 15th.

Policy No. 7003 is tweaked VSBA policy for Walker’s context. **Regulation No. 7003.1** has been adjusted in Budget Calendar, Item A per Dr. Lane’s request changing public hearing to a public forum. Item D also adds a public hearing will be conducted prior to budget adoption. No additional changes have been added to this regulation from November’s meeting. **Form 2065-F2** has been amended to include student name(s).

Mrs. Ogburn asked what process is followed if a student does not return Form 2065-F2. Dr. McGee referred to the Student Code of Conduct which references when a student does not have internet access. Under that scenario notices are sent home to parents, and we’ve found this approach tends to resolve the matter quickly once students and parents are reminded. In the unlikely event we found a student with no internet access [*at school*] we would go to Tier 2 and hold a conference with the parents to determine what the opposition is to access to the network and to ultimately discover if there was a reason they did not want their child to access electronic communication, and then design an alternative approach. As MLWGS is not yet 1:1 students could not use their own personal devices without this agreement as their account would be deactivated.

Proposed policy and form are grounded in model policy of the Virginia School Board Association. Reg. No. 7003.1 is grounded in model regulation of Hanover County Public Schools.

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the aforementioned policies, regulation, and form were unanimously approved as a slate.

b. Interdisciplinary Trip to France 2016 – Teresa Franson, Sponsor

The Director recommends approval of Mrs. Franson’s interdisciplinary trip proposal presented for first review in November to Paris, France, summer 2016.

Dr. McGee reminded the board that policy calls for review of the State Department website for travel advisories and this will govern whether the trip takes place or not. The Director has had conversations with Mrs. Franson around this requirement. Mrs. Franson, in turn, has reached out to our families and the airlines to communicate this necessary requirement moving forward, right up to the time of departure.

Mrs. Ayers voiced her support for the Board’s continued consideration of this trip proposal [*background of discussion: December 2015 Paris terrorist attack*] noting we cannot stop living our lives. Mr. Axelle agreed, while recommending we remain wise and proceed with caution. Dr. Newsome also agreed, adding “while you approve this request, you are always working with the appropriate agencies to determine the safety of travel.”

Mrs. Ogburn suggested a strong level of communication with parents is required in this case, and in all other cases as well, as to what resources the staff accompanying students have access to along with their communication abilities so as to give parents a level of comfort knowing that when their children aren’t home the people that are traveling with them have what they need to get in touch with the proper authorities. Mrs. Ogburn further suggested policy review to ensure it be as comprehensive as possible in this matter. In response to this suggestion, the Chairman requested the Policy Steering Committee review travel policies [*1070 and 1071*].

With no additional discussion, on a motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Mrs. Franson's trip request was unanimously approved.

XII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. January Reorganization Meeting including election of School Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk(s)

- As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the chair, vice-chair, and board clerk(s) at the January 21, 2016, meeting.
- A budget work session will follow at the conclusion of the reorganization meeting.

b. Code of Conduct for School Board Members

- Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 21, 2016 meeting.

c. Code of Conduct for Clerks

Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 21, 2016 meeting.

d. 2016 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings

The Director recommends a review of the proposed 2016 calendar of meetings and to consult with the member's local calendar for conflicts and/or modifications. Approval will be requested at the January 21, 2016 meeting of the Regional School Board.

Highlighted items include an orientation for new board members on January 14th, a public hearing prior to budget adoption on March 17th, and a request for members to review their respective division calendars looking for conflict as relates to the June regular meeting due to local graduations.

e. Policy Proposals

The following are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board review:

Policy No. 3011	School Counseling Program
Policy No. 3013	Driver Education <i>Amended</i>
Policy No. 4001	Student Transportation Services

Dr. Kinlaw requests an expansion of Policy No. 4001 to include "welfare of other riders **and driver**." This additional language will be added to the policy proposal.

Proposed policies are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association. Approval will be requested at the January 21, 2016 meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIII. Information Items

- Music Students Participate at South Central Regional Orchestra
- MLWGS Student Honored by Nickelodeon
- MLWGS Students Help Build Ramps for Residents in Need

- Board Membership Reminder from Constitution, Policy No. 1010: one member and one alternate per division

XIV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Lane stated the committee's primary focus this morning was the budget and discussion about feedback from the town hall with Dr. McGee, along with the anticipation of the governor's budget announcement and whether or not it will include Maggie Walker. Also, the committee began discussion of likely tuition increases to the local divisions and what that could mean in terms of additional local support side-by-side with state support. The superintendents have asked Dr. McGee to start with a \$200/student tuition increase as he drafts a first round budget proposal and we'll continue to discuss this over the upcoming months. In addition to town hall concerns, we wanted Dr. McGee to specifically address technology issues for the school and create a plan which supports 1:1 technology as we think it moves toward deeper learning for students and a modern pedagogy.

Dr. McGee added: 'the school has been on a path [*of progress*] with technology integration training, we have six technology integrators which are teachers that work with departments in their planning time, all the things that go into preparation for deeper learning and use of technology. Our readiness is elevating slowly but we have discovered more needs within our infrastructure based on increased use of wireless and the ways it's being used. We will continue to work with all constituents around their readiness so we can get to where we need to be.'

Additionally, Dr. Lane acknowledged Ms. Feldmann's concerns from the town hall around student fees for athletic operational costs and stated the committee will look to see some of that addressed as well.

XV. Closed Meeting

None

XVI. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XVII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Mr. Hazzard requested a final musical melody from Ms. Armstrong who sang a piece around the theme, 'never give up on your dreams.'

Finally, Dr. Lane announced that Dr. Marcus Newsome will serve as Chairman of the Superintendent's Steering Committee for the first six months of 2016.

On behalf of the superintendents, Dr. Newsome thanked Dr. Lane for his leadership the past two years which has been thorough, knowledgeable on the issues, and kept all informed so they could make the best decisions possible for the school.

Dr. Newsome also remarked that his service on the committee in 2016 will provide an opportunity for Dr. Gill to transition into his school district before additional responsibilities are added to his plate. We look forward to his service.

XVIII. Adjournment

On motion by John Axselle, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Next Meeting

January 21, 2016, at 9:00 am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Chairman

Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk