

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, September 17, 2015

9:04 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

Ms. Mairead Guy ('17-Richmond) led 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

Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Mr. Kevin Hazzard, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools

Ms. Sue Dibble, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools

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

Ms. Linda Hyslop, *School Board*, Hopewell 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. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Dr. Pete Gretz for Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools

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

Dr. Melody Hackney, **Interim Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools

Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Dr. Renee Williams, **Interim Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Dana Bedden, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Jeff McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Ms. Megan Rainey, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

**Absent:**

Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools  
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Rick Richardson, **Interim Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools  
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools

**Also present:**

Phil Tharp and Wendy Ellis – MLWGS Administration  
Wendy DeGroat and Deborah Snagg – MLWGS Staff  
Carolyn Finn ('16-Henrico) - Student  
Laura Lewis – GS Foundation  
Marianne Macon and Anne Hayes – PTSA Advocacy Committee  
Sydney Bland and Penny Moss – Citizens

**V. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dianne Smith, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Barbara Crawley, minutes for the regular meeting of August 20, 2015 were unanimously approved.

**VII. Recognitions**

- Carolyn Finn ('16-Henrico), National Recipient of the Prominent Finland-US Senate Youth Exchange Scholarship, summer 2015
- Wells Fargo Cup – 2A State Champions for VHSL Athletics 2014-2015. Dr. McGee remarked that in future years Walker competition for this honor will also target academics, which historically the school has not fully participated in. Examples cited: forensics and debate; MLWGS competes in different leagues, not VHSL.

**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.

There were no public comments.

## **IX. Director's Report**

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

- On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the school opened with 746 students, including 187 freshmen from twelve school districts. Dr. McGee commended transportation directors from each of the divisions stating, "They did a fantastic job making sure the buses arrived as scheduled."
- Middle school informational visits begin soon.

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

September 17, 2015 through October 15, 2015 (see page IX.b, for details)

## **X. Unfinished Business**

None

## **XI. Action Items**

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

The following was submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for Board approval: Policy No. 1003 – Board Member Oath of Office, Policy No. 1009 – Rules of Order, Policy No. 1014 – Closed Meetings *Amended*, Policy No. 1016.1 – Administration in Policy Absence, Policy No. 1018 – Agenda Preparation and Dissemination, Policy No. 1021 – Quorum, Policy No. 1024 – Public Participation at School Board Meetings, Regulation No. 1024-R – Regulation for Public Participation at School Board Meetings, Policy No. 1025 – Voting Method, Policy No. 1026 – School Board Clerk *Amended*, Policy No. 1030 – Admission of Students *Amended*, Policy No. 1040 – School Attorney *Amended*, Policy No. 2012 – Administration in Policy Absence *Amended*, Policy No. 2014 – Building and Grounds Maintenance, Policy No. 2015 – Reporting of Hazards, Policy No. 2018 – Communicable Diseases, Policy No. 2023 – Threat Assessment *Amended*, Policy No. 2024 – Weapons in School, Regulation 2024-R – Regulation: Weapons in School, Policy No. 2045 – Service Animals in School, Policy No. 2050 – Distribution of Information/Materials, Regulation 5065-R1 Sick Leave *Amended*, Policy No. 7007 – Annual School Report, Policy No. 7009 – Management of Funds, and Policy No. 7011 – School Activity Funds. Proposed policies and regulations are grounded in model policy of the Virginia School Board Association.

Dr. McGee noted that Policy No. 1024 and Regulation 1024-R are submitted in September with legal review that recommended changes from August first read. Counsel recommendations include elimination of redundancy between policy and the regulation, and omitting the following specific language, "The public information period shall not exceed thirty minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three minutes at the discretion of the chairperson," as a speaker either has three minutes or they do not.

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, all of the above mentioned policies and regulations were unanimously approved as a slate.

**b. Proposed Amendment of the School Advisory Council By-Laws**

The Director recommended approval for proposed School Advisory Council (SAC) By-Laws, amended, also known as Policy No. 1050. Amendments have been vetted by SAC and the policy steering committee.

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Policy No. 1050-amended, was unanimously approved.

**c. Policy Retirement (No. 1033)**

The Director recommended approval to retire Policy No. 1033-Non-Participating Districts Student Tuition. This policy clearly outlines the tuition of students to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School from school districts that did not participate in the renovation of the Maggie L. Walker building. Dr. McGee's rationale for this request is twofold, a) the original renovation debt has been retired, and b) this policy might preclude smaller divisions seeking participation.

On motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Barbara Crawley, retirement of Policy No. 1033-Non-Participating Districts Student Tuition was unanimously approved.

**d. Strategic Plan Amendment**

Director McGee recommended approval of proposed Goals 8 and 9 that were pulled from original adoption May 21, 2015 for additional development. As requested from first read at the August meeting, Goal 9 now includes the following initiative: The Regional School Board will develop and deliver a legislative agenda to participating local school boards, with an outcome measure to develop and deliver the agenda annually prior to the fall VSBA conference.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Dianne Smith, Strategic Plan Goals 8 and 9 were unanimously approved.

**e. Personnel: School Year 2015-2016**

The Director recommended approval of personnel actions listed on item XI.e– Folder A (exempt).

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

**f. VRS Hybrid 403(b) Retirement Plan Resolution**

Recent legislation (Senate Bill 1162 and House Bill 2178) allows school divisions to elect to allow eligible employees to use an employer-sponsored hybrid 403(b) plan for employee voluntary contributions to the Hybrid Retirement Plan. The employer match on these

contributions will go into the 403(b) or the employer's cash match plan pursuant to IRS Code 401(a).

Director McGee recommends the Regional School Board not approve to allow eligible employees to direct hybrid voluntary contributions to employer-sponsored hybrid 403(b) retirement plans which would add significant complexity to retirement plans on the employee.

On motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved Dr. McGee's recommendation to not allow eligible employees to direct hybrid voluntary contributions to employer-sponsored hybrid 403(b) retirement plans.

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

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

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

Policy No. 3003	Academic Standards & Community Service <i>Amended</i>
Regulation 5065-R6	Compensatory Time for Exempt Professional Employees <i>Amended</i>

Dr. McGee gave emphasis to Policy No. 3003 that was included for first read in September, but had failed to highlight the content during that meeting, so it is being resubmitted for review. Amended items of note in this policy include the bulleted item reflecting students 'exercise ethical academic behaviors in line with high standards of character' that replicates the updated mission and vision statements. Additional language was also included from the annual 'Intent to Return' form that students and parents sign denoting additional admission requirements may be required by the participating school division. Other changes reflect formatting to mirror the Admissions Handbook.

Regulation 5065-R6 clarifies when earned time may not be used; i.e., school required activities, including pre and post service days.

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

### **b. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal: Canada 2016**

An interdisciplinary trip to Canada 2016 is proposed by Matt McGuire, Social Studies Department, and duplicates the Regional School Board approved Canada 2015 trip where students learned about differences between the United States and Canadian governing institutions and political culture. The Director stated no large presentation would be made for this proposal as it is essentially the same as last year; however, Mr. McGuire was on-hand to answer questions if needed.

Approval for this action will be sought at the October 2015 meeting of the Regional School Board.

**XIII. Information Items**

- The Washington Post lists MLWGS as Top Performing School, April 2015. Newsweek rankings were revised in 2015 and they now use a national data base that does not include Walker data because its scores are sent to the divisions
- Virginia Living Magazine lists MLWGS as one of Virginia’s Top Schools
- Dr. Jeff McGee will serve on the VCU ECE Advisory Board

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

None

**XV. Closed Meeting**

None

**XVI. Certification of Closed Meeting**

None

**XVII. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

Dr. Jones commended a recent Director’s blog report citing ‘Microsoft Office 365 Suite Online’ available free for students as a wonderful resource.

**XVIII. Adjournment**

On motion by Sue Dibble, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

**Next Meeting**

October 15, 2015 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

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W. Kevin Hazzard, Chairman

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Jeffrey McGee, Ph.D., Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk