

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

Thursday, April 18, 2013

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order in the auditorium.

II. Introductions

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality, (listed in alphabetical order by locality).

Present:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Dianne Smith, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Kevin Hazzard, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. John Montgomery, Jr., *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Janet Crawley, **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. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mr. Larry Johns, Assistant Superintendent for Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Mr. Jeffrey McGee, **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 from Meeting:

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis, Patti Chappell, Karen Hoover and Michele Surat – MLWGS
Others: too numerous to list.

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Barbara Crawley; the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Valarie Ayers, minutes as submitted for March 21, 2013 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

- 2013 National Scholastic Writing Key Winners: Introduced by Denise Yagel – English Department; **Katherine Monks ('14-Chesterfield)**, Silver Medal for Poetry and **Mackenzie Neal ('14-Chesterfield)**, Silver Medal for Personal Essay/Memoir. Both writing and art key winners will be recognized at Carnegie Hall later this month.

- 2013 National Scholastic Art Key Winners: Introduced by Georgianne Stinnett – Fine Arts Department; **Jason Hunter ('13-Henrico)**, Gold Key for Photography, **Ryan Duncan ('13-Henrico)**, American Visions Award & Silver Key for Painting, **Alexa Buchine ('13-Hanover)**, Silver Key for Photography, **Lucy Dacus ('13-Hanover)**, Silver Key for Sculpture and **Noma Illmensee ('14-Richmond)**, Silver Key for Photography.
- Science students dominate STEM Fair: **Saumil Bandyopadhyay ('13-Henrico)** was named 1st Place in Physics, **Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield)** was named 1st Place in Engineering and **Ryan Lucia ('16-Hanover)** placed 3rd in Computer Science. Bandyopadhyay and Marquez placed first and second place respectively overall in the competition, taking two of the four “Grand Prize Winner” spots; both will compete at the Intel International Science Fair (ISEF) in Arizona in May.
- **Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield)** was selected as one of two Virginia finalists and winners of the 2013 Virginia BioGENEius Challenge. The Challenge is a premier academic and research competition that provides high school students the opportunity to compete and be recognized for outstanding research in biotechnology. Winners travel to Chicago in April to compete at the National Challenge.

VI. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes (at the discretion of the Chairperson) to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes. Citizens must schedule their appearance with the Board’s Clerk, no later than 10:00am on the last business day before the meeting at which they desire to be heard.

Note: Audio quality is poor during house comments due to the projection of the speaker. Portions of remarks were unintelligible and denoted by ____

Samantha ‘Sam’ Schwartzkopf ('15-Chesterfield) and **Reshini Premaratne ('16-Henrico)**, representing **EduPac** addressed the Board:

Sam: “We both represent EduPac and we are here to advocate on behalf of the fantastic teachers at Maggie Walker. Just to give you some anecdotal evidence; first of all I’d like to say that I’ve been around fantastic teachers my entire life hailing from Henrico County, so they’ve been passionate, they’ve been very informed. But when I came to Maggie Walker I think

I had some sort of arrogance complex where I thought that because I'd gotten in I was automatically the best and I couldn't get any higher. But, the challenge that Maggie Walker teacher's face I believe is to be nurturing, and to teach and to inspire passion but to still improve the quality of your students as an entire student. And I really experienced that this year, especially in my AP US class, that's United States History. My teacher, Mr. Ulmschneider, is first of all a walking Encyclopedia, which is extremely helpful. And also, he is a fantastic writer. And so when I turned in my first DBQ, Document Based Question, which is basically an essay; I got it back and I was appalled because it was completely marked up. It was almost entirely edited. I went to him and I was frustrated, I was furious; and he set me straight really quickly. And he wasn't at all mean about it; he just told me that if I needed any help that I could go to his workroom anytime that I was available. And I think that because of that I'm a better writer today, even as applies to other subjects, other areas of my interests and I feel that is the job of Maggie Walker teachers to nurture, yet to still improve the quality of the students."

Reshini: "I too come from Henrico County and as _____, I've been around fantastic teachers my entire academic career. The one thing though coming to Maggie Walker, I've only been here for a good six months I think, and I've already learned what an amazing community that this is...we're such a tightly knit group of students and teachers, along with faculty and I know that ...I've been taking Spanish for the past four years and in middle school; it's easy to say that I struggled a bit, and I didn't necessarily understand what it was about the language that made it so unique and so special for students. So coming to Maggie Walker I was a little bit hesitant if I even wanted to continue with my Spanish _____. So this year I have Sra. Welles and she is much more of a mother figure to I would say all of her students than she is a teacher because by _____ she nurtures us so much but she also teaches us what we need to know to continue with our Spanish _____. And I would say that because of what she has taught me, and I want to continue with Spanish. Not only does she teach us the grammar points and you know how to speak Spanish, but about the culture...the food (amazing part of Spanish). So, I would say that I've fallen in love with Spanish because of what she's done. Not only do I take her class, but I'm also a member of the Spanish Club which she hosts, and I've been able to email her late at night because we're cooking _____ will say; 'I'm not sure how to do it' and she'll respond because she too is up late trying to figure out how to cook it. '*Laughter.*' And so, I think it's easy to say that a lot of the teachers here, actually all of the teachers here, not only are compassionate and are able to connect with their students on such an advanced level, but they all know how to nurture and to spread dedication to levels that we'll all pass the AP tests. I don't think you'll ever find a school that's more competent on a level such as that and I know that all of the teachers, all the exams that I've had the opportunity... like I said I'm only a freshman, so I've got three more years to go, but I do believe that I will never find a teacher that ceases to amaze me and that ceases to continue with their passion on a level that we as students become passionate about that subject as well. I know I'm not a math student, Sam's even in my math class...I ask a lot of questions! But my teachers never stop me; in fact they encourage us to ask those questions that not all students would be asking and even sometimes as she just said...but I think that as a student that is what we need. We need teachers that are going to encourage us, and that are going

to make us passionate about what we're learning whether or not we're a math student, or science student or social studies student."

"So, I just wanted to again advocate for our teachers because they are one of the basic components of this school and they really instill us with the foundation and with the lessons and characteristics that we're going to need for the rest of our lives. Thank you and we really appreciate you listening to us."

Marianne Macon representing the **MLWGS PTSA Advocacy Committee** addressed the Board. "Good morning, I'm Marianne Macon; most of you know me already... have already met me. I'm the parent of a Richmond student at Maggie Walker and I'm here today on behalf of the Maggie Walker PTSA Advocacy Committee."

"As budget season wraps up in our school districts and this Board begins its deliberations, its budget deliberations in earnest; Maggie Walker like many schools throughout our state continues to suffer the symptoms of a lingering epidemic. I'm calling it the epidemic of dwindling public education funding at all levels. Recently, New York Times columnist David Brooks noted, 'If the current federal budget trajectory is not altered, within ten years discretionary funding for things like education will sink to Eisenhower levels'. In Virginia, the 2013 General Assembly added _____ a school grading system that failed to significantly increase or restore funding for our schools."

"I want you to know today that Maggie Walker's PTSA and our advocacy partners; FOVGS, Foundation and our wonderful students of EduPac, remain committed to increasing funding for public education. We've worked hard this year and we will not stop. We've already started contacting the Department of Education, the Secretary of Education, Deputies, to ensure that our voices are heard and that the next bi-annual budget will include appropriate increases and _____ to Virginia students and that will allow our schools to fulfill their missions to educate. In the coming months we would like to encourage all education stakeholders in Virginia and their representative organizations to join ranks, to form a consortium, that would set the legislative agenda for next year and to make 2014 the year of public education for our state."

"But today Regional School Board members, you face the very difficult task of developing next year's budget for Maggie Walker... Maggie Walker the patient that I referred to earlier, the lingering symptoms still suffering from the epidemic that we are all suffering from. Here today Maggie Walker is your patient, you are our treating physician. You have admittedly, a whole lot of other patients with a constellation of symptoms and limited medication to dispense, but here today we are yours to treat and we thank you very much for taking on this challenging task. You're the governing body of this school, invested by our constitution with the power and the duty to prepare and approve an operating budget. You are very fortunate to have the expert advice and wisdom of the Superintendents, the Finance Committee to guide you throughout

this process, but the ultimate responsibility lies with you. With the funding crisis of the past year the focus of the budget process has gradually shifted away from what Maggie Walker, just like other schools, needs to fulfill the school's mission and to insure its continuing success."

"The new paradigm is unilateral decision making by individual school districts based on each district's perceived ability to pay. And while this shift in focus is entirely understandable under these difficult circumstances, some sense of balance must be restored so that an appropriate share of basic aid is provided to this Governor's School as the state appropriations act encourages. Please consider these remarks in the spirit they are given; humbly, constructively and with gratitude for your service. Thank you."

Laura O'Brien representing **Friends of Virginia's Governor's Schools** addressed the Board. "Good morning. My name is Laura O'Brien and I am a Henrico parent of my daughter Caroline who is a sophomore here, and I am the Maggie Walker representative to the Friends of Virginia's Governor's Schools (*FOVGS*). I have a hand-out, but I only have a few. _____ give me the opportunity to offer a few remarks prior to that, I would appreciate your attention."

"Thank you so much for your support of Maggie Walker. I realize that _____ is challenging and I want you to know that along with most of these parents in this room and many, many others, all of us are committed and available to you to offer our support and to collaborate with you to find ways to successfully move forward. I wanted to bring your attention to the inequities in the compensation of the Maggie Walker teaching staff. I'm sure you all know that the teachers here have not received salary increases in five years. And of course you recognize that the school has not caught up yet on VRS. Last year you all _____ that was a modest cut, but it was a very much appreciated stipend of \$250 for our teachers who support clubs and this _____ to a 5% decrease in the per pupil tuition paid for the local districts. More importantly, I wanted to bring your attention to the draft budgets that have been circulating...will more than likely result in the reduction in force of two or three part-time teachers at the school. Many of us have heavy, heavy hearts about losing these professionals."

"Quite honestly there is wide spread concern among our teachers about equities in salaries. I hope you will address this pressing concern as you begin your long term fiscal planning for Maggie Walker. Looking back at the notes for this Board I can't find any discussions about compensation, so to that end I will leave you with some data and that's the handout I've provided. _____ quick snapshot regarding Maggie Walker teachers' salaries as they compare to Henrico, Chesterfield, Richmond and Hanover. There are two pages; one for Masters degrees and one for Bachelor's degrees. The data _____ and blue and outlined in red is lifted directly from Henrico County Schools Annual Financial Plan presented in January 2013. At the bottom of the page there are _____ numbers, one marked average, and the other marked Maggie Walker. This is the data that was selected and inserted by volunteer parents. Please take a moment and note that across the board the Maggie

Walker teachers' salaries were significantly less than the average salary paid to teachers in the four metro Richmond districts. I hope you start _____ a discussion about examining prudent teacher compensation at Maggie Walker. As final decision makers for the operation of this school, please be deliberate, compassionate, fair, and most importantly public as you consider how to appropriately fund and support Maggie Walker. I hope you let the teachers know that you value and appreciate them and that you want this school to retain and recruit the best and brightest teachers just as you would for any school. Thank you."

Brian Thomas representing the **Governor's School Foundation** addressed the Board. "Good morning Mr. Chairman, Regional School Board members, Superintendent's and other guests. My name is Brian Thomas and I have the privilege of serving as Chair of the Governor's School Foundation Board, but even more important I am the parent of a Maggie Walker student. During the past four years I've had the pleasure of witnessing the magic that happens here at Maggie Walker, and we heard that at the beginning of the meeting this morning; about the accomplishments of our students. I've seen how our teachers can turn ordinary subject matter into extraordinary learning experiences. I've seen how our teachers can inspire our students to reach higher and expect more of themselves and others. I've seen how our teachers can truly transform the lives of our students. And I can relate to my sons experience here at Maggie Walker in an interesting way; as a member of the Foundation Board I find myself surrounded by gifted alumni and parents who have extraordinary energy, extremely bright business savvy, passionate about excellence and driven by success. As part of this very important conversation about the school's budget, the Foundation Board thought it might be useful for me to share a few comments about the role of the Governor's School Foundation, who we are, what we do and how we can help."

"Our Foundation develops, implements and supports fund raising and outreach activities to alumni parents and other friends. Specifically, our efforts enable the school to maximize academic opportunities, expand extracurricular programs, support faculty education, strengthen administrative infrastructure and acquire innovative technology. In short, we help to provide a margin of excellence. Our _____ is that the Foundation will provide supplemental financial support to ensure that all students will have access to a world class education in a quality government and international study opportunity that will prepare them a lifetime of success."

"Let me make a few comments about our outreach activities. During the past few years the Foundation has focused on raising the awareness of the Governor's School in the Richmond corporate community. These efforts have strengthened the relationship with businesses and corporations, and most recently these efforts have led to a major gift from a corporation to the Foundation to support the school and this gift will be announced in the weeks ahead. Our outreach to constituent groups now extends to grandparents of our students, in fact tomorrow the Foundation will host its second annual Grandparents Day. This new action has also lead to financial support; we now receive contributions from a growing number of

grandparents and as a side note, we have received a handful of contributions from grandparents who live across the globe so you can honestly say that our fundraising efforts have gone international. The funds that the Foundation raises each year are for enhancements, they do not support the operating budget of the school, they are not budget relieving. The enhancement grants are allocated by the Foundation Board for three areas; facilities, teachers and students. Under facilities these grants support facility and technology enhancements to help keep the school on the forefront of emerging knowledge. These grants for teachers enrich professional development opportunities and the student grants encourage student participation in academic and co-curricular activities.”

“Let me conclude by echoing the comments of my colleagues. Maggie Walker has made a huge difference in the lives of your students. I ask that you consider providing the necessary budget; not only to sustain the current level of our program, but to consider increasing your support in the future to ensure that these students and future students continue to receive the level of education that distinguishes Maggie Walker Governor’s School nationally. Thank you very much.”

Bill Yates, Richmond parent, addressed the Board. “Good morning. I’d like to thank you, our Regional School Board, for your support of Maggie Walker. Education funds are extra tight these days and you have a difficult job. In speaking with many of you about budgeting issues these last few years I’ve heard said in various ways ‘our district is cutting so we also need to see blood at Maggie Walker.’ Not a happy message but one that was understandable. Well, today I would like to talk about that bleeding. On a broad basis our tuition per pupil is down since 2008 by 13.3%; this compares to an average of about 7% in your district per pupil costs. I think it is clear that our bleeding has been severe.”

“But let’s look at the impact of that bleeding. You’ve already heard Laura speak about our teacher’s compensation and you know about the excessively large class sizes. You’ve heard about a lack of funding for technology and how our modest Foundation has had to provide funds for quasi operational expenses such as language consultants, speakers on diversity and AP teacher training. I’d like to talk about classes cancelled due to funding. This coming year the AP Economics and Senior Seminar Architectural classes have been dropped; not due to lack of demand but because the proposed budget cannot support the \$8,500 each that those classes cost. In today’s tight times it seems that we should be excited that over a dozen seniors want to take AP Econ as part of a well-rounded Governor’s School education; instead we’ve told them that it really isn’t that important. And how about Senior Seminar Architecture; a class that has had enough demand that it required two sections this year, a class which exposes students to aspects of history, community planning, sustainable, renovation and reuse, a class taught by a highly respected member of the Richmond Architecture and Arts communities who has devoted sixteen years to opening student’s eyes to the ____ environment of Central Virginia, a class which explores transportation and growth relating to current and future issues of the metro area, a class with a _____ research project requiring extensive research, analysis, planning, writing and presentation. For \$8,500 we can discount the educational value of these

classes and discard a devoted faculty member. I guess that might be the replacement for AP Econ, our students are learning that supply and demand for some reason are not applicable here.”

“Another econ lesson our students are learning is that saving and preparing for the future is really not that important even though most of us have tried to impress it upon their heads. They’ve learned that it’s okay to raid schools contingency funds to help fund operations; with HVAC, roof replacement and other major expenses looming we seem to believe it is economically prudent to reduce our rainy day fund. You still have time to change these lessons; you can teach students that understanding economics and value, that dedication and relationships matter, that planning and saving is part of being a responsible adult and that commitments made deserved to be kept. I urge you to do the right thing and fund Maggie Walker at a level more closely approaching the per pupil costs in your districts. Thank you.”

Chamie Valentine, Richmond parent addressed the Board. “Thank you all for giving us parents the opportunity to come and share our concerns, thank you for being here every month. I’ve been here many, many times; but it was the last work session last month when I really had a V8 moment... oh my goodness, you all give us so much of your time, so much of your time and perhaps in preparation for these meeting so much of your time that I will never see and none of us will. And I would like you to know that, we all know that when we come and ask you these questions we all respect you as I said earlier, that you all have so many other competing demands. “

“What I’d like you to recognize and continue to recognize because you care so much about us and that is why you’re here, is to remember what you pledged to do when you’ve taken on a gifted program. The Virginia Code, and I wish I could find it but you’ll understand if I hit the right chord, defines an appropriate education for gifted as one which allows gifted students to reach their potential. And as you know from this pretty much 99% fantastic accreditation report, we’re doing that here. And we’re doing that in large part because of the faculty, and the faculty has done a wonderful job with our students allowing them to reach their potential within the classroom as you’ve heard our wonderful students say, and outside the classroom with all those extracurricular activities. That was actually commended on here, all those outside activities our teachers do but I’d like you to know it’s not in the budget; those teachers are doing that on their own nickel now because we’ve made those cuts. Didn’t hear that mentioned today. But I want you to know it’s well-recognized; our success is based in large part on that and we’re not able to cover those for the extracurricular activities. And with a gifted education _____ it is very important for those that are gifted to have social opportunities for leadership and ability to explore beyond the classroom where their interest lie as key to their education.”

“I would like to say there were some shortfalls on here and I know that you all have read it but I would like to ask you to take into account the funding that we are going to need if we are not going to be dipping into our contingency fund because

we do have a \$600,000 roof that we've patched and patched and patched. We do have...I don't know how many window panes in this building but every one of them needs glazing. I know that you all are stretched in your own districts but it did say in this report that students do best when there is a 15-1 student/teacher ratio and we would need more funding to meet that. We do know, we all know we have glaring deficiencies in technology and how we appropriately use technology as tools for learning rather than as the ultimate result of learning is something that our own faculty and administration will have to decide, but we will need extra funding for that. In the future I would like you to please consider that and I thank you all for being here today."

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked all speakers today for their comments.

VII. Director's Report

- **Recognition** from the **Washington Post** recognizing MLWGS as one of the top performing high schools with elite students in the nation.
- **Graduation for the Class of 2013, Friday, June 14, 2013 at Richmond CenterStage.** Sponsor Kerry Sheppard provided information and invitations to Board members.
- **GSMUN, March 22-23, 2013:** The 16th annual Governor School Model UN conference broke all our previous records. We had over 560 registered delegates representing 28 schools. Our students facilitated 17 separate committees. For the first time we had schools coming from Maryland and another Governor School represented. We even served over 175 pizzas! Most importantly we surpassed **our fundraising goal for "Free the Children" of \$10,000** which supports projects for clean drinking water, sustainable development, and education around the world.
- **Science Day for Middle School Students** at Maggie Walker, Saturday, April 27th. It is our pleasure to invite 6th and 7th grade students to the sixth annual Governor's School Science Day. Sponsored and organized by the school's [Science National Honor Society](#) (SNHS), this event will offer students the opportunity to learn about multiple fields of science through fun hands-on activities and exposure to advanced laboratory techniques.
- **AP Testing May 6-17, 2013:**
Number of tests to be administered in 2013:

1,163 to 454 students. Average number of exams per student: 2.56
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Number of tests administered in 2012:

1,118 to 466 students

Number of tests administered in 2011: 1,175 to 467 students

96% of MLWGS students typically earn a score of 3 or higher each year translating to a **potential of 3,349 college credit hours for 2013**. The potential estimate in 2012 was 3,219 college credit hours.

- **Strategic Planning: Survey for Community Engagement**, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SK3KR2W>
- **MLWGS Coming Events**: April 18, 2013 through May 16, 2013. Mr. McGee highlighted New Student Registration on April 22nd and Spring Concerts April 29th and May 1st.

VIII. Action Items

a. Policy Review

The Director recommends approval of the following policies presented for Board review in March: [Policy No. 5011](#) - Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation-Employee, **Form 5011-F** – Report of Harassment – Employee, **Policy No. 8000** – Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation – Student, and **Form 8000-F** – Report of Harassment – Student.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Valarie Ayers, Board members unanimously approved requested policies.

b. Bidder Approval for Improvement Projects

The Director noted that the RFP's for 1) Windows Reglazing and Painting is withdrawn and 2) Parking Lot Resurfacing is not ready for recommendation at this time.

Tennis Courts Repair and Resurfacing – The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Athletic Boosters has raised and will contribute \$50,000 to fund this project. Upon acceptance by the Board, The Athletic Boosters will place funds in the proper MLWGS financial account. It is the intent of administration to release this project only after securing complete funding. The recommended contractor is Tennis Courts, Inc.

Laptop Leasing – The proposed lease is for 150 laptops to replace the 150 laptops going off lease in August. The Director recommends CSC Leasing because they will be paying the yearly personal property tax liability while the other bidder is not making the 3-year CSC lease \$10,147.82 lower than the other bidder.

After discussion, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved awarding CSC Leasing for laptop replacement.

Additionally, on motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the Board unanimously approved awarding Tennis Courts Repair and Resurfacing to Tennis Courts, Inc.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal, Belize, April 2014

The Director recommends approval of the Belize proposal presented by Mr. David Barnes during the March meeting with the modification of chaperone supervision of 1 to 5 students added per Mr. Hazzard's suggestion.

After brief discussion, on motion by John Montgomery, seconded by Dianne Smith, the Board unanimously approved this interdisciplinary trip proposal.

d. Personnel

The Director recommends approval of the personnel actions listed on VIII.d: 1) full-time employment of David Hillgrove for FY14 in the Social Studies Department and 2) the resignation of Sherri Arnold, English Department.

On motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Board unanimously approved the personnel actions requested.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for FY14

Annual notice whereby the Board authorizes the Director to issue employment contracts applying human resource policies and salary scales. Authorization action will be requested at the May 2013 meeting of this Board.

b. 2013-2014 School Operating Calendar

As directed by Mr. McGee, Phil Tharp reviewed the operating calendar proposal submitted to the Board noting a change to the hours worked for 12-month employees during spring break to (4) 10 hour days, and a change to teacher contract days listed on the 2nd page reducing work days from 13 to 11 as they are unneeded. This proposal contains 180 instructional days and is posted to the MLWGS website for public review.

2013-2014 School Operating Calendar approval will be requested at the May 2013 meeting of this Board.

c. Approval of 2013-2014 GS Foundation Board of Directors

GSF is a 501c3, Type 1 Supporting Organization, directly tied to the school with a mission to support the school. All members of the Foundation Board of Directors must be approved by the Regional School Board annually. Mr. McGee noted the list of candidate names for the 2013-2014 Governor's School Foundation Board.

Approval of Board of Director candidates for the Governor's School Foundation will be requested at the May 2013 meeting of this Board.

d. Approval of 2013-2014 School Advisory Council

The Director noted the list of nominee names to-date for consideration as stipulated in the School Advisory Council Bylaws. Mr. McGee will continue to finalize membership from participating constituent groups, and will seek approval at the May meeting.

e. Policy Review

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for review: No. 5012 – Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination–Employee, Form 5012-F – Report of Discrimination-Employee, No. 8001 – Equal Educational Opportunity/Nondiscrimination-Student and Form 8001-F Report of Discrimination-Student. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

Approval for these proposals will be requested at the May meeting of this Board.

X. Informational Items

Student News

- Quizbowl Team Undefeated in Mid-Atlantic
- MLWGS Math Modeling Team Once Again A Top Performing School in COMAP Contest
- Junior Samantha Marquez (Chesterfield) Wins Virginia Science Prize
- State History Bowl Team Cleans Up
- Mech Tech Dragons (Robotics) Succeeds at Regionals
- Richmond District PTSA Reflections Winners
- Orchestra Soars at District Assessment
- LifeSmarts Team Wins State Championship
- Junior Lily Hargis Regional Runner-Up in Poetry Out Loud State Competition

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome offered a brief report stating the Superintendent's Steering Committee met this morning prior to the Board meeting with one item on their agenda: budget. Two options were presented by Mr. McGee and the committee unanimously supported both proposals.

XII. Closed Meeting

Mr. Pritchett asked the Clerk to announce items for closed session.

Mrs. Marshall stated: "It is my understanding that the School Board desires to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with §2.2-3711.A of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsection (1): "employment of specific employees of the Board."

Mr. Pritchett stated: "Members of the Board, you have just heard the items requested to be discussed in closed session. Do I have a motion in that regard?"

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Board unanimously approved and entered into closed session.

The Board relocated to the Board room and the door was closed.

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

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to reconvene in open session?”

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Cora Armstrong, the Board unanimously approved open session.

The auditorium door is opened.

Mr. Pritchett requested: “Mrs. Marshall (Clerk) please read the resolution certifying the closed session.”

Mrs. Marshall stated: “Now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening 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.”

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to adopt the resolution?”

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved this resolution:

Roll Call and Motion Vote (alphabetical order by locality)

Barbara Crawley: Aye

Dianne Smith: Aye

Kevin Hazzard: Aye

John Axselle: Aye

John Montgomery: Aye

Cora Armstrong: Aye

Sarah Grier Barber: Aye

Kenneth Pritchett: Aye

Valarie Ayers: Aye

Jerry Warren: Aye

Kimberly Gray: Aye

No action was taken by the Board at this time.

XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Dianne Smith, the motion to adjourn this meeting was unanimously approved.

XVI. Next Meeting

May 16, 2013 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

Kenneth Pritchett, Chairman

Jeffrey W. McGee, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk