

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

Thursday, June 19, 2014

9:06 a.m.

**I. Call to Order**

Kevin Hazzard, Chairman of the Regional School Board, 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  
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  
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools  
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools  
Ms. Brookie Fowler, Coordinator for Disability Services, for Dr. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell City Public Schools  
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools  
Ms. Stephanie Bassett, Assistant Superintendent, for Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Mr. Anthony Washington, Instructional Specialist, for Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond 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 from Meeting:**

Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Mr. John Montgomery, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell City Public Schools  
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools  
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

**Also present:**

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis – MLWGS Administration  
Wendy DeGroat, Stephanie Welles, Anna Shore, Harold Houghton, Deborah Snagg –  
MLWGS Staff  
Amy Nisenson - Consultant  
Bill Yates, Burt Hazelwood – GS Foundation  
Elizabeth Wong – PTSA President  
Chamie Valentine – School Advisory Committee  
Anne Hayes, Marianne Macon – PTSA Advocacy Committee  
Peggy Feldmann – Athletic Boosters  
Sidney Bland, Ben Lewis, Mrs. Lewis, Jane Scheibe, Doug Scheibe, and Liz Aldridge–  
MLWGS Parents

**III. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the agenda provided for this meeting was unanimously approved.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dianne Smith, regular meeting minutes from May 15, 2014 were unanimously approved.

**V. Recognitions**

- Distinguished Retiring Superintendent: Dr. Robert F. Richardson, Jr., New Kent County Public Schools, Superintendent's Steering Committee 2009-2014.
- Distinguished Retiring Superintendent: Dr. Janet Crawley, Charles City County Public Schools, Superintendent's Steering Committee 1999-2014.
- Relevance Rising Class: Video Presentation of Guatemala Student Trip

**VI. Public Comments**

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes (at 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 no later than 10:00am on the last business day before the meeting at which they desire to be heard.

**The following comments are not transcribed verbatim:**

*Mrs. Anna Shore, Mr. Harold Houghton and Mrs. Chamie Valentine, School Advisory Committee (SAC)*, addressed the Board regarding the role of SAC and to highlight results of a recent faculty survey.

SAC serves in an advisory capacity to the Regional School Board. The committee is currently voting on expanding its size by up to four new members in an effort to include more voices, constituencies and school divisions. The committee meets monthly to work on enhancing the quality of education at Maggie Walker, to promote its broad based curriculum, to support effective components of the existing program, and to ensure the Walker mission is accomplished.

SAC recently conducted and encouraged participation in a faculty survey to address some of their deeply held concerns in an exercise to achieve resolution in a competent, confidential, supportive manner that is fair to all, and to the benefit of the entire school community. The faculty responded to three prompts: “what would you like to see more...,” “what would you like to see less...,” and “what would you like to stay the same.”

Faculty Council also included dates of their meetings over the last two years that involve some of the survey topics listed in the summary report that was provided to the Board. In conclusion, SAC recommends the Board undertake a full climate survey. Also, SAC recommends that constructive action be taken immediately to address the concerns that have been identified.

*Stephanie Welles, Faculty Council*, reiterated parallel points of concern already made by SAC representatives and stated she would be available for questions from the Board.

*Peggy Feldmann, Athletic Boosters*, addressed the Board with Division 2A scheduling concerns.

Ms. Feldmann recapped the 2013-2014 athletic season. 70% of Walker’s students participated in sports. During the past year Walker won seven (7) state championships and two (2) teams were state runner up. But success comes with a cost such as travel expenses associated with playoffs. However, monetary cost is not Ms. Feldmann’s main point today, it is the cost of the commitment required to compete as an athlete at MLWGS where academics are valued over athletics.

Ms. Feldmann used the following example: the girls’ soccer team contained seven (7) seniors that traveled more than 820 miles over two days for championship play and to attend graduation; which was emotionally and physically exhausting. Ms. Feldmann stated that the only reason the team was even able to play at all was that Radford HS graciously agreed to allow the game start time to be changed from 4:00pm to 9:00am or Walker would have forfeited. While the soccer team involved seven players, the potential with all spring sports could involve as much as 15-20% of seniors.

Athletic Boosters enthusiastically endorses moving future Walker graduations from Friday to Monday as a short term solution noting that this change would still impact underclassmen that are dealing with finals in the middle of tournament play. Finally, Ms. Feldmann shared that most of the 2A schools Walker plays use the August school start waiver (a possibility for MLWGS to consider?) so they are not competing during winter and spring tournaments in the middle of exams and finals.

**Marianne Macon, Advocacy Committee**, asked the Board for their thoughts and help as to how future school board luncheons should be conducted in ways to keep this program fresh and meaningful with a goal to educate our partner communities as to who ‘we’ are and what ‘we’ do at Maggie Walker.

Legislative update: Mrs. Macon stated there is a Governor’s School funding study that went into the budget for the Governor. The areas to be studied are length of program, appropriate state and local share, and the academic model. The study is expected to be reported out to the money committees October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Finally, Mrs. Macon thanked Dr.’s Richardson and Crawley for their service and commitment to Maggie Walker.

The Chairman thanked commenters for their remarks.

## **VII. Director’s Report**

- Amy Nisenson – **Strategic Planning** Advisor, was introduced to the Board and spoke of the process that will be undertaken with a goal to be done by December (something for the Board to see pursuant to feedback). Membership of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee was identified as follows:
  - Regional Board Member-1 (TBD)
  - Regional Administrator-1 (TBD)
  - School Admin-3 (Jeff McGee, Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis)
  - Students-3 (TBD)
  - Faculty Council (Teacher)-1 (TBD)
  - PTSA-1 (Laura O’Brien)
  - School Advisory Council –1 (Chamie Valentine (interim))
  - Foundation –1 (Doug Scheibe)
  - At-large Educators (Teacher/Counselor)-2 (Tinsley Pollard (Teacher); Joy Davis (Counselor))
  - Support Staff-1 (Megan Rainey)
  - Alumni-1 (TBD)
- **Leadership, Governance and Key Stakeholder** breakfast meeting, July 17, 2014.
- **Class of 2014** information:
  - As a class, they have performed a total of 33,988 community service hours. This is an average of 210 hours per student,
  - One student, Stephanie Hwang, had 930 hours,
  - They were awarded over \$13 million in scholarships,

- Their average Grade Point Average was a 3.916 (*this could change with final grades*),
- Their average SAT score was 2108,
- Are going to 52 different colleges, 103 are staying in-state, 55 are going out-of-state and one is joining the military,
- Of the 103 staying in-state, 87 (or 85%) are going to one of these four state schools: The University of Virginia, The College of William & Mary, Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Tech,
- Eleven were National Merit Finalists and 54 more received Commendations in the National Merit Program. Five received National Merit Scholarship offers.
- **MLWGS *Achievement Profile*** review (incomplete: awaiting AP scores).
- ***Coming Events*** reviewed: June 19, 2014 through August 21, 2014.
- ***Maggie Walker's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday*** will be celebrated on July 15<sup>th</sup> with the installation of the Maggie Walker bronze bust that was commissioned and installed by way of private funding/donations on a pedestal made available by the Class of 2011, located on the Lombardy Street side of the property.
- ***House Joint Resolution No. 273*** that commends all Governor's Schools.

## VIII. Action Items

### a. FY15 Student Fee Schedule:

Presented for review in May, the fee schedule proposal includes current projected costs for all subject areas. The Director recommends Board approval of this fee schedule proposal.

There being no discussion, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the FY15 student fee schedule was unanimously approved.

### b. Approval of the 2014-2015 School Advisory Council (SAC) Membership

The Director recommends approval of the partial slate of candidates presented, noting that additional participants are still being recruited and will be presented at a future meeting, possibly as early as August.

There being no discussion on this matter, on motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the partial membership list presented for 2014-2015 SAC membership was unanimously approved.

### c. Assignment of Reserve Funds

Subject to the conclusion of the FY13 audit, the Director recommends the Board maintain its reserve funding estimate as assigned: Capital = \$863,378, Technology = \$200,000, Benefit Reserve (@70%) = \$246,911 and Unassigned = \$105,818.

After discussion/review of this topic, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the estimate of assignment for reserve funds was unanimously approved subject to receipt of the FY13 audit report.

**d. Personnel**

The Director recommends approval of the personnel actions listed on VIII.d – Addendum A (exempt folder).

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved personnel actions requested.

**IX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

**a. Authorization for Director to Certify MLWGS Crisis Plan**

The Director asked Board members to consider action at the August 2014 meeting for approval of the MLWGS Crisis Plan, previously adopted August 21, 2008. Updates have been added as required. Certification to the Virginia Center for School Safety is required by August 31, 2014.

**b. Annual Authorization of Signatures in Absence of Division Superintendent (Director) for DOE**

The Director asked Board members to consider action for the August 2014 meeting for approval of the annual DOE Authorization of Signatures form.

Ms. Armstrong left the meeting.

**X. MLWGS Informational Items**

- Future New Club Proposal Approval Process Discussion
- Finance Committee Notes from June 6, 2014

Student News:

- Spring Sports MLWGS 1<sup>ST</sup> Triple Crown Winner in VHSL History (Track)
- Student Engineers Chosen for New VCU Program
- Forensics Team Sets Record Performance
- Student Musicians Score National Awards
- Academic Quiz Bowl Team Success
- Art Students Feted in New York
- Senior Daniel Yoo: Guest Columnist in RTD
- Summary: Awards and Recognition 2013-2014
  
- Draft MOU: MLWGS and GS Foundation
- MOU: MLWGS and Richmond Parks & Rec Addendum A Addendum B

**XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report**

Dr. Lane stated the committee met prior to today's Regional Board meeting and discussed the Director's upcoming evaluation process.

**XII. Closed Meeting**

None.

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

None.

**XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business**

Dr. McGee thanked the Board and the Superintendent's for the commitment and leadership to Maggie Walker.

**XV. Adjournment**

On motion by Barbara Crawley with a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting**

August 21, 2014 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

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W. Kevin Hazzard, Chairman

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Jeffrey W. McGee, Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk