

MINUTES

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

Thursday, October 19, 2017

9:06 am.

I. Call to Order

John Axselle, Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Regional School Board and visitors stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. John Axselle, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Harwood Hall, **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. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Willie Elliott for Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **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:

Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. Christopher Reber, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Mr. Reeve Ashcraft, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Mrs. Victoria Oakley for Mr. Thomas Kranz, **Interim Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Michael 'Max' Smith– MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed and Deborah Snagg – MLWGS Staff
Catherine Nicholas – GS Foundation
Peggy Feldmann – Advocacy Committee Member

V. Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Ayers noted that while listed under Action, the budget transfer request page [XII.g] is marked as Review. The clerk will correct this page and repost. No action is necessary by the Board.

On motion by Martha Harris, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, minutes of the regular meeting from September 21, 2017 were approved on a majority vote, with Mrs. Harris abstaining.

VII. Recognitions

Lexus of Richmond's week one nominee for the Leadership Award Scholarship is Lauren McCarey ('18-Chesterfield) of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. With a 4.3 GPA, she scored a 1,530 out of a possible 1,600 on the SAT's. Lauren is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Latin and English Honor Societies. She has scored 3 perfect 5's on AP tests and in 2017 she was named an AP Scholar with Honors.

As a four-year Varsity field hockey player, Lauren is currently the team captain for her senior season. In 2014 the team was the Virginia 4A State Runner-Up. Throughout her high school career, Lauren has collected accolades including All-State 2nd Team, All-Region 1st Team, Richmond Times Dispatch All-Metro 2nd Team, and All-Conference 1st Team. Additionally, Lauren has played defense for the Varsity soccer team since 2015, and she had previously been the JV soccer team captain.

Dr. Siddiqi arrived for the meeting.

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.

Remarks provided and presented by Peggy Feldmann:

Good morning, school board members, superintendents, and faculty. I am Peggy Feldmann, the lead of PTSA Advocacy. I'd like to provide an update on funding as the state is moving into a new biennium. While the governor, secretaries and planning and budget are busy determining this year's governor's budget, the Department of Education's ingoing position was that the All Year Governor's Schools state funding will not include a 2.5% increase per-pupil attendance nor a \$50/student/course as these were add-ons to the 2017-2018 fiscal year budgets. This is a \$292,000 decrease for Maggie Walker. In the two years this money was available, the Regional School Board approved the hiring of a technology professional, a psychologist, leased a new bus, increased the athletic budget so parents would not continue to pay \$45,000 in operational costs, paid for waxing the gym floor instead of the parents, paid for graduation so the seniors and the PTSA did not have to pay the bill and bought replacement textbooks for many of the decade-old books. All of these were money well spent and should be in the normal operating budget of the school. A \$292,000 decrease will require a \$400/student increase by the localities for the school to avoid losing services or personnel. Since the \$200/student increase the Regional School Board has provided over the last few years has essentially only covered VRS and healthcare costs each year, more realistically, a \$600/student increase is required to maintain status quo. This means, even with a \$600/student increase in funding, there are no additional funds for the capital technology and facility plans or to save money for a replacement of the deteriorating track which has been discussed for years. Even with the \$292,000 additional dollars last year and the year prior, the school had so many needs that the budgeted track money was supplanted for higher priorities. And without a fully funded capital, technology, and facility plan, we are one infrastructure breakdown away in this 17-year-old remodeled, historic building.

Since all Governor's schools will be affected by this decrease, we anticipate this decrease in funding will be reinstated or made up with a different per pupil, state funding formula. Discussions are ongoing right now down at Capital Square. We urge each of you individually, or as a body, to move forward to have the 2.5% increase and \$50/student/course reinstated since the per course add-on amount is financially more equitable, for the full day, 7 or 8-course schools like Thomas Jefferson, Appomattox, and MLWGS. Even better, we would like the state funding increased to \$100/student/course. This is what Thomas Jefferson Governor's School would also request.

If the Governor puts forward a new state funding formula, it will probably come from the November 2016 DOE report. While that report was discussed here last year and establishes a bizarre formula that we do not support, it has one redeeming factor that Dr. Lewis pursued. Option 2 acknowledges, for the first time, that full-day schools do require more funding to operate than half-day schools. Should state leadership use this report for a new formula, we urge this board and superintendents to actively and aggressively pursue Option 2 and a 100% increase to the basic support of a student. The DOE report suggests that a 10% increase of basic support, or roughly an extra \$90,000 for Maggie Walker, is all that is required to operate a full day Governor's school as compared to a part day Governor's school. Maggie Walker is currently at a 60/40 split of local to state funding. This potential decrease in state funding drops that ratio to 65/35 local to state. In the DOE report, some part day Governor's schools are 100% funded by the state. And I think that all of your school districts receive more funding than a 60/40 ratio of local to state funding. Aggressively pursuing state dollars, so the school is funded as any

other high school, makes fiscal and logical sense. We urge the board and superintendents to actively pursue these increases in state dollars specifically for Maggie Walker, not just for your school district. Please use your leadership and your dedication to this school to financially and politically insert yourselves in the decisions of state funding of Governor's Schools.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Gaston arrived for the meeting.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Facility Update: Vestibule Project.** The Director reported this project is almost ready to proceed and the school is awaiting its glass order.
- **1:1 Pilot Rollout Update.** Devices are now in student's hands and MW is in the process of assessing data collected from students, teachers, and parents as to how the pilot is going and student experiences.
- **Budget Development FY19 Town Hall** on December 5, 2017 @ 6:00 pm in the MW forum.
- **Information Forums for Prospective Families:** November 13, 14, and 15, 2017.
- **MLWGS Achievement Profile.** Compiled by the MW Counseling Department, this document is data rich and illustrates student test scores for 2017: The average SAT was 1,421, the average ACT was 31.9, and the average AP score was 4.2. The Class of 2017 combined for \$16,543,796.00 in scholarship offers, averaged to \$87,999.00 per student.
- **Class of 2018 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists:**
 - Eric Campbell (Chesterfield)
 - Sarah Carr (Richmond)
 - Kristin Hines (Henrico)
 - Autumn Hughes (Chesterfield)
 - Alexander Hutchinson (Richmond)
 - William Jesselson (Chesterfield)
 - Minhie Kwak (Henrico)
 - Lauren McCarey (Chesterfield)
 - William Miller (Chesterfield)
 - Catherine Qian (Henrico)
 - Katherine Quinn (Richmond)
 - Brittani Telfair (Richmond)

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1995. High school students enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program by taking preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying tests (PSAT/NMSQT®) – a test which serves

as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

B. Coming Events

October 19, 2017, through November 9, 2017 (see page IX.b for details).

C. 2018-2019 Division Slot Letters

As MLWGS begins the planning process for the next school term as directed by Policy 1029 adopted May 18, 2000, amended December 18, 2014, and December 17, 2015, it annually seeks this slot commitment statement from participating divisions.

Letters were provided at the table for participating school divisions for their 2017-2018 student enrollment commitment. Letters were mailed to members not in attendance. Each letter should be executed by the division superintendent and school board member and returned to MLWGS by December 1, 2017.

D. MLWGS 2017 SAT and AP Scoring

Virginia’s 2017 public high school seniors outperformed their national peers in reading, writing, and mathematics on the revamped SAT. The College Board revised the college admissions test last year to better align the assessment with content students actually learn in high school and skills and knowledge identified as important to success in college.

Of the 51,613 Virginia public school 2017 graduates who took the SAT, 52 percent met or exceeded the SAT’s college-readiness benchmarks in both reading and writing, and mathematics.

Nationwide, 43 percent of SAT takers met the readiness standard on both sections of the test.

The 2017 SAT Virginia All-Schools Mean SAT Scores table below includes the performance of private, parochial and home-schooled students, as well as public high school seniors.

2017 Virginia & National All-Schools Mean SAT Scores						
Group	Overall		Reading & Writing		Mathematics	
	Virginia	Nation	Virginia	Nation	Virginia	Nation
All	1102	1060	561	533	541	527
Asian	1202	1181	590	569	611	612
Black	962	941	493	479	469	462
Hispanic	1063	990	542	500	521	489
White	1149	1118	586	565	562	553

The below totals represent College Board results for public schools only:

2017 Overall			2017 Evidences-Based Reading & Writing			2017 Mathematics		
MLWGS	Virginia	Nation	MLWGS	Virginia	Nation	MLWGS	Virginia	Nation
1421	1102	1070	720.5	560	538	700.5	541	533

The College Board also reported that 48,108, or 67 percent, of the 71,940 Virginia public high school students who took at least one Advanced Placement examination during 2016-2017 earned at least one

score of three or higher, generally qualifying for college credit. Virginia public school students took a total of 143,221 AP exams during the year. Within College Board totals, 497 MLWGS students took 1,287 AP exams with 95% obtaining a score of three or higher.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

The Director detailed personnel action noted in Folder B that included a club stipend to be filled in a 1/3 capacity each among three parents. Also, one substitute has been promoted to a .6 teacher.

On motion by Javaid Siddiqi, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following consent items were unanimously approved: October personnel actions, fiscal status report of August 31, 2017, and the donations report of August 31, 2017.

XII. Action Items

a. Policy Amendment: 1010 MLWGS Constitution and Bylaws

The Regional School Board (RSB) and the Superintendent's Steering Committee tasked the Policy Steering Committee (PSC) with amending the annual meeting schedule for the RSB to consist of a maximum of six meetings.

The PSC has revised Policy No. 1010 – MLWGS Constitution and Bylaws to accommodate a six-meeting schedule (see Bylaws). The committee has also reinstated an Executive Board that shall have the full authority of the RSB with the exception of an amendment to the constitution and bylaws, approval of policy, modifications to the approved budget, issues that would require a closed session, or employment of the director. The Executive Board shall consist of five RSB members elected from its membership at the January reorganizational meeting for a one-year term. The Executive Board shall meet during those months the regular meetings do not occur, with the exception of the month of July.

The Director read parts of the red line version which was wordsmithed by the Policy Committee. One item he noted was the agenda section reading: 'if two executive board members are in disagreement with a voting item on the executive agenda, said item will be moved to the next Regional School Board meeting.' A question arose if two members of the Regional School Board have the pre-emptive authority to move an item from the Executive Board agenda to the RSB agenda. There being no discussion, the RSB determined to leave the language as written.

Mrs. Ayers asked if policy submission/approval and meeting minutes' approval and public posting will require a change to accommodate stretches of months between RSB meetings. Mrs. Ogburn stated the Executive Board should be empowered to approve minutes as all board members would have the opportunity to review them prior to approval; however, policy would have to wait or the RSB may have to call a regular meeting if it was a pressing matter. Mrs. Ogburn also suggested the policy committee could send proposals to board members in advance of meetings for their review. The Chair added his agreement that a full board meeting could be called to conduct timely business if needed. Mrs. Ogburn

sees a flexible meeting schedule that could exchange an Executive Board meeting with a Regional Board meeting and vice-versa.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, Policy 1010 – MLWGS Constitution and Bylaws Amended was unanimously approved.

b. Election of MLWGS Regional School Board Executive Board 2017

As stipulated in the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies Constitution and By-Laws, Policy No. 1010, Article IV, Section 3:

An Executive Committee (the Executive Board), which shall have the full authority of the Regional Board in all matters except the amendment of the constitution and bylaws, approval of policy, modifications to the approved budget, issues that would require a closed session or employment of the Director. The Executive Board shall consist of five Regional Board members: The Chair or Vice-Chair and four other Regional Board members to be elected from its membership at the January reorganizational meeting for a term of one year. Terms of Executive Board members shall coincide with those of the Regional Board. The Regional School Board shall fill vacancies within the membership of the Executive Board if a member ceases to be a member of their local school board.

Willing to serve for 2017:
Mr. John Axselle, Hanover
Mrs. Harwood Hall, King & Queen
Mrs. Michelle Ogburn, Henrico
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg
Mr. John Wright, Goochland

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, the slate of RSB members willing to serve on the Executive Board for 2017 was unanimously approved.

c. RSB Calendar of Meeting 2017-2018 Amended

With the approval of Policy No. 1010 - Constitution and Bylaws Amended, the following is proposed as a meeting schedule for the RSB for the remainder of this term, 2017-2018:

October 19, 2017	Regional School Board Meeting
November 9, 2017	Executive Board Meeting
December 2017	No Meeting
January 18, 2018	Reorganization Regional School Board Meeting

Going forward, the following schedule is proposed as a guide for the 2018 calendar of meetings:

January 18, 2018	Reorganization Regional School Board Meeting
February	Regional School Board Meeting & Budget Workshop
March	Regional School Board Meeting
April	Regional School Board Meeting
May	Executive Board Meeting
June	Executive Board Meeting

July	No Meeting
August	Regional School Board Meeting
September	Executive Board Meeting
October	Regional School Board Meeting
November	Executive Board Meeting
December	No Meeting

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the amended RSB and Executive Board calendar of meetings for 2017-2018 was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Ogburn made an inquiry about superintendent attendance for Executive Board meetings. Dr. Gill answered that only the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Superintendent's Steering Committee would attend Executive Board meetings.

- d. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal: Ottawa and Toronto, Spring 2018**
- e. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal: Russia, Summer 2018**
- f. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal: Morocco, Spring 2018**

Items d), e), and f) were considered as a slate.

d) AP Comparative Government student field trip to visit key Canadian governing institutions and to meet with major Canadian political leaders. Students will learn about significant differences between a presidential and parliamentary system.

This trip will be comprised of ten (10) to sixteen (16) students and three (3) chaperones.

Estimated Total Trip Cost: \$25,500

Estimate per Student Cost: Not provided at this time

e) Combining tourism with study and broad-based travel with the development of personal relationships with locals, this trip represents a unique opportunity for students to become well acquainted with the Russian people and their history, architecture, religion, culture, and way of life. By combining the background knowledge gained in the seminars and readings with real-life, first-person examination and access to skilled, experienced Russian educators who are professionally and personally knowledgeable in precisely these fields, students will have a unique opportunity to experience Russian hospitality, appreciate the nation's history, and gain a profound and personally meaningful appreciation of Russian history and culture.

This trip is designed to accommodate eight (8) to twenty (20) students and one or two (1-2) chaperones.

Estimate per Student Cost: \$4,300

f) The Gender and Culture in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Senior Seminar explores the elements and evolution of cultures in the MENA region in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Morocco provides an excellent cultural pivot point by joining east and west; traditional and non-traditional; and allows students to explore a cultural amalgamation that is unique and shaped by geography, religion, and colonial experience.

This trip will be comprised of sixteen (16) students and four (4) chaperones.

Estimated Cost: \$2,630/student

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Martha Harris, the proposed Canada, Russia and Morocco 2018 trips were unanimously approved.

g. Budget Transfer Request

Source: MLWGS 1:1 Pilot Initiative

Account Code 830.0000.0000.0000.3222 Use Fund Balance	Account Code Increase 830.1100.5896.2280.2280
Student Device Pilot Initiative Total \$32,731.00	Student Pilot Initiative Total \$32,731.00
TOTAL: \$32,731.00	TOTAL \$32,731.00

Rationale: Due to the mid-summer requisition of device equipment, FY17 funds were unable to be applied to the 1:1 student initiative and were rolled over into the Fund Balance. Equipment has now been procured and the school requests movement of funds that were not appropriated in FY18.

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Sarah Barber, the budget transfer request was unanimously approved.

h. Bullying Prevention Month

In an effort to promote awareness of school bullying, the Regional School Board has designated the month of October as Bullying Prevention Month.

WHEREAS, school bullying has become an increasingly significant problem in the United States and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, over twenty percent of the youth in the United States are estimated to be involved in bullying each year, either as a bully or as a victim; and

WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred sixty thousand students in kindergarten through twelfth grade miss school every day due to a fear of being bullied; and

WHEREAS, bullying can take many forms, including verbal, physical, and most recently in cyberspace, and can happen in many places on and off school grounds; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Virginia parents, students, teachers, and school administrators to be aware of bullying, and to encourage discussion of the problem as a school community; and

WHEREAS, the Regional School Board has developed policy on anti-bullying to encourage positive behaviors and to eliminate bullying behaviors including Policies 2065, 5030, and 8002; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Regional School Board recognizes the month of October 2017 as Bullying Prevention Month, with the intention that the issue of bullying and its prevention be discussed in the classroom during that time.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Harwood Hall, the October is Bullying Prevention Month proclamation was unanimously approved.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy Proposals

The following was submitted by the Policy Steering Committee for RSB review:

Policy 5000.3 – Staff Health

Policy 5005 – Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract Amended

Policy 5007.4 – School Bus Drivers

Policy 5025 – Access to Employee Social Media Accounts

Policy 5090 – Unlawful Manufacture, Distribution, Dispensing, Possession or Use of a Controlled Substance

With RSB review, approval will be requested at the January 2018 meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes October 5, 2017
- 2018 Niche Ranking of MLWGS: #2 Best HS in Virginia
- 2017 School Profile Used for Colleges/Universities

- New Clubs Approved by Administration
 - Badminton Club
 - Pack Club
 - Film Club
 - Silence Hurts International
 - Women of the World
 - Kids are Scientists Too
 - Student Interfaith Alliance
 - Charity Miles Club
 - Students Against Climate Change

- NHS Induction Ceremony at MLWGS
- Mw Golf Regional Runner Up with State Qualifiers
- Senior Regional Orchestra Qualifiers

- 2017 Fall Festival Recap

XV. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report

Dr. Gill reported seven superintendents were in attendance at their morning meeting and heard from Dr. Lowerre his verbal update and middle school visits report similar to what this board heard today.

The superintendents continue to look at the capital improvement plan and have asked for more tweaks before it will be ready to present.

Also, the committee discussed a specific DOE regulation with a sunset clause that could potentially cost all Governor’s Schools funding and specifically MW of \$292,000, but this is not yet set in stone and is in advance of the upcoming General Assembly session. However, this something we need to take note of and begin to approach from an advocacy standpoint. Dr. Gill remarked there is strength in numbers as opposed to approaching this development as a standalone school, but as a collaborative of Governor’s Schools.

XVI. Closed Meeting

None.

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting and Any Action Taken if Necessary as a Result of Closed Meeting

None.

XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XIX. Adjournment

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Sarah Barber, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:58 am.

Next Meeting – Executive Board

November 9, 2017, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x 2190.

John Axselle III, Chairman

Robert C. Lowerre, Ph.D.
Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk