

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

Attendance

May 21, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Superintendents

Present:

Janet Crawley, Charles City County
Marcus J. Newsome, Chesterfield County
Stewart Roberson, Hanover County
Fred Morton, Henrico County
Richard Layman, King and Queen
James Victory, Petersburg City
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County
R. Francis Moore, Prince George County
Yvonne Brandon, Richmond City

Absent:

Linda Underwood, Goochland County
Margaret Meara, Powhatan County
Jeffery Smith, West Point

Board Members

Present:

Barbara Crawley, Charles City County
Dianne Pettitt, Chesterfield County
Ivan Mattox, Goochland County
John Axelle, Hanover County
Lisa Marshall, Henrico County
Gwynn Litchfield, King and Queen County
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County
Kimberly Gray, Richmond City

Absent:

Robert Cox, Prince George County
Dudley Olsson, West Point

Others Present:

N. Douglas Hunt, Director
Crystal C. Charity, Clerk
Barbara Marshall, Deputy Clerk

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

Thursday, May 21, 2009

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 Diane Pettitt, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was approved. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Diane Pettitt, seconded by John Axselle, the minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting were approved. Barbara Crawley abstained, Motion carried.

V. Public Comments

"Good Morning, I am Paul Fleisher representing the Richmond Peace Education Center. You have before you the most recent statistics on MLWGS admissions. He went on to state the disparity between black students and white students. It is a consistent and continuing problem. There are no black students selected in next year's class from Henrico County or Chesterfield County. I hope this Board will instruct the new incoming administration to address this disparity as a top priority."

Good Morning, I am Bill Yates parent of senior Danny Yates who can not be here today because he is in New York putting some of those Maggie Walker Language folks to work. Danny asked me to speak today because he is a Board member of the Friends at Dogwood Dell. He wants me to tell you about an exciting event for Maggie Walker. On Thursday, June 11 Maggie Walkers own Faculty Lounge Lizards will be performing at Dogwood Dell located next to the Carillon in Byrd Park. This year is the 53rd season of the Festivals of the Arts. The annual program is music, dance and theatre. All Festival of the Art performances are free and open to the public. The

Faculty Lounge Lizards performing on the 11th features six Maggie L. Walker Governor's School faculty members who are Karl VonKlein, Sherri Arnold, Jeremy Clark, Karl Zweerink, Mike White and Hal Waller. This band is so good, that last month they even coaxed Mr. Hunt on the dance floor at his retirement party. We are really excited about the opening act for the Lounge Lizards. The Maggie Walker Senior Seminar Jazz Band also known as the Fall Line will be a warm up band for the Lounge Lizards, so you can get two for one. So Mark your calendars and come out to the Dogwood Dell. I wanted to make a quick comment after Mr. Fleisher, and that as a parent in the City of Richmond and Dr. Brandon I think you would recommend that we step back and listen to what the diversity study brings and don't jump to any conclusions about the issues from the attendance statistics. My youngest son will be coming here next year and I know of at least 3 African American students that were accepted to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and choose to go to other schools. Whether it be Appomattox or TJ IB, they do that not necessarily because anything is wrong with Maggie L. Walker Governor's School but because of best fits. Four years ago I did not have the personal experience with what was going on in the city schools and what pulling student in different directions. Why some came here, why some choose not to come here. The students I talked to here that were accepted, White or African American and choose not to come, did not feel any discrimination or any issues with Maggie Walker. Some felt there were reasons to go else where. For example one student went to Appomattox rather than Maggie Walker. So I think it is important that we not jump to conclusions based just upon the current admission statistics.

Anyway going back, I look forward to seeing you on June 11th it should be a great concert.

"I am Lynn Reed the Faculty Liaison to the Board and also the Senior Class Sponsor for the Class of 2009. We want you to know how much the Class Officers would like to see you at the various events, not only at Dogwood Dell, but at our Baccalaureate Services at 6:30 that will precede the Dogwood Dell Concert and also the Graduation Ceremony at the Landmark on June 12th. Our speaker for the graduation ceremony is Secretary of Administration, Viola Baskerville. She has been a long time supporter of the Governors School."

VI. Director's Report

I will echo what Lynn said and thank her for her leadership for 4 years with this class of 2009. We will be contacting you to see weather you can be with us. We can provide parking as well as tickets to get in. It is always a highlight to see our Board members and our Superintendents at our graduation and fully understand that we are one

graduation and you have many graduations. If you can make it we would love to have you.

On April 18th the PTSA honored me with an event at the Heritage Country Club and the Lounge Lizards did perform. I will say that 3 attractive young teachers probably coaxed me out on the dance floor more so than the Lounge Lizards and this does not happen often in the many years I have attended functions like that. Ms. Mary-Jo Sisson-Vaughan who is with the Foundation the PTSA, Deb Sawyer and Bell Bronner spearheaded that effort and it was all that we could ever hope for.

As we look at our coming events, a lot of things are going to happen between now and the next time this Board gets together on June 18th. Tomorrow is a holiday for our school. If you remember during the winter we had a March 13 date that was a school holiday. The week before we had just had all that snow, so we felt at that time we may need an additional day in our calendar in case we had more bad weather. We did not need any more time off after missing three and a half days the week before. So we moved that day to May 22 in hopes that it would be there if we needed it for a makeup day if we needed it. If not it would be a nice to have a 4 day weekend for our faculty, staff and students. Please see the full calendar of events for all the activities.

We will now present some of our students. Dr. Cliff Broeniman is here and is the Chair of our Foreign Language Department, and also Mr. Steven Ross one of our Latin teachers.

“Good morning everyone, I am Dr. Cliff Broeniman. This is our end of the year wrap up for our Latin Greek Students who performed very well in the National Latin Examination. The CAV test is a statewide tournament in Latin. Before I have the students introduce themselves to you, we had 79 students this year to take the National Latin Exam which consists of 6 different levels. Out of the 79 students 75 received National Recognition. Out of the 79 students that had taken the test 47% received gold metals the highest awards. So we are really pleased with our National Latin Examination Students. Also the students who took the CAV, Classical Association of Virginia test this year and again they will tell you who they were. CAV only gives out 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place and those are usually to individual winners. There are a collection of students who receive honorable mention, those who just missed third place. We had 24 students to receive honorable mention. The CAV tests are very difficult tests. Tonight just happens to be our Language Induction Ceremony. So please feel free to attend. Mr. Steven Ross whom you have not met because when I am teaching he's off and when I don't teach he is teaching. So usually I'm free 2nd period and get to bring these wonderful students to you. Mr. Ross

teaches more of these students than I do and he has been here for 12 or 13 years and Mr. Ross does an absolutely phenomenal job and leads super trips to Italy.”

“I am Steven Ross and I want to thank you for your support of the 11 languages we teach in this department. It is a very unique opportunity for us as teachers. We are both extremely proud of these students. Thank you.”

I’m Sarah Angelo a junior from Henrico and this year I came 1st on the Virtual CA; Kathryn Battle a junior here at Maggie Walker and received 3rd place on the CAV test from Henrico County; Elizabeth Ballou a freshman from Richmond City and I got a perfect score on the National Latin Exam”. According to Dr. Broeniman, out of that perfect score there are about 135,000 students worldwide who take the test, and out of the 6 levels there were 917 worldwide perfect scores.” I am Joe Martin from Henrico a sophomore and I got 1st on the Latin II CAV test; I am Ishani Premaratne a sophomore from Henrico and I received 2nd place on the Latin II CAV test; I am Molly Cook a senior from Henrico and I got 4 years of Gold Metals on the National Latin Exams and received a Book Award; I am Jocelyn Powelson a junior from Richmond and I also got highest honors in the national CAV testing.”

Dr. Broenimen had some final comments. Last year you met Ashanti and Olivia for their success on the CAV test as indicated this year they received 2nd place, literally by 1 point to Joe Martin. To please the Chesterfield people we have an absolutely brilliant senior Laura Tate, Gold Metal National Latin Examination and also she had 2nd Place on the CAV Virtual test, so we had actually 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We have only been administrating the CAV test for the past 3 years and Laura has been with us since then and she has received either 1st, 2nd or 3rd during that time. The CAV people put her in their Hall of Fame.

Mr. Hunt introduced this next set of students. Matt McGuire has taken over and this is his first year coaching the We The People team. Matt will give you some results of their success.

“As all of you know I am very proud of the students here today. This is the 12th year that We The People have been at the Governors School. We continued our record and had an 11th consecutive year both Virginia and Governors School finished top 10 in the country. They finished 4th in the finals and actually the 2nd over this weekend. So they had a tremendous performance. It is a challenge being the 1st year and they prop me up. It was a great experience for me.”

Mr. Hunt went on to say that to say this group did a wonderful job is an understatement. Unfortunately for us, Colorado's Denver East High School won the National Championship 3rd year in a row. We found some of their secrets. They don't have actual teachers. They have a law firm that coaches them. This group was absolutely amazing. There was a prosecuting attorney for New York City who quizzed one of the units and when it was over her response was "You intimidate me" to the students. There are not many people in New York City that you can intimidate. It was really impressive. We had 2 judges that were so amazed by our students (the New York judge was one of them) that they came on Monday during the finals and sat with our team for 4 of the 6 presentations and hugged them and cheered them and encouraged them because they were so impressed with the way the students handled themselves. Matt's leadership was unbelievable. He followed a legend, Phil Sorrentino. Phil has put this school on the map in many ways. But Matt picked right up with organization and the students gathered under his wings and flew to great heights. There are 14 other students who are not here that I would also like to commend for doing a wonderful job in continuing to represent our school. Please introduce yourselves.

" I am Conner Farrell from Richmond I will be going to UVA, Peter Slag from Richmond and will be attending UVA also, Carolyn Vines from Henrico and will be going to Washington & Lee, and I am Emma England from Chesterfield and will be going to George Mason to study Theatre and Politics. "

Mr. Hunt next introduced Mrs. Anna Shore, one of our Chemistry teachers and has been with us for 3 years. She has moved into a different level this year as a parent of a 9th grader. Anna...

"Hi, I'm here so you can hear the information the students have accumulated over time. As you recall back in August, I was here to accept \$6000.00 grant from the Dominion Education Foundation. They provided this to the Environmental Club here for the purpose of education as well as accumulating data on the school for energy efficiency. To give you an update on where we are on the study, we have handouts if you want to attain one on the way out. We will be coming out with a comprehensive report and will submit that to you and to Dominion. All of our suggestions in the handouts will end up saving the school \$3000.00 a year which is a lot of money. Some of the suggestions were motion sensors; energy efficient lighting; replacing old model computers, vending machine lighting and other energy efficient suggestions could be paid from the grant money donated to us.

Mr. Hunt stated in order to meet the additional cost required to implement some of these items we have a wonderful GSGIS Foundation to support us and here representing the Foundation today is the chair Mary-Jo Sisson-Vaughan and the Developmental Officer Mr. Hal Waller.

“Good morning. I’m Mary-Jo Sisson-Vaughan Chairman of the Governor’s School Foundation. I apologize for short notice for list of new Board members for ratification. brief update on the Foundation’s actions since the school year began. Grateful that a grant obtained by prior Board Chair Sharon Fuller funded ability to hire Hal Waller as our 1st employee, although only part time, and to purchase sophisticated data base software and support needed for years. Amazed at job Hal has done in less than 12 months, particularly for someone with no formal development background.

Non-financial accomplishments:

Changed name of Foundation to reflect current name of school & changed fiscal year end to align with that of the school, using non-profit bulk mail to reduce costs, obtained liability insurance for events. Thanks to current & alum parent Mike Martinez de Andino, Hunton & Wms. provided several thousand dollars in pro bono legal services revising by-laws, art. Of incorp. & legal consulting on variety of issues, continuing to support us as needed. .Capital One, thanks to alum parent Anne Schaffer, designed, printed, & donated 5000 brochures, explaining the Foundation & relationship to the school. Hope this is first of many improved marketing materials.

Become more active in the life of the school—at PTSA’s request took over financial leadership of auction this year, co-sponsored retirement event for Doug Hunt with PTSA, Hal’s networking with PTSA & Booster groups to help support them with our resources & expertise. No desire for Foundation to replace or consolidate them. Collaboration to benefit all. Hal expanded outreach to alums, particular focus on GSGIS alums, electronic communications, more frequent off-site alumni events Nuked our program committee—the school is the program & Foundation exists to support it. Funding for student experiences, faculty development/support, & facilities enhancement. For 1st time, took Foundation’s funding priorities from school’s “wish list” of items that would be nice to have but not expected to be covered by Regional School Board expanded involvement in the Foundation--new Board members, more active committees taking advantage of folks like Dave Ballard who are willing to help but for various reasons cannot serve on the Board now. Hope to initiate Foundation Advisory Council before next fall. Pleased with what we have done in 9 months but “to do” list remains long”.

We have a few presentations today. The Foundation is about as first class as you will get. Mr. Hunt went on to state when Mary-Jo has her meetings this table is filled. These are not people who are coming to a meeting to sit quietly and say Amen to everything. These are people who want to take the Foundation to where it is today. With Mary-Jo's leadership and Hal's support that has happened. So we thank both of you very much for what you have done.

Unfortunately we are losing 2 very valuable members of our Board who are retiring and we would like to recognize them at this time. Mr. J. Roy Geiger. The time that I have been here, Roy has always been there in support. Often, in what he has said and often in what he has not said. Behind the scenes he is a valuable resource for me. Roy was one of those who was the backbone of this school for many years and his support has just been 1st Class and we will always be indebted and appreciate the service that Roy has given to our school. We would like Mr. Chairman at this time to make the presentation.

Mr. Mattox presents award to Mr. J Roy Geiger. "With Gratitude for your service Dr. J. Roy Geiger II Superintendent Steering Committee 1995 – 2009; Chairman 2000 – 2002 Maggie L. Walker Governor's School."

Mr. Geiger stated he gets a kick whenever he rides down 64 and glance over to Maggie Walker. I can remember when we were planning this years ago. New Kent was not one of the initial schools that participated unfortunately, but got involved shortly there after. Diane and so many of us go back in the days when we were struggling to get this place started. Lisa Gill who preceded Terry Lindsay, who is deceased now. I can remember her commitment here at the Governors School and her commitment to New Kent even though we are small. She was dying and one of the last things she did was to have her family drive her to a meeting we had one evening. So while we are small, the commitment of New Kent has been strong and it has been a personal pleasure for me to have been involved with you as we have moved through this process. It is nice to see it unfold and I get a tremendous source of pride when I drive pass the school. Doug personally we went through some dark days through my chairmanship where things were moving on the construction side, but not moving as well as they should have been operationally. I can still remember that beautiful day when I drove from Billy Cannaday's office after hearing your name was a candidate and did not realize that we would have 7 wonderful years after that. I hope that the philosophy of those seven years will continue and I am convinced that they are going to with Fred. So again, thank you."

Mr. Hunt states that the next recipient is not going that far. Fred Morton in a short amount of time has shown what the school means to him. I could not be more impressed and more pleased about my replacement when I found out it was going to be Fred. He stepped up to the plate many times during the five years he has been Superintendent in Henrico County to support our school. Fred does things for the right reasons and I think the school will be in great hands and soar to new heights.

Mr. Mattox presents award to Mr. Fred S. Morton IV. "With Gratitude for your service Fred S. Morton Superintendent Steering Committee 2004 – 2009; Maggie L. Walker Governor's School."

Mr. Morton stated that 5 years ago, 4 years ago, 3 years ago, the furthest thing from my mind was becoming director here. I have loved being Superintendent for the last 12 years. Lisa and I have talked and the things I am going through now is the last this, the last that and I really did not think that that was going to be emotional, but it has been. I seriously looked at a couple of jobs in South Carolina, North Carolina but we did not want to move again. This area has become home. Not just Henrico but the greater metro area. You all have become friends and the reality for me is I maybe retiring but I'm not shy. I am glad this opportunity has presented itself to me. Thank you so much.

Mr. Hunt stated that the last part of his report deals with the Admissions Review Committee Report. Last Friday May 15th, Mr. Mattox, Mr. Axselle, Mrs. Pettitt, Mr. Morton and myself met with UVA who is doing our admissions review. It was decided at that time that the formal presentation will be made at our next board meeting. They will give us the formal written report. They will send me a written copy of the final report on June 4th at which time I will copy it and give to Fred and we will look it over. On Monday, June 8th the original group and a member of the Planning Committee will come forward and review it in detail. At that time we will have an option to give input back to the UVA group and they will in 2 weeks issue the final report to us.

There is a meeting schedule conflict on June 18. Four Superintendents from the larger divisions have been asked by Dr. Eugene P. Trani to attend a press conference at VCU @ 10:00 a.m. in which a new regional partnership will be launched. I am mentioning it now as the agenda will be designed that perhaps the UVA report can be put at the very beginning of the agenda. The public comments will occur after the UVA group is done. Agreement from the Board the June 18th meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m.

VII. Action Agenda Items

a. Authorization for Director to Issue Employment Contract

On motion by Valarie Ayres, seconded by Barbara Crawley the Board approved to Issue employment contracts. Motion carried.

b. Personnel Actions

Mr. Hunt stated on the personnel actions I will draw your attention to the fact we have 2 teachers returning Ms. Connie Hill resigned at the end of last year because of family commitments with parents and young children. She had been with us for a few years and has a desire to return. If you remember a few meetings back you approved a 1 year maternity leave for one of our teachers which had allowed for Connie to return. Ms. Sarah Dwelling was our Social Studies Department Chair and was out for a year and now a position opened up for her with the retirement of Les Schreiber. Troy Mitchell is our new maintenance assistant.

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Diane Pettit the Board approved the personnel contracts. Motion carried.

c. MLWGS Foundation Board Approval

The Governor School Foundation bring forward their new members as well as the returning directors. You can see on page 14 a list of the new members coming aboard and page 15 gives you the returning Board members for the next year. As for their by-laws they require this Board to approve their members of the Board.

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Lisa Marshall the Board approved the Foundation Board members. Motion carried.

d. Graduation Requirements

This one I will ask you to play close attention. It will be difficult for me to explain. Two years ago this Board approved a 5th Social Studies credit for our graduation requirements. The philosophy was we are a school for Government and International Studies, we now require the minimum that the state requires and we should be above that. You supported us in requiring a 5th credit. That was to go into effect with this 9th grade class the class of 2012. In the mean time, when we took this to the state for state approval, because of the change in gifted co-coordinators specialist at the state level this got dropped. The state never did approve it. This year we went back to them with a new specialist and they have really helped us get through this. On next Thursday May 28th, Mr. Mattox and I along with Mrs. Taylor will appear before the State Board at their meeting and request that they approve that 5th Social Studies credit. They will not allow us to require this years freshman class to have the fifth credit. So we

will begin with next years freshman class. Talking to members of DOE they fully support this request. The complicated part is that in the mean time the state is going to up their graduation requirements by two units. One is the Economics and Personal Finance course and the other is an elective. Now if we were to add those two additional credits to the extra social studies credit that would put us at 35 which is max. To leave us a little room here, if you are in agreement that the fifth credit will satisfy their request for additional elective. We still will have to have the Economics and Personal Finance, but we won't have to require our students to get an additional elective credit because they will be getting the additional Social Studies Credit. So that would put our total at 31 which everyone feels comfortable with. They feel better approving that if they know that you support that request.

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley the Board approved the graduation requirements request. Motion carried

**On Motion by Diane Pettitt, seconded by Barbara Crawley the Board agenda is now amended to move these two items from Board Review up to action item.

e. Textbook Adoption Recommendations Phase II

These books that you see here, Mr. Hunt stated have been through the typical process of review committee, made up various experts from your school division as well as some of our faculty members and these are the book which have been presented. Mrs. Pat Taylor went on to say some of the criteria that was highlighted for all these books is how well they help fill the mission of the school. If you look at the English books they are very much focused on the public speaking, argumentation and persuasion and audience reading. The International Language will allow us at level 4 to meet the needs of so many students. In Science, the Chemistry book is on the state list the other two are not but the physics books meet the criteria and allows for differentiated assignments for gifted students. The Criminals book for Forensics Chemistry was approved in the fall. It focus on a case study in which gifted students can get in case studies and understand the concepts through the investigative approach. Math, the Statistics book, and Calculus book were also chosen.

Mr. Chairman interjected by saying that with everything going on in the next meeting everyone feels comfortable voting on this today and moving this item to an action item instead of Materials for Board Review.

On motion by Diane Pettitt, seconded by Valarie Ayres the Board approved the Textbook Adoption Recommendations Phase II. Motion carried.

f. Cancelling the July Meeting

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Lisa Marshall the Board approved the Cancellation of the July Board Meeting. Motion carried.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

a. None

IX. Information

Mr. Axselle stated that there is another one of our Superintendents who is retiring this year and had not been to a meeting since announcing this and that is Dr. Frances Moore.

X. Superintendents' Steering Committee Meeting

None

XI. Closed Meeting

None

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

None

XIII. Announcement

There being no further business to discuss, Motion by John Axselle, seconded by Lisa Marshall, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried.

XIV. Next Meeting: **Wednesday August 19, 2009 at 9 a.m.** MLWGS Board 2nd Floor. **Please note that this date is a change from the meeting calendar.**


Ivan Mattox, Chairman


N. Douglas Hunt, Director