

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

**Attendance**

**May 15, 2008**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Superintendents**

**Present:**

Janet Crawley, Charles City County  
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County  
Paul Vecchione, Hanover County (Representing  
Stewart Roberson)  
Fred Morton, Henrico County  
Richard Layman, King and Queen  
James Victory, Petersburg City  
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County  
Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Richmond City

**Absent:**

Linda Underwood, Goochland County  
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County  
Margaret Meara, Powhatan County

**Others Present:**

N. Douglas Hunt, Director  
Joyce H. Charity, Clerk  
Barbara Marshall, Deputy Clerk

**Board Members**

**Present:**

Barbara Crawley, Charles City County  
Dianne Pettitt, Chesterfield County  
Ivan Mattox, Goochland County  
John Axselle, Hanover County  
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County  
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County  
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City  
Bill Craig, Powhatan County (Representing Valarie Ayers)  
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City

**Absent:**

Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County  
Kevin Foster, Prince George County

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

**Thursday, May 15, 2008**

**9:00 a.m.**

I. Call to Order

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.

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was accepted. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Lisa Dawson the minutes of the April 17, 2008 meeting were approved as presented. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments

Michele Surat, and Dickson Benesh, Teachers at the Governor's School (GS)

*"I am Michele Surat and I am Dickson Benesh. We have been granted, through your generosity, leave of absence to go and share our skills in other countries. I (Michele) am going to Panama and this is the International School of Panama and it was built in 1982 as an alternative to the DOD school that was there. It was done by a corporation of ex pats and some of the locals and is now the top school in Panama – it is an International Baccalaureate. So they are sending me to Florida at the end of June, after school is over here, for training to do IB stuff. I am very excited and nervous and no – I don't have a place to live yet and yes – I still need to rent my house and that stuff. I will pass around some things for you to take a look at and I will get it back later. One of the things I love about Panama is it is in the same time zone. You can draw a line from Richmond straight down to where I will be. I will be between the Rain Forest and the Canal in a little section that is called El Dorado – it's like the suburb. The kids do things like their Model UN goes to the Netherlands. I think I may volunteer as a chaperon. Another thing, there is this little neck of land between the Caribbean and the Atlantic and the Pacific on the other side. So it is called the 'playground of whales' as they have all these different kinds of whales there. The Smithsonian has a place to protect the Rain Forest. There is a satellite site of Florida University and its moderate climate all year around. I will miss the snow. I will miss you guys. I want to thank you again for the opportunity. I will have a blog; I will be in touch with kids from here. I am already having people who are saying – 'Oh, that's a great thing; well we can send our kids to see you'. So I am sure connections will be maintained and I will ask probably for another leave of absence after the first year I am there. So then I will have my full two years. Then I will come back thinner, browner, and speaking Spanish fluently, I guess. Thank you."*

*"My name is Dickson Benesh. I am a mathematics teacher here and I would like to thank Doug and the Board for allowing me to take this leave of absence since I have been here 11 years. I am heading a little farther than Michele – It's in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and we have already had a yard sale, house goes on the market next week, and we leave in July. I will be teaching at an*

*International Baccalaureate school there – high level mathematics courses. It is an amazing opportunity and thank you for allowing me to pursue this opportunity. I have already set up a blog. Everyone has a misconception as to what the school is really like. If you see Michele’s picture, people are expecting grass huts and things like that. It is a beautiful school where Michele will be. Again, I would like to thank this Board for the opportunity. I have had some discussions with Dr. Spencer, one of our English teachers; about some literature her students will be reading Asia in a cycle next year. So this will be something that will fit in with her classes as well as use my students as a resource and we will try to work out ways to do that.”*

As a reminder to the Board, Mr. Hunt stated that the two teachers were approved for a two-year leave of absence to teach abroad with the intent of returning after two years. He noted they are both valuable members of the faculty and the GS anxiously await their return and are realistic enough to know that other things may overrule and are unsure if they will be back. Presently, the plans are for the two of them to return at the end of two years.

## VI. Director’s Report

Mr. Hunt recognized the following groups of students:

Jeff Hall – Art Teacher and Department Chair – Mr. Hunt mentioned that Jeff has taken a really good art program and taken it to another level. He brings in some modern approaches to art and shared that some of the other GS directors were very impressed with the art work on display. An additional teacher has been hired for next year to teach more sections of art as the program is growing. In addition to being outstanding students, they have many talents across the board. Mr. Hall recognized Kelsey Sawyer, a junior from Henrico County. She won first place in the Eric Cantor Congressional Art Show for a self portrait, which will be on display in Washington, D.C. at the Capital for one year. This is a great honor for the GS to have won this award.

Jordan Pridgen (Chesterfield County) - A Presidential Scholar winner. Two scholars are chosen from every state and 15 at-large chosen (Virginia has three listed this year). Jordan stated he will be attending the University of Virginia and he has really enjoyed Maggie Walker. Mr. Hunt noted that the GS has been fortunate with all of its students and four out of the last five years; GS has had a Presidential Scholar. Mr. Hunt thanked Jordan for everything he has done for the GS.

National Latin Exam – Dr. Clifford Broeniman, Foreign Language Department Chair. Dr. Broeniman presented book awards from the National Organization of American Classical League to the following students: Olivia Baumann (Henrico), Nora Byrd (Richmond City), Hannah Cockrell (Richmond), Melanie Green (Chesterfield), Laura Tait (Chesterfield) and William Shimer (Henrico). Dr. Broeniman mentioned that the students participated in the State Latin tournament (CAV [Classical Association of Virginia]), which is a very rigorous tournament and it is one hundred percent proficiency-based. This year Olivia Baumann won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the state for Level 1. In the Latin Literature competition, Yu Sung Huang won 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Laura Tait won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and Nora Byrd won 1<sup>st</sup> Place. He further mentioned that Olivia Baumann scored a perfect score on the National Latin Examination. Less than 1.2% of students worldwide had a perfect score.

Palmer Mebane (Chesterfield) – Dickson Benesh sponsor. Mr. Benesh stated Palmer has participated in mathematic competitions for years and has done exceedingly well. The GS has 6 to 8 students who go through the first round of the American Mathematics Competition test each year with 225,000 students taking the test which qualifies them to go to the next levels. Palmer is one of only 13 high school students in the United States (and the only one from Virginia) to have qualified to continue with this

competition. The top 6 scores on this test will represent the USA in the International Math Olympiad (IMO) in Madrid in July. In addition, Palmer will be going to a summer program in Nebraska. Palmer plans to attend Harvey Mudd College.

Dr. John Barnes – Sponsor of the Battle of the Brains, a master teacher, master motivator, and dedicated to young people willing to spend hours of time with them. Dr. Barnes was recently selected as the math teacher Siemen's Award winner for 2007-08. A teacher is chosen from each of the 50 states to receive this award. It is an honor Dr. Barnes well deserves.

Dr. Barnes mentioned he had brought with him a representative sample of the Battle of the Brains team who has done very well this year. They came in second in the state with the Virginia High School League Scholastic Bowl and first in the state in the NQT State Championships beating archrival Thomas Jefferson Sci Tech. In the Knowledge Masters Open (KMO), the GS came in second in the nation in the fall and third in the nation in the spring with over 700 schools participating. KMO is a computer-based competition where the questions are displayed on a screen and they are answered as quickly as possible and extra credit is awarded for being fast. There are 200 questions asked over a two-hour period and an answer is arrived by a consensus of the students. The students hosted their own tournament in the fall and December. Approximately 48 to 50 teams participated from seven states all over the east coast, which raised about \$3,000 to help fund two national trips this year (Chicago and Washington, D.C.) A JV tournament was hosted in the spring. These tournaments are a great service for the community as other schools in the area get to participate. The GS students do not compete when hosting the tournament, they write the questions.

*"We the People"* – Phil Sorrentino, Sponsor. Mr. Hunt reported two weeks ago, *"We the People"* team competed in *The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals* finishing second in the nation. Under Mr. Sorrentino's guidance, along with the assistance from some of the parents, former students and other sources in the community, the GS students were well prepared and represented the school well. Mr. Hunt publicly thanked Mr. Sorrentino on behalf of the GS for all of his hard work exhibited, the leadership shown, and the honor brought to the school. Mr. Hunt announced that Mr. Sorrentino plans to retire next year and Mr. McGuire will be the new sponsor of *"We the People."*

Lastly, Mr. Hunt shared some information for competitive excellence in academic, athletics, and arts from the Savage Foundation pertaining to a documentary *"Two Million Minutes"* to be shown at the Byrd Theatre on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. This documentary is a comparison of the time a student spends in class to other countries. Specifically, it is looking at the high school experience of children in India, China, and the United States. He further mentioned the year end activities are approaching. Graduation will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June at 3 p.m. at the Landmark Theatre with Governor Kaine as the keynote speaker. The Board and Superintendents will be receiving tickets and it would be helpful if advance notice is given by those planning to attend, so seating can be arranged and proper introductions given.

## VII. Action Agenda Items

### a. New Club/Activity

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Lisa Dawson, the Board approved the New Club/Activity. Motion carried.

b. Bid Info – HVAC Preventative Maintenance Contract

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Dianne Pettitt, the Board approved the award of the HVAC Preventative Maintenance contract to Town and Country for \$9,500.00. Motion carried.

c. Yearbook Contract FY 09-11

On motion by Lisa Marshall, seconded by Lisa Dawson, the Board awarded Herff Jones a three-year contract, subject to annual review, for the publication of the school yearbook, based on the Review Committee's findings. Motion carried.

d. Accept of Gift of Scoreboard

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kennett Pritchett, the Board accepted the scoreboard donated by the Athletic Boosters. Motion carried.

e. Personnel Contracts for 2008-09

On motion by Dianne Pettitt, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board approved giving the Director authority to apply human resource polices and approved salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff. Motion carried.

f. Personnel Action

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dianne Pettitt, the Board approved the personnel actions listed in the informational packet. Motion carried.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

a. Addition of Technology Integrators

It was recommended the Board review the recommendation for the addition of eight technology integrators for the GS and be prepared to vote at the June meeting.

b. Textbook Adoption Recommendations

It was recommended the Board review the textbook adoption recommendations for the GS and be prepared to vote at the June 19, 2008 meeting.

c. Cancellation – July 17, 2008 Board Meeting

It was recommended the Board discuss canceling the July 17, 2008 scheduled meeting unless pending issues need addressing. Voting to cancel the July meeting will occur at the June 19, 2008 meeting.

d. Bid Info – Custodial Service

References are being followed up. A final recommendation will be presented at the June 19, 2008 meeting.

IX. Information

RFP Admissions Process Status – the Chairman stated the last interview was done last month and by the end of May the process will be finished and the chosen consultant will be presented to the Board at the June meeting. The committee has done everything within due process to arrive at the best results for the GS.

Director's Search – The Chairman mentioned the thought process has been started as to what needs to occur to insure the director's search process is in the best interest of the school. A small committee will be formed and several steps have been started. Mr. Hunt has been asked to create a job description for this position. John Axelle will chair the process and other individuals and groups will be asked to help. Mr. Axelle stated that his thoughts were to get input from stakeholders during the process to make sure the appropriate individuals are involved. He recommended to the Board that one of the avenue's he sees as a way of doing this is to use the expertise of the Regional Board as a whole. The Superintendents' Steering Committee is a good approach because of their experience and wealth of knowledge on the process that could help the committee. He recommended to the Board that he would like to meet with the Superintendents' Steering Committee, if the Board permits, and at the next meeting bring an overview of the process that the Board could approve to proceed. The Chairman identified the following individuals to work with the subcommittee: Dianne Pettitt and Valarie Ayers. He noted that other Board members were welcomed to volunteer. The Chair stated he will work with the sub-committee as much as he can. Janet Crawley, Chair of the Superintendents' Steering Committee, stated the steering committee would be appreciative if they could work along with the sub-committee and have some input since they oversee the Director.

A Board member suggested that the RFP Committee could be looked at. Mr. Hunt reminded them that this committee does not consist of any faculty members. The Chairman stated that the board will look at and welcome any opinions as to how to conduct the process for the director's position. At this point, the Board's intent is that everyone having a concern will be allowed to voice their concern at some point during the process.

At this time, the Chair announced that Deborah Jewell-Sherman has been recognized as the "*Superintendent of the Year.*"

X. Superintendents' Steering Committee

None

XI. Closed Meeting

None

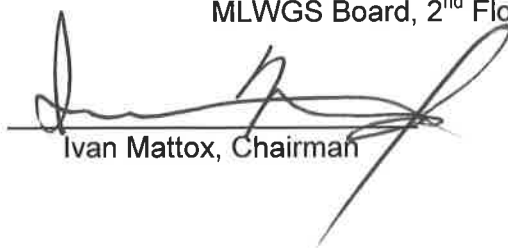
XII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XIII. Announcement

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the meeting adjourned.  
Motion carried.

XIV. Next Meeting: June 19, 2008  
MLWGS Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

  
Ivan Mattox, Chairman

  
N. Douglas Hunt, Director