

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

Attendance

October 18, 2007

9:00 a.m.

Superintendents

Present:

Ed Walent, Chesterfield County (Representing
Marcus Newsome)
Janelle Wilson, Hanover County (Representing
Stewart Roberson)
Jean Murray, Henrico County (Representing Fred
Morton)
James Victory, Petersburg City
Bill Craig, Powhatan County (Representing
Margaret Meara)
Harold Fitrer, Richmond City (Representing Deborah
Jewell-Sherman)

Absent:

Janet Crawley, Charles City County
Linda Underwood, Goochland County
Richard Layman, King and Queen County
J. Roy Geiger, New Kent County
R. Francis Moore, Prince George

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
Lloyd Jackson, Henrico County
Eileen Long, King and Queen County
Teresa Lindsay, New Kent County
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg City
Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County
Hugh Mumford, Prince George County
Lisa Dawson, Richmond City

Absent:

Minutes

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

Thursday, October 18, 2007

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

John Axselle, 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 Lloyd Jackson, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the agenda was approved. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Addition: Under VII. b. RFP for Consultant, first line, change to read: *"The Chairman noted a committee comprised of Board members, superintendents, parents, students, and planning committee was formed to review in more detail the RFP for a consultant and bring it back to the Board for final review and approval/disapproval."* On motion by Lloyd Jackson, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the minutes of the September 20, 2007 were approved with the additional wording. Motion carried.

V. Public Comments

Lynn Reed, Elected Faculty Liaison for the Governor's School (GS)

"Good Morning: My name is Lynn Reed, and I am the elected Faculty Liaison to this Board. On behalf of the Faculty Council, I do want to thank Mr. Hunt and MLWGS School Board in taking the recommendation from the 2005 School Board Evaluation of this school to create this position and making it a reality. It is our hope that increased communication will be but one of many benefits.

My topic for today however is another recommendation from the 2005 School Evaluation, and I will read it to you. 'It is recommended that MLWGS, in anticipation of the retirement of current administrators, develop a plan to ensure smooth transitions.' On August 23 of this year, Mr. Axselle, Mr. Mattox, and Dr. Jewell-Sherman attended a faculty meeting, and the faculty brought to their attention our concern that no such preparation has yet been instituted. At that time, we were encouraged to bring this same issue to the entire Board.

In 2002, committees of parents and faculty did begin the process of identifying characteristics of leaders of this school. I remember that Mrs. Pettitt was on the Board at that time (and others of you might have been as well). The faculty suggests that a first step might be to find those reports and recommendations from those committees and bring them back to all constituencies for review and revision as needed.

Please realize that we are not hoping to push Mr. Hunt away! He has provided steady leadership, and I for one appreciate his strong interpersonal communication skills. However, the faculty hopes that when it is time for a new director to be selected (whether in one year, or two years or five years), that a national search will be instituted and that the identification and selection process of a visionary and dynamic individual will be accomplished in an open and timely manner, so that the transition will be as seamless as possible”

VI. Director's Report

Mr. Hunt stated the GS is a wonderful place to work and he has enjoyed his years at the school. He concurred that it is time to start looking at the process for his replacement and after speaking with some of the Board members, they are all in agreement that it would be helpful if there was some doubling up to have a few months to help the transition of a new director. This would be very prudent and the faculty has expressed their concerns.

Mr. Hunt shared the following: The GS is in the middle of school visits and thanked each locality for welcoming them as they try to recruit students for the upcoming year. Enthusiasm is high and the demand is great. Every session has been well attended, lots of questions were asked, and there is a lot of interest in the GS in all localities in the GS. Open House, called Informational Sessions, runs from 6:30 – 9 p.m., November 7 (all localities except Richmond and Henrico) and November 8 (Richmond and Henrico). The GS is anticipating large turnouts. The GS production of *Hamlet* is November 9 – 11. Grant Mudge, Drama Teacher, was present with some students (Alex Wyles (Chesterfield), Nora Byrd (Richmond City), Thomas Howard (Richmond City)) to make a presentation to the Board. The students spoke briefly on some of the past school productions and the upcoming production of *Hamlet*. Complimentary passes were given to the Board to attend any one of the three performances. Thomas Howard, President of the International Thespian Society, personally appealed to the Board to approve this society. On opening night of *Hamlet*, there will be an induction ceremony and some information will be shared as to how each student has invested him or herself in the drama program and how each is deserving of the honor just like other students would receive for having an investment in language, history, or any subject having an honor society. He noted it will mean a lot if the governing body of the school would support the students who have worked hard. Mr. Hunt asked the Board to call and indicate which night's performance they would be attending.

Mr. Hunt informed the Board that the GS population is 700 this year. A growth plan was developed five years ago and the GS has adhered to it, with a projection of 712 maxing out the GS. There is no additional specific growth plan except for some preannounced growth requests from Goochland County and New Kent. Mr. Hunt mentioned that West Point's Superintendent contacted him as she is investigating the possibility of sending a student next year. She was informed of the fee charged into tuition (until they get to the \$40,000 level) for new localities coming on board. Mr. Hunt hopes to present to the Board a new five-year plan that will reflect some of the wishes of some of the GS divisions. The GS is looking at a "no growth" year next year.

The GS is in the process of homecoming activities and it has been a great week for the students, with different activities each day (pep rally, field day with a cookout, a field hockey game, volleyball game, and a homecoming dance on Friday night). The 9th, 10th and 11th grades have taken their PSAT tests this week. The first parents' coffee reception for freshmen parents, sponsored by the PTSA, was on September 26 with approximately 40 in attendance. This was a great opportunity for parents to ask questions and the GS to get commitments for additional parental support. The second parents' coffee reception is scheduled for October 24 and the sophomore parents will be

invited to attend along with the freshmen parents. Several other parents' coffee receptions are planned.

The Finance Committee met on October 4 and they fully reviewed the GS financial status and answered important questions in order for the GS to stay in alignment with what the Board is doing with health care, raises, and budgets. The Finance Committee, comprised of finance individuals from each of the four large school divisions, gives recommendations and supports the Board. Mr. Hunt directed the Board's attention to the *Newsweek* articles referencing the GS and the two posters the school had made that are taken to recruiting affairs for individuals to see how the GS is recognized throughout the country. Lastly, the Chairman noted the documents transferring the deed have been signed. Mr. Hunt stated that everything is finalized and one more action is pending from the bank and by the next Board meeting (hopefully no later than the December's meeting), this will be finalized and the transfer of the title will be done. Once the transfer occurs, the GS will be tax-free for the year 2008.

a. Coming Events - See page 9 in the meeting packet.

b. Comments – None

VII. Action Agenda Items

Selection Process for RFP Proposals

Mr. Hunt announced that the RFP Proposals have gone out and Board members have copies. He extended thanks to Henrico County's general government and Mr. Morton and his staff for compiling the RFP. The RFP has been posted on the GS website, the Richmond newspaper, the Washington Post, and the Norfolk Newspaper. The Coordinator of Curriculum, Pat Taylor, has sent the RFP to numerous universities via of the Department of Education with a deadline of November 30, 2007. Mr. Hunt noted the Chairman has appointed a committee, chaired by Vice-Chairman Alvin Mattox, to finalize the RFP and a subcommittee has been developed to review the proposals coming in. After the proposals are reviewed between the 30th of November and winter break, they will be narrowed down to three-to-five. On January 8th, or 9th if necessary, the full committee will meet and interview the chosen candidates and bring a recommendation to the Board. Reminder: the review committee is composed of two superintendents, two Board members, two parents, two students, two planning committee members, and non voting members (the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Hunt). Mr. Axselle thanked all Board members, superintendents, and parents for coming together and developing the RFP, as well as the sub committee, and noted the Board will make the final decision. The GS will mail an electronic copy of the RFP to all superintendents and will ask them to post it on their website or their county's website. On motion by Lloyd Jackson, seconded by Lisa Dawson, the Board approved the process for a consultant to conduct a study to review the effectiveness and equity of the current admission's process. Motion carried.

VIII. Materials for Board Review

a. New Club Proposals

The chairman polled the Board due to the quick turnaround for the next meeting and it was the consensus of the Board to approve the new clubs proposal. On motion by Hugh Mumford, seconded by Ivan Mattox, the Board approved the new clubs proposed. Motion carried.

b. International Language Department New Course Proposals

Pat Taylor, Coordinator of Curriculum, mentioned there were new course proposals for Arabic Language I & II, Advanced Placement Chinese Language & Culture, and Topics in German for the Board's review. This proposal will be voted on at the November 8 Board meeting.

IX. Superintendents' Steering Committee Meeting

None

X. Closed Meeting

None

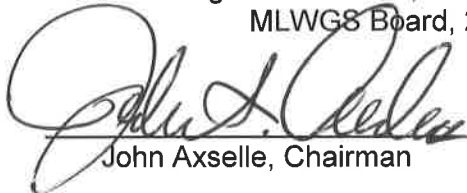
XII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Lloyd Jackson, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the meeting adjourned.
Motion carried.

XIV. Next Meeting: November 8, 2007
MLWGS Board, 2nd Floor



John Axelle, Chairman



N. Douglas Hunt, Director