

## MINUTES

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

**Thursday, March 19, 2015**

**9:20 a.m.**

#### **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.

#### **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Eliza Bellamy ('15-Richmond), student volunteer, led a reading of the pledge of allegiance.

#### **IV. 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  
Mr. Kevin Hazzard, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Mrs. Michelle Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Ms. Linda Hyslop, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools  
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools  
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools (late arrival)  
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  
Dr. David Gaston, **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. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools  
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools  
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Jeff 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:**

Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools  
Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis – MLWGS Administration  
Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS Librarian, Julius Oreska and Deborah Snagg - Staff  
Burt Hazelwood, Laura Lewis – GS Foundation  
Elizabeth Wong – PTSA President  
Marianne Macon, Laura O’Bryan and Anne Hayes – PTSA Advocacy Comm.  
Peggy Feldmann- Athletic Boosters  
Sydney Bland, Ben Lewis, Deborah Taminger, Jewel Caven and Cynthia Stansberry – Community

**V. Approval of Agenda**

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

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, minutes for both the regular meeting and the budget work session on January 22, 2015 were unanimously approved.

**VII. Recognitions**

- A brief *video by the VSBA* recognizing February as School Board Appreciation Month was played.
- *Lexus of Richmond’s Pursuit of Perfection Leadership Award* weekly winners: Week 12 – **Josh Barlow** (’15-Chesterfield), Week 11 – **Eliza Bellamy** (’15-Richmond) and Week 8 – **Joseph Boyle** (’15-Hanover).
- *Math Modeling Team* – SABR Conference March 12-16, 2015 in Phoenix. Lead by faculty member Dickson Benesh, the following students competed as the only high school team finishing just behind the top two collegiate teams in the Undergraduate Division: **Ben Bowers** (’15-Hanover), **Joseph Boyle** (’15-Hanover), **Matt Moore** (’15-Hanover), **Tyler Walker** (’15-Chesterfield) and **Justin Wilck** (’15-Chesterfield).
- *State Diving Champion* **Allie Bekenstein** (’18-Henrico), recognized in absentia, took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Women’s 1 Meter VHSL Dive competition.

- **VHSL 2015 Academic Quiz Bowl Champions.** Led by faculty Hana Reed and assistant Juanita Lasswell, the following ‘A’ team members were recognized: **Patrick Canteros (’16-Chesterfield), Parth Kotak (’17-Henrico), Will Overman (’16-Hanover) and Connor Wood (’15-Henrico).** The BoB [*Battle of the Brains*] team has won the state championship (6) times since 1998 and placed second (9) times since 1999. Connor explained that no high school team in the nation has beaten this year’s team; their only loss came from one graduate team and one undergraduate collegiate team in tournament.
- **2015 National Merit Scholarship Finalists:** Certificates were distributed by the Board member or Superintendent of the student division, collectively representing the top 1% PSAT/NMSQT qualifying test scores in the nation:  
**Chesterfield:** Joshua D. Barlow, Megan Elizabeth Campbell, Lucy G. Grinnan, Carrie M. Hamilton, Sarah P. Holliday, Tyler R. Walker, Justin A. Wilck, Alan Zhang and Chuyi Zhou.  
**Hanover:** Joseph Boyle and Raleigh E. Browne.  
**Henrico:** Utkarsha Bhawe, Coly Elhai, Gillian E. Gray, Emma B. Greene, Anant G. Kharkar, Elizabeth M. Levit, Kaya J. Prasad, Rajiv Tummala, Pranay Vissa, Benjamin Y. Wong and Connor Purcell Wood.  
**Richmond:** Margaret V. Jewett and Noah E. Kim.
- **U.S. Presidential Scholars Candidates:** (5) MLWGS students have been selected as candidates in the 2015 competition, **Joseph Boyle (Hanover), Raleigh Browne (Hanover), Anant Karkar (Henrico), Elena Palazzolo (Henrico) and Connor Wood (Henrico).** From nearly 3.2 million graduating high school seniors, approximately 3,300 students are identified as candidates in the program. Students are selected based on earning a perfect 1,600 on their SAT’s in a single test sitting.

## VIII. 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 remarks were provided to the clerk by each speaker:

**Ms. Peggy Feldmann:** “Good morning, for the Athletic Boosters board I am speaking of our concerns on the sustainability of athletics since the move to the 2A division in 2013. Every year more than half of the student body participates in VHSL competitions. Our students quietly thrive on the inherent principles that athletics bring to their education: leadership, competition, time management, and sportsmanship.

Before 2013, Athletic Boosters provided \$36,000 yearly to the athletic department. With the move to the 2A division and the expected additional travel, this amount was increased to \$45,000. With our success in 2A, we now believe the funding requirement could increase to \$60,000 per year which leaves the Boosters with little to no resources to provide the

students or school with any athletic enhancements. With four options for your consideration, we ask the Regional School Board's help in what action should be taken to sustain athletic excellence.

**Option 1- Ask the Athletic Boosters to do more.** Over the last five years, Athletic Boosters have contributed over \$380,000 to the school. We were a major contributor to the Doug Hunt pavilion which provided concessions and restrooms on the field and recently refurbished the tennis courts. Our fundraising has remained steady at about \$65,000 per year. Athletic Boosters has about 50% participation from families at any donation level. We have always had very good participation by our members contributing to the auction, bringing in over \$20,000 this year.

**Option 2 – Activity Fee.** Review of the Athletic Department account reveals that an additional \$65,000 is required for the department to operate effectively. While the department takes in resources from ticket sales to supplement the athletic funds, clearly the department is running at a large deficit without the Athletic Boosters. With a number of students competing on two or more teams, approximately 650 activities are played each year. An activity fee of \$100 per activity per student would provide the additional \$65,000. For Athletic Booster families who are already donating the suggested \$150/student/sport, this activity fee would be less expensive; however, there are a number of negatives to having an activity fee.

**Option 3 – Move out of the 2A Division.** The Virginia High School League initiated new conferences and divisions based solely on school size. To negate traveling great distances to compete with schools our size, the Director formally asked the VHSL to allow Maggie Walker to be seated in a higher division. The school was turned down, and Walker competes in the playoffs against schools similar in size. For the coming school year, VHSL is asking schools to possibly compete within their conference during the *regular* season, not just for the playoffs. Our conference consists of Arcadia and Nandua on the Eastern Shore, 180 and 159 miles from school; Windsor and Bruton, 73 and 53 miles away and King William, 25 miles away. We rejoiced in winning eight state championships last year; winning more than double any other school in any division. We are on track to do similar or even better this year. School size may be comparable but competitively, we are clearly not in the correct division. The Regional School Board should strongly consider urging VHSL to move Maggie Walker into the 4A South division, Conference 20, where Field Hockey competes today, and only one school is more than 20 miles from Maggie Walker. All of the high schools within Conference 20 are within the Regional School Board's 12 localities.

**Option 4 – Increase the Athletic Department budget.** Not long after moving to this building and away from Thomas Jefferson athletics, the Regional School Board designated \$294 per student for participation and staffing of VHSL sports, clubs and activities. The VHSL related activities in the draft 2016 budget are \$43,000 less than \$294 times 746 students. This \$43,000 difference would go a long way to making the Athletic Department sustainable, and would take a huge burden off of the Athletic Boosters to allow them to enhance the athletic experience at Maggie Walker instead of paying for normal operating expenses.

Thank you for your time this morning, please consider these options and our concerns about the sustainability of VHSL activities at Maggie Walker.”

**Ms. Debbie Taminger:** “My name is Debbie Taminger and I am the freshman parent of a very happy student athlete here at Maggie Walker. I am also the parent of a senior who chose to attend his home school, Manchester in Chesterfield County, where he has excelled as a student athlete. He is second in his class; holds (7) school records in track, and recently won the State Championship with the fastest time in any Virginia State Meet. Over the past four years I have also served on the Manchester PTSA Board and the Athletic Association and I am now starting to get involved at Maggie Walker, Therefore, although I know that things are often done differently at Maggie Walker than your typical high school, I also know the importance of athletics to students and their school, and what it takes to be a successful student athlete, are the same.

I am here to ask you to consider more funding for athletics. Previously, four options were suggested. I’m not sure the Athletic Boosters can make up the difference. I have also always been against a pay-to-play system, although I would support it if that was the only option. I do donate my \$300/year for my child to participate in sports and I do not think it is fair that only 50% of us are contributing. I think moving out of the 2A division would be an excellent choice. Not only would it save significant travel costs, but it would also mean the kids would miss less school as it would reduce travel time as well. Being in the 4A division would allow the kids to compete against schools they know, which is more fun. It would also be more competitive, and there is value in competition. You learn more from losing a great race than from winning an easy one. Finally, another great option is to increase the Athletic Department budget. I recently attended a Community Meeting on the Chesterfield County Proposed Budget which included a presentation of the School Board Budget. In that budget was a line item for “Activity Travel Funding. “When I asked about it, I was told that the budget for high school athletics is being increased due to the travel costs from the new State system, and that the cost may increase again next year. I suspect many other school divisions are increasing their athletic budgets due to travel costs as well.

Athletic programs have a huge impact, but they also take money. I ask the Board to recognize the financial impact being in the 2A division has had on the athletic budget at Maggie Walker. I also ask the Board to recognize the importance of athletics to both the student and the school, and make changes so our students can also be successful student athletes.”

**Ms. Cynthia Stansberry:** “My name is Cynthia Stansberry and I am from Goochland County. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board.

My daughter attends Maggie Walker and, like all public school students in Virginia, needs to meet the Economics and Personal Finance requirement for graduation. Her home school district, Goochland County Public Schools, accepts an Economics and Personal Finance course from Longwood University as credit for graduation. I would like for the Board to consider accepting the Longwood course as credit for graduation here at MLWGS as well.

My daughter currently has about (12) non-core courses she would like to take in the next two years and so wants to free up as many blocks as possible for electives. This means

taking the finance course during the summer is attractive. The Longwood course is offered over the summer, as is the VDOE course. The advantage of the Longwood course is that it can be completed in approximately four weeks.

A shorter, more intense summer course is important to my daughter, who, as an aspiring Food Animal Veterinarian, spends her summers feeding, managing, training, and showing beef cattle in Virginia county fairs. The VDOE Finance course, which runs for most of the summer, would make showing cattle impossible. The Longwood course, which is completed before any of the fairs my daughter attends, would allow her to fulfill her graduation requirements, free up valuable elective blocks, and pursue her summer career-based activities.

I urge the Board to consider the Longwood course in Economics and Personal Finance, as well as other suitable alternatives for graduation credit.”

The following remarks are not recorded verbatim:

**Students Ben Wong and Nivetha Saravanan** addressed the Board representing Science National Honor Society and the Maggie Walker Annual Science Day on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Science Day offers middle school students the opportunity to learn about various fields of science through fun hands on activities and more advanced laboratory techniques that they might not be exposed to in middle school. Ben and Nivetha thanked the Board for their support of this event through promotion within their local divisions. This year over 150 students will attend.

The Chairman thanked today’s speakers for their remarks.

## **IX. Director’s Report**

### ***A. Verbal Updates***

- Budget. In advance of action on this item, the Director thanked the Board for their support of the proposed budget.
- Engagement and Satisfaction Survey: postponed to April 16, 2015 due to a conflict on Dr. McMillan’s (VCU presenter) schedule.
- Strategic Plan: Draft document provided in packet and reviewed by Dr. McGee who stated the committee (members listed on page 1) has reached consensus on the document. Briefly highlighted: a public town hall will be hosted on March 24<sup>th</sup> to hear feedback from the community on this plan, and nine areas of the program where identified to build upon Walker’s great legacy of success. The Board will formally be presented with the Strategic Plan in its final format in April for first read with a goal of May approval.

Dr. Lane confirmed that Dr. McMillan will be presenting in April stating; generally, the plan is to present for first reading in its final format alongside climate data. The

ideal situation is for the Board to take action in May. Over the next few months the committee is looking forward to public feedback and moving forward.

- Lost Snow Days: MLWGS has missed (10) days with one made up that was previously designated as a teacher work day at the end of the first semester. The academic length of day schedule has been extended through May 22<sup>nd</sup> to ensure MLWGS meets state requirements.
- New Student Assessments were conducted January 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; (180) letters of acceptance were mailed March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Capitol Day February 9<sup>th</sup>: led by EduPac students and the PTSA Advocacy Committee, the team scheduled appointments by zip codes with their legislators. Perhaps their efforts led to awareness of state funding needs and contributed to Walker receiving additional state monies.
- Night of the Dragon Auction, February 21<sup>st</sup>: tentative proceeds are close to \$70,000 that will be distributed across Walker's PTSA, Foundation and Booster groups.
- GSMUN Conference at MLWGS with Dr. Ben Bernanke, Saturday, March 20-21, 2015.
- MLWGS Spring Drama, 'Into the Woods,' March 12-14, 2015.
- Senior Achievement: in addition to the previously discussed National Merit Scholarship Finalists and Presidential Scholar Finalists, Walker has (2) of the (3) Richmond area students selected as finalists for the prestigious UVA Jefferson Scholars Program.
- Director McGee participated in the inaugural Summit of Selective Public High School Leaders convened by the Cooke Foundation February 5-6, 2015.

### ***B. Coming Events***

- March 19, 2015 through April 16, 2015 (see page IX.b for details).

## **X. Unfinished Business**

None.

## **XI. Action Items**

### **a. Policy and Regulation Proposals**

The following are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval:  
Policy No. 1001-School Board Members Conflict of Interest and Procedure 5023-Classified

Employees' Grievance Procedure. Proposed policy is grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association and procedure secured from Board counsel.

Kimberly Gray moved to adopt policy and procedure as a slate, seconded by Cora Armstrong and unanimously approved.

**b. New Course Proposal – Italian III**

Proposed and reviewed in January 2015, the Director recommends approval of Italian III into the Walker curriculum for 2015-2016. Dr. McGee noted that Italian had previously been a 2-year language at MLWGS; however, AP has curriculum for Italian. Any anticipated financial impact from this action will be covered by overages that are built into the budget.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kimberly Gray, Italian III was unanimously approved.

**c. FY16 Budget Adoption**

Dr. McGee noted that since first read there have been a few adjustments to the proposed budget based on revenue (state funds) that he proceeded to highlight in his review and are listed in the note section of each line item resulting in approximately +\$35,000 between the amended and the proposed document.

Dr. David Gaston left the meeting.

One item of particular note was Building Construction (ESCo Savings plus Capital contribution). Dr. McGee stated this item was discussed with the Superintendents and the thinking is that since this is technically not an expense, we should move this line item down to a contingency line that will serve as a lock box into which monies will not be disbursed without Board approval. Dr. Lane added that Superintendents did not want to see money set aside for Capital Reserve in the operating fund where it could potentially be moved around to other expenses as they arose and is also best practice for housing these funds.

Another issue discussed; while not part of the current proposal is that of student issued devices (laptops or tablets) for the virtual leaning anywhere concept. The Chair suggested debate should begin on this subject.

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the FY16 operating budget was unanimously approved and adopted.

The Director again thanked the Board for their support of this budget. Dr. Lane also offered his gratitude to the Board.

Ms. Kimberly Gray, Dr. Stanley Jones and Dr. Bobby Browder left the meeting.

**d. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for FY16**



The Director recommends the Board approve annual authorization action that gives the Director authority to apply human resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts for FY16 to faculty and staff, pending all available monies.

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the annual authorization for the Director to issue contracts was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lane and Dr. Newsome offered the following points; contract language will include standard legal phrasing that 'the contract' is contingent upon state budget adoption and funding allocation.

Mr. John Axselle and Dr. James Lane left the meeting.

## **XII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

### **a. New Policy Proposals**

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

Policy No. 0002 Facilities Planning

Policy No. 7008 Administrative Allowances for Travel and Cell Phones

Proposed policies are grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association. Approval will be requested at the April 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

### **b. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal – Costa Rica, March 2016**

Sponsor David Barnes, MLWGS Science Faculty, made presentation via video, proposal and remarks. Approval for this request will be sought at the April meeting of this Board.

Mrs. Sarah Barber left the meeting.

The Costa Rica proposal was originally scheduled for presentation to the Board in February; however, due to multiple weather closings Mr. Barnes was unable to do so and is now behind on the timeline for advertising and recruiting. Following discussion, the Board considered approval *for advertising only, no monies to be collected*; with full trip approval considered by the Board in April.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, advertising for Costa Rica Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal 2016 was unanimously approved.

## **XIII. Information Items**

Finance Committee Minutes February 5, 2015

*Student News:*

2015 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

March is Youth Art Month  
MLWGS takes 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at VHSL State Swimming Competition  
MLWGS Wrestling [3rd Place in Conference]  
RTD: Maggie Walker enters state meet [track] after month lull  
RTD: Maggie Walker goes the distance, wins state indoor track titles  
Dragons Sign at All- District Chorus  
MLWGS Student is Round 10 Winner of the Songwriter Shootout Competition  
We the People team wins State Championship-heads to Washington for Nationals

*Other News:*

U.S. Congressman Dave Brat Visits MLWGS  
Bobby Dandridge, MWHS Class of '65 Honored by NBA Bucks  
Summit of Selective Public High School Leaders

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

Conveyed by Dr. Wilson, she noted that items covered in today's meeting have all been covered. Most of the committee's discussion covered budget, ESCo, technology and the engagement satisfaction survey. The committee is looking forward to the upcoming town hall on Tuesday and encouraged anyone who can to attend.

**XV. Closed Meeting**

None.

**XVI. Certification of Closed Meeting**

None.

**XVII. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

VHSL was discussed regarding concerns over Walker's placement in 2A. Per Dr. McGee and others at table an appeal to VHSL may only be requested every two-year cycle, and is rarely granted. Walker has already submitted two prior appeals and obtained one approval (Field Hockey). From an academic standpoint it is critical for MLWGS to move out of 2A. The Chairman and Dr. McGee will work to formalize a proposal to VHSL moving Walker to the appropriate division for play in terms of equitable competition levels and with home divisions going forward.

Next, the Board discussed a poll of localities regarding their usage of Longwood's Econ and Personal Finance course. Mrs. Ayers confirmed that Powhatan participates, as well Mr. Hazzard confirming for Goochland.

Dr. McGee added to the discussion sharing that the Longwood course was taken to the Planning Committee months ago for their consideration and review and from that table there were three major concerns; 1) if a division is not participating in the Longwood offering but their student here [*at MLWGS*] is allowed, the committee anticipated imbalance and inequity issues, 2) advanced scholar students at MLWGS are allowed to take courses

off campus once they have expended the opportunity here, and 3) the Longwood course is a contracted agreement and Walker is already in an agreement with VCU.

Dr. Jones asked if students are allowed to take the VDOE Econ and Personal Finance course through their home division, should that division participate, and receive credit; similar to Health and PE. Dr. McGee stated no, that was not the case and might create issues for dual enrollment. Dr. Wilson suggested the issue might be elevated through the divisions and perhaps bypass any contractual issue MW might have.

Dr. Newsome encouraged attendance at the “Excellence through Equity National Summit,” hosted at the Thomas Fulghum Conference Center in Midlothian on Thursday and Friday, July 23-24, 2015 focusing on cultural competency and diversity.

Congratulations Dr. Wilson...Region One Superintendent of the Year.

### **XVIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Valarie Ayers, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

### **Next Meeting**

April 16, 2015 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

---

W. Kevin Hazzard, Chairman

---

Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D, Director

---

Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk