

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, October 15, 2009

9:00 a.m.

#### I. Call to Order

Mr. 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, (listed in alphabetical order by locality).

##### Present:

Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. Ivan Mattox, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Mrs. Lisa Marshall, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools  
Mrs. Teresa Lindsay, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools  
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools  
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan Public Schools  
Mrs. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. Marcus J. Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Dr. Pete Gretz, **Assistant Superintendent** for Dr. Linda Underwood, Superintendent,  
Goochland County Public Schools  
Dr. Stewart Roberson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools  
Dr. Jean Murray, **Assistant Superintendent** for Dr. Pat Russo Superintendent, Henrico  
County Public Schools  
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Assistant Superintendent** for Dr. Bobby Browder, Superintendent,  
Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point Public Schools  
Mr. Fred S. Morton IV, **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:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
Mr. Robert Cox, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point Public Schools  
Dr. Richard Layman, **Superintendent**, King and Queen Public Schools  
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools  
Dr. James Victory, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Mr. John Axselle, seconded by Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, the agenda was unanimously approved.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Mrs. Valarie Ayers, seconded by Mrs. Lisa Marshall, the minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **V. Public Comments**

None

### **VI. Director's Report**

Mr. Fred Morton welcomed the Superintendent designee's in attendance and expressed gratitude to those able to make it today from the Legislative Conference being held in Lynchburg. He acknowledged the broad set of challenges this peer group will be facing in the months ahead.

#### **a. Learning/Instructional Highlight**

Mr. Morton reiterated his plan to highlight for this Board at least every other month a learning/instructional activity at MLWGS that may prove insightful for the work this body is doing, as well as a way to recognize the complexity of the work and the talent of the individuals involved.

Today we will focus on our school Guidance Department and a piece of software they are using called Naviance. Mr. Morton asked for the department members to introduce themselves and present their overview of Naviance and the service it is providing our students in all grades. This tool was piloted last year with only the junior class and is proving quite successful this year as they are seniors. (A handout of this PowerPoint presentation was distributed to the Board and will be retained as part of the permanent record).

Mr. Karl Zweerink – Department Chair and Freshmen Class Counselor, Mrs. Penny Deck – Senior Class Counselor, Mrs. Rachel Loving – Senior Class Counselor, Ms. Joy Davis – Junior & Sophomore Class Counselor, and Mrs. Zona Hicks – Registrar.

Some of the Naviance features include:

- Web based communication that allows students, parents, counselors and teachers to input data. This information can then be developed to individualize and personalize recommendations, and help prepare counselors and teachers for student/parent meetings. Naviance is frequently used in the private school community.

- The ability to send out all college application data electronically, (currently covers over half of all colleges). These colleges are using a common application and are accepting e-transmissions. This allows MLWGS to instantaneously send students' credentials to the receiving school.
- Powerful communication features which allow instant messaging to students from individual colleges who they have flagged as a school of choice.
- The ability to supplement and enhance all levels of counseling services from a developmental perspective: Freshmen – study skills development, Sophomores – personality assessment and career exploration, and Juniors/Seniors – college exploration and the application process.
- The ability to compile a prospective college list based on student interests, goals and criteria.
- Remote access from home to college data for averages in GPA's, ACT's and SAT's and acceptance rates from the class of 2009. For example, MLWGS had 107 students apply to UVA last year, with 68 accepted. Mr. Morton stated that this rate is possibly the highest for any high school in the state. Mrs. Loving confirmed that it was certainly higher than the national average of 41%, and MLWGS was over 60%.
- Scatter Plot diagrams for counselors which provide detailed data analysis (highlights strengths and weaknesses), and providing an opportunity to advise the student.
- The Scholarship List Option which allows students to view and move national, local and college merit offers of interest into their myNaviance account for follow-up and action.

In conclusion, Mr. Zweerink thanked the Board for their time today and allowing this presentation and invited questions.

Mrs. Lisa Marshall asked how colleges view a MLWGS GPA. Mrs. Deck responded that with each student application submitted, MLWGS also provides a school profile that includes details about MLWGS, such as average SAT and AP scores, the fact that MLWGS does not rank students, and that it is a competitive process for admittance; which provides the receiving institution with a context in which to translate that transcript and GPA.

For clarification, Mrs. Dianne Pettitt asked if a school profile is sent with each student application or if it is broadcasted to all colleges. Both senior counselors confirmed that one is sent with each application, whether it is a paper or electronic submission.

Mrs. Pettitt followed with a question concerning how this tool has impacted the counselors overall workload and the amount of time spent with each student. Mrs. Deck replied that counselors still work intensively with students and that will not change because students still have many questions. It has allowed the counselor to have data at their fingertips as opposed to looking through books, reference materials or navigating the college website. It also allows the counselor to guide the student to the same instant data for their own research.

Mrs. Pettitt summarized that the counselors are offering a better, more intensive service in a more efficient manner, but still spending as much time on tasks with each student. Mr. Zweerink commented that he has found that the underclassmen counselors were actually spending more time with their students because it gives the counselors an opportunity for group lessons while simultaneously making themselves more visible to the students. Mrs. Pettitt responded that, to clarify, the program is designed for students to be issued their Naviance accounts as freshmen, and they retain them throughout their high school experience; and this is the second year MLWGS has utilized this tool.

Mrs. Pettitt questioned the cost involved for Naviance. Mr. Zweerink responded that he didn't have the exact amount, but believed the package MLWGS purchased to be around \$1,500. He indicated that pricing varies based on the components purchased, with the basic college piece costing approximately \$1,000. One of the components the counselors did include was Career Inventory, but there were other options not purchased such as SAT Prep and Planning Your Schedule. He further noted that colleges are increasingly expecting to receive on-line digital applications and Naviance is currently the only software application that will combine all the pieces together; i.e., teacher recommendations, counselor recommendations, school profile, etc., with the student application. Mrs. Pettitt clarified that pricing was not calculated per student, but a singular purchase of the school; which Mr. Zweerink affirmed based on his understanding. Mr. Morton offered to obtain the MLWGS pricing and share it with this Board.

In closing, Mr. Morton asked the Board to look at slide 4 in the counselor's handout called 'what we (School Counseling Department) do that's not typical' for a sense of the added planning and focus that MLWGS counselors perform in addition to the typical 6-8 college applications per student overseen. On top of that, the counselors are in the busiest time of the year given the numerous middle school visits and the behind the scenes work the school counseling department contributes to.

Mrs. Marshall inquired whether or not any of the school districts are currently using Naviance. No one was aware of any other divisions using it at this time. Mrs. Gwynn Litchfield asked if scholarship information could be shared with the divisions that could not afford this tool. Mrs. Deck and Mrs. Loving indicated they would be happy to export data into an Excel spreadsheet and forward on to the appropriate designee as requested.

Mr. Morton reminded the Board that one of the original concepts for MLWGS was for it to be a place of experiment and innovation, so when there is a tool that the school has the ability to share, which would make everyone's work easier, that is very positive.

Mr. John Axelle questioned the counselors as to why Naviance has been so popular with private schools. Mrs. Deck stated that historically private schools spend more time on the college process. As 99% of MLWGS students go on to a 4-year institution, more time and attention is needed for them in the application process.

## **b. H1N1 Communication Update**

Copies of a letter that was sent home this week with every student, along with a consent form, were distributed to the Board. MLWGS would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Mr. Avula of the Richmond Health District in compiling this information and the parent newsletter 'Smoke & Scales' for assisting in getting notification to parents. MLWGS will only be offering the vaccination, not the nasal spray, as a service to the MLWGS community and are expecting 50% participation between students and staff. The Health District has asked for assistance from anyone who is a licensed medical professional in the MLWGS community to volunteer with the immunization program.

## **c. Update on Individual Staff Meetings**

Mr. Morton stated that he has met with 86 of 88 staff members. Many of these meetings have run longer than the 30 minutes originally conceived. He observed that, from the questions list provided at the September meeting, that the first question was 'what do you love about Maggie Walker Governor's School and why are you here?' Consistently, the answer was the students. Many teachers observed how intellectually curious MLWGS students are and how they push their instructors. Three of the university faculty members teaching classes at MLWGS indicated that they are done with their year-long curriculum by the end of the first semester so they find they must stay at least a week ahead of the curriculum.

Mr. Morton stated that, while discovering that the faculty is an extraordinary collection of individualists, he has learned that the student body is a diverse group, both in terms of background and world views, and in that discovery it is interesting to note how the students treat each other at MLWGS.

Mr. Morton would like to extend an invitation to each Board member and Superintendent (or their designee) to tour the MLWGS facility with a Student Ambassador and learn about this program through the students eyes. This tour will give everyone a different perspective on MLWGS.

In working with Mrs. Pat Taylor in review of MLWGS course offerings, it is believed that MLWGS offers more dual enrollment classes than any other high school in the state, but this data has not been quantified yet.

Mr. Morton informed the Board that the next piece he will be evaluating, along with his team, is a review of some of the internal structures in place. This may require a re-design or re-thinking of their functionality.

The third piece, in terms of dreaming for the future, is the mission statement of MLWGS, which talks about preparing MLWGS students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in terms of being leaders and global citizens. Two strong pieces of connection are cross-conceptual and cross-curriculum learning across the departments. Faculty members are even

talking about designing field trips that are cross-conceptual experiences. Along with that there has been a strong desire expressed to see how we thoughtfully re-engage in the international studies part of our mission that with the right type of policies in place, makes an experience available to every student regardless of their financial circumstances. He believes all of this to be very doable.

Mr. Morton informed the Board that, in approximately two weeks he should have more detailed feedback that he will be sharing with the faculty.

#### **d. Capital Improvement Project Planning**

Mr. Morton stated that, in talking with the Finance Committee, MLWGS is asking the divisions for help in developing a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for MLWGS. MLWGS is not looking to fund such a plan at this time and in this economy, but there needs to be a plan in place for when the money does begin to turn around. Tuition increases one year out will not cover the cost of replacing a roof on this building.

Mr. Morton observed that MLWGS needs a long term CIP. MLWGS is a school in each of the twelve divisions, so it is owned by each division, and how everyone thinks about these capital pieces is important. Mr. Morton is hoping to talk with the Superintendent's Chair and Vice-Chair, along with Steering Committee members about finding some support for the school. There are a number of Central Office responsibilities in this school without having a Central Office, so we can either pay for these services or work collaboratively. Mr. Morton noted that, at the same time, he wouldn't want to adversely impact one division over another. Thinking about a CIP for a school this size would not require months of work; more likely it would take a few days for someone with a qualified background (i.e., engineers, etc.) and have the ability to do such an analysis.

Mrs. Kimberly Gray inquired about the eligibility of historic tax credit monies for this type of improvement. Mr. Morton responded that we don't know if MLWGS is eligible at this time and would have to look into that. However, he noted, that replacing a roof and adding a concession stand probably would not qualify. An investigation of funding would be part of any planning process as we look into these capital projects.

#### **e. Slots for 2010-2011**

Mr. Morton distributed, for the Superintendents or their designee's, the annual slot commitment letter, along with a copy for each Board member. Mr. Morton is asking to get this commitment back in November for budget planning purposes. A reason for this is should a division want to give up a slot and another division want to pick up a slot, those conversations can begin well ahead of time. The budget gets very dependent very quickly on this part of the planning.

Mrs. Lisa Marshall asked if the November deadline was firm, since hearing from the Governor about state cuts to education is not expected until December. Mr. Morton

replied that it is a starting point, knowing that adjustments may need to be made. It does involve a lot of planning that MLWGS needs to do, being that MLWGS's planning tends to be ahead of the divisions so we can begin to respond. The Finance Committee has already talked about looking at several different plans in terms of percentage cuts, and MLWGS work with the Superintendent's Steering Committee, but this piece drives those conversations.

Two other pieces of information learned yesterday at the VASS Legislative Meeting, is that 1) it does not appear that VRS rates will increase next year. However, as we know, this is subject to change and 2) according to Susan Delany – Head Staffer for the Senate Finance Committee, who indicated the Governor was going to do everything he could to protect K-12. While that really doesn't tell what's going to happen, other than there is an intent, which is appreciated, hopefully the reality will match the intent.

#### **f. Coming Events**

The full list of activities is on page 18.

#### **g. Comments**

Mr. Morton stated, "I met with the Planning Committee this week and we had additional conversations on the UVA Study Report. A follow-up meeting will occur on October 29<sup>th</sup> to continue that work. There are some good key overall target items, but what is still missing are some recommended actions. The Superintendent's Steering Committee Chair, Dr. Janet Crawley, and Vice-Chair, Dr. Marcus Newsome, will then meet with the Planning Committee on November 10<sup>th</sup> which is the week that I am out of the country visiting schools in Scotland and the Netherlands looking at schools and their programs/technology. We plan to have a community input opportunity (*November 20<sup>th</sup> was suggested, but this date conflicts with another school activity and will need to be rescheduled*) detailing the recommendations we are making and giving people time to react before we present a final report to this Board, presumably at the December meeting. The good news is that things are already happening as a result of this work."

Mr. Morton stated that he is happy to report that MLWGS has already increased the middle school visits by approximately 10. He stated that, "We are glad to be getting to places in the districts which we have not normally been. The Superintendent's have been extraordinary in working with us and helping these visits to occur. Their leadership is making a difference. Long range, I am spending a lot of time considering what we need to do to get information to parents at the elementary level about how they need to support their child so that by the time they hit the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they are on a level playing field. It is not about saying let's lower our standards, it about what can we do to prepare students to engage in the work. Students from every school district with the right support can be very competitive here and do well."

Mr. Morton informed the Board that this past Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, he and select faculty members met with representatives of the Black History Museum which included

their Chair, a Board Member, and the Executive Director to discuss an interest in working with MLWGS students. One potential project involves research of the African American experience in relation to Shakespeare's Richard III, and as it turns out; the drama students will be performing this piece for their fall production at MLWGS. Additionally, the hope is to increase conversations about Maggie L. Walker and who she was in a historical context to this school.

Finally, back on the international studies piece, if we really do our thinking well and find a way for each student to spend time in another country sometime during their career here, I believe that challenge should also stand for faculty. Two weeks ago, Mrs. Connie Schuler, Foreign Language Teacher at MLWGS, passed along an opportunity for our faculty that I would like to share with this Board. The Hanban in China, which is the largest Chinese Education Department, in partnership with College Board and AASA (American Association of School Administrators) has extended an offer to allow a team of 6 faculty members (one member from each department) to travel to China this December 2 – 10, at a cost to this school of \$400.00/person. In addition to the team building this would offer, the first regional unit that we will focus on next year is scheduled to be China.

Mr. Morton asked the Board for any questions that they might have concerning the Director's Report. Mrs. Marshall stated that she wanted to thank him for sharing the Naviance information and found it very informative. She stated Henrico was currently utilizing a tool called Gaggle, which was designed to get scholarship information to students.

## **VII. Action Agenda Items**

### ***a. New Clubs Approval***

The following are submitted for your approval: The RAMPS Club sponsored by Ms. Sherri Arnold, Didgeridoo Club sponsored by Mr. Greg O'Bryan and The Arabic Club sponsored by Ms. Samar Abushkheidem. There being no questions or comments;

On motion by Mrs. Kimberly Gray, seconded by Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, the Board unanimously approved the new clubs submitted.

## **VIII. Materials for Board Review**

### ***a. New Club Proposals***

Mr. Morton briefed the Board on two proposed new clubs. One is being sponsored by Ms. Sherri Arnold and is called The Random Acts of Kindness Club. The second is the MLWGS Checkers Club, sponsored by Ms. Michele Surat. Materials describing these activities are enclosed. A vote for the Board's approval will be requested at the November meeting.



***b. Feasibility Study – Restroom, Ticket Booth and Concession Stand Facility***

Mr. Morton briefly noted that the committee created for this project is seeking approval from this Board to proceed with fund raising needed for this project. Once the funding has been secured the committee will come back to this Board with a final design for approval before it would go out to bid. Mr. Morton then requested that Mr. Phil Tharp speak to the Board on this issue. Mr. Tharp, in turn, requested that Mrs. Sandy Whitehead, Chairman of the Parent Committee, and Mr. Rob Comet of BCWH, address the details of this project to the Board.

Sandy Whitehead: Good morning, my name is Sandy Whitehead and I am the parent of a 10<sup>th</sup> grader here at Maggie Walker. I joined this committee last year when my child was a freshmen and became the Chair. The committee is comprised of several interested parents, Administrators, members of the Athletic Boosters, members of the PTSA, members of the GS Foundation, and the Athletic Trainers. Together, we brainstormed about what is needed and why it is needed to support our athletes and gym classes out by the track.

The discussions that followed for our committee focused on three major categories:

- 1) Convenience
- 2) Opportunity
- 3) Security and Safety

Convenience – we have a nice athletic facility and no bathrooms anywhere nearby. For the students either in gym class or in afterschool sports they have to walk all the way inside the building which is a good ten minutes there and back. It's not convenient for the spectators, the umpires, visiting trainers, or visiting team members.

Opportunity – the other reason I strongly recommend we continue down the path of creating this facility is for the opportunity to sell concessions. We have a number of groups and clubs that could take advantage of using this facility to sell concessions and would also be a benefit to the spectators. Also, this facility would give us the opportunity to bring in regional competitions such as track and field, and we could become a magnet for these types of events. This brings me back to toilet facilities as critical. I was at the JV tournament this past Saturday and overheard the visiting girls team say “I need to use the restroom, where is it? Another responded, oh, they don't have restrooms here.” I told her, “no, no, no..... they are inside the building.” The building is unlocked, you just go inside. Which brings me to the third, and I think most compelling reason:

Safety – the building is unlocked. People can wander in at will. Yes, we have security but it's a large building. We have people for the safety of not only the building itself in terms of potential vandalism, potentially bringing bad things into the building, and also for the students walking into a dark building. It's not what I consider a safe environment and I really shudder to think if anything were to happen to any of our children.

So really, for those three reasons I, personally, and our committee as a whole, really support the idea of creating this concession stand/toilet facility.

The next step that we did was create and post an RFP to try to find a good design/architectural firm that could help us move down the path of determining what we need, how it might look, where it might be located, etc. We had four very good proposals come in, two of whom seemed to be a good match for this facility based on their credentials. We interviewed two of the different architectural firms, and then we selected BCWH, because they have such extraordinary amount experience in school design, concession building designs and in working in a school environment.

Collectively our committee has asked BCWH to move ahead and start the preliminary design work. Mr. Rob Comet of BCWH, is also the parent of two children who attended and graduated from Maggie Walker and knows how the school operates; plus he was the architect who actually worked on the renovation of this facility. With that said, I will ask Rob to talk to you about his work to this point.

Mr. Morton noted for members of the Board that the original renovation plans for Maggie L. Walker Governor's School included a concession stand, but due to funding constraints was eliminated.

Mr. Rob Comet: Good morning, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you and I will be brief. I think, as Mr. Morton pointed out, this has been an identified need for a long time. In fact I've been actively involved since before the renovation to try to bring this along. The need has not gone away. If anything we have successfully moved forward with raising funds to put lights out on the field and add seating. There is an active movement to expand our tennis facilities. But all of these efforts to attract regional events are thwarted when you don't have basic facilities to support the program, and this is a basic facility.

The facilities building was master planned in a particular location, which is still consistent with what is being proposed. We are talking about a location right inside of the existing track field that is right now occupied by some power. One of the reasons the power is there is because it was identified that there would be a building at that location. However, how we now fit a structure around the existing power is an issue we have to work out.

Given the building location, the idea is that a visitor would park in the public lot and come through a ticket or control point. Once inside you have concessions, toilets, and training facilities which would amount to an injury treatment location to supplement the facilities inside the main building, and some storage. One idea that recently emerged was to have a small changing room for officials. In summary, we're talking about 1,400 sq.ft, the building would be very functional, very modest in scale.

BCWH was asked to help facilitate scope definition, budget, schedules, and some graphics to support fundraising. With approval today we will move through finishing the study, confirming a budget, producing some graphics and then support the fundraising as appropriate. We will then finish the design work so we can bid the project. At this time that is all I have for this Board from a technical standpoint.

Mrs. Whitehead shared that fund raising has support from some key school groups – the Athletic Boosters have put aside \$25,000, the GS Foundation \$10,000 and the PTSA has set aside \$49,300. Collectively there is about \$83,300.00 for this project. Based on preliminary ideas the estimated cost will be \$250,000 - \$270,000, so we are 1/3 of the way there. We are planning to create a fundraising committee to continue supporting this project and we plan to do it all internally. We do not plan to ask any of the school districts for money.

I want to convey to this Board that I think this is a critical need for our entire Maggie Walker community and I think it will help to supplement both the athletic and instructional programs. Today we are asking again for your support to continue on in the design and the fundraising phase, and to come back to you when we get closer to the bidding and construction of this building.

Mr. Morton offered to the Board, “Mr. Chairman, I apologize. This should have been in the action items. I would ask for the Board’s indulgence to make this happen, particularly as it does not require any financial resources from the Board. Before anything would happen, the money would need to be fully raised, and then we would bring a plan back to you using all the proper procurement procedures and working internally with Phil Tharp, to determine who will build this project.”

***On motion by Mrs. Valarie Ayers, seconded by Mrs. Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved amending the agenda to include a vote on the Concession Stand Fundraising Phase.***

Mr. Ivan Mattox invited any questions or comments from Board members concerning this project.

Mr. John Axelle stated, for clarification, that his understanding of what has been asked of this Board is an action to approve proceeding with fundraising activity. He also wanted to ensure the understanding that this Board is in no way indicating their willingness to put any funding behind this project. Mr. Morton replied that would be an appropriate motion and assured the Board that everyone involved understands this intention.

Mrs. Pettitt asked about the position of the Superintendent’s Steering Committee in this matter. Dr. Janet Crawley stated they are supporting this project as presented.

On motion by Mr. John Axelle, seconded by Mrs. Kimberly Gray, the Board unanimously approved fundraising activity to be conducted by MLWGS constituency groups in support of a proposed concession stand on the athletic field, and is committing no School Board funds to this project.

Dr. Stewart Roberson asked if the Board should consider investigating the use of portable facilities on the exterior of the building in the interim since concerns about safety have been raised as part of the presentation. Mr. Morton indicated his willingness to work with Mr. Tharp to determine those needs. He will report their finding back to the Superintendent’s Steering Committee.

Mrs. Pettitt requested an estimated timeline for the completion of this project. Mrs. Whitehead responded that it would depend on how quickly the funds could be raised. She stated there is a lot of interest in this project at the moment. Mrs. Pettitt asked how long it had taken to raise the \$89,300, but Mrs. Whitehead was unable to answer. Mr. Morton indicated that his sense was that most of the money had been raised over the last 8 months. Mrs. Whitehead responded that the last 12 months was probably more accurate.

Mrs. Pettitt addressed Mr. Comet for a timeline estimate from start to finish on construction. Mr. Comet stated that it is a small building, so probably 6-8 months. It could actually happen faster but in reality it's going to end up being low bid, and then weather will be a factor. He stated that he thinks there is a lot of momentum for this project and that it would be a mistake not to ride that momentum, even in recessionary times. Relative to 600 families, this is not a huge expense raising the remaining two thirds. Mr. Comet hopes the fundraising occurs in such a way that we could bid the project this spring and do the work next summer. He believes it is feasible to have the new facility for the next school year.

Mrs. Marshall expressed a concern over the cost estimate presented stating that Henrico put in a concession stand of similar size in one of their locations last year and the total was around \$500,000. Mr. Comet responded that the building proposed is small, with the concession area itself being an open room, and that the site chosen has already been prepped, so he still feels that their estimate is realistic.

***c. VDOT Easement for Bridge Repair I-95 Overpass of Lombardy Street***

Mr. Tharp discussed a VDOT communication to this Board indicating a repair that will occur adjacent to our parking lot. The preliminary indication is that they will be purchasing MLWGS property as part of an easement. The plan is to remove the current fence line and come into the catchment base area, but not extend into the student parking lot so it will not impact the ability to access parking. They will, however, be coming onto the lower corner end of the athletic field which currently houses the pole vault and long jump pit areas, which has Coach Holdren a little concerned because of track meets. If VDOT does come onto the property with construction materials that area may have to be off limits for events.

VDOT will repair the under surface of I-95 and the sub and super structure. They will also be closing a couple of lanes during the night while they resurface. This project will begin mid May or June and continue most of the summer.

Personnel from CSX Rail, VA Union, State and Local Police and City Planners have all been a part of this discussion. One of the areas looked at is to secure the area after completion from transients who have been using the area under the bridge for years. The area will be secured with a double locking system for police to be able to check more often than they have in the past.

Mr. Tharp stated that he is expecting a proposal from VDOT by October 21<sup>st</sup> which we will bring to this Board. As part of the negotiations, we intend to ask VDOT to clear the vegetation that parallels the existing fence providing a better line of sight under the bridge. Also, when the fence is reconnected that they connect to our fence line so there is no breach.

Mr. Morton stated that we will be bringing this item back to this Board in November.

For the record, Mrs. Kimberly Gray stated that due to a conflict of interest, she will not be discussing this matter with any other Board member nor voting on any action in this matter.

**IX. Information**

Mr. Morton noted the 2009 Newsweek Poster located in the Board Room  
Cisco Donation Letter  
2009-2010 School Advisory Council Members  
August 2009 Planning Committee Minutes  
School News Items  
2009-2010 Student Awards & Recognition

**X. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting**

None

**XI. Closed Meeting**

On motion by Mr. John Axelle, and seconded by Mrs. Valarie Ayers, the Board unanimously approved to enter into closed session in accordance with:

Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2) of the Code of Virginia, this Board will go into closed meeting to consider the admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a Maggie L. Walker Governor's School student.

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

On motion by Mrs. Lisa Marshall, seconded by Mrs. Valarie Ayers, the Board unanimously approved returning to open session.

On motion by Mr. John Axelle, seconded by Mrs. Kimberly Gray, now, therefore, be it resolved that the Regional School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open 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.

**Vote:**

**Absent During Closed Meeting:**

**Ayes:** Mrs. Pettitt, Mr. Mattox, Mr. Axselle, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Litchfield, Mrs. Lindsay, Mrs. Ayers, Mr. Pritchett and Mrs. Gray

**Nays:** None

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Barbara Marshall, Clerk of the Board

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Ivan Mattox, Chairman

Mr. Fred Morton recommended to the Regional School Board that Student No. 0901 be re-admitted to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School with the beginning of the second semester.

On motion by Mr. John Axselle, seconded by Mrs. Dianne Pettitt, the board unanimously approved the Director's recommendation for re-admission of Student No. 0901 beginning with the second semester.

**Open Discussion**

None

**XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Mr. John Axselle, the meeting was adjourned.

**XIV. Next Meeting**

November 5, 2009 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

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Ivan Mattox, Chairman

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Fred S. Morton IV, Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk