

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

Thursday, September 19, 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 Room 153.

II. Introductions

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

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
Dr. Deborah Marks, *School Board*, Hopewell City Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, *School Board*, King & Queen County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg City Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County 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 Kinlaw, **Deputy Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. John Fahey, **Superintendent**, Hopewell City Public Schools
Dr. Stanley Jones, **Superintendent**, King & Queen County Public Schools
Dr. Joseph Melvin, **Director of Schools**, Petersburg City Public Schools

Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Jonathan Lewis, **Interim Superintendent**, Richmond City Public Schools
Dr. 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: (listed by locality alphabetical order)

Mr. John Montgomery, Jr., **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, **School Board**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, **School Board**, Richmond City Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Wendy Ellis, Deborah Snagg, Brenda Thornton, John Piersol, Joy Davis and Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS
Erica James – Counseling Intern from VUU
Dr. Kim Allen – King & Queen Public Schools
Charlotte Hayer – Richmond Education Association
Jane Scheibe – PTSA President
Marianne Macon, Laura O'Brien and Chamie Valentine – PTSA Advocacy
Bill Yates and Hal Waller – GS Foundation
Others in Attendance: too numerous to list

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by Dianne Smith, minutes submitted for August 15, 2013 were approved on an Aye vote by all present Board members with the exception of Mrs. Ayers who abstained.

V. Recognitions

- ***Reshini Premaratne ('16-Henrico, In Absentia)*** was recognized as a finalist for the Peace First Prize. Winners will receive a \$50,000 Peace First Fellowship. Through mentoring and coaching, this fellowship award is an investment in the ability of young people to expand and improve their projects in the community.
- ***Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield, In Absentia)*** was recognized as a Davidson Fellow Laureate by the Davidson Institute. The Davidson Fellowship is considered one of the three most prestigious undergraduate scholarships in the nation.

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.

Galen Green, MLWGS student, addressed the Board: "First I'd like to welcome Hopewell County; we are so excited to have you guys."

"I'm Galen Green, I'm a junior and I'm representing EduPac, a club at Maggie Walker. First, we as a club would like to thank all of you for the amazing support we've received from grade curricula to the new computers, it's clear that education is a top priority this year. We are looking forward to a great school year with many chances to work together."

"Next month on October 4th our school will be holding Fall Festival. At Fall Festival many clubs at Maggie Walker set up booths to raise money and awareness for the club's goals. We would like to extend an invitation to each of you to join us in celebrating the diverse clubs and musical talent at Maggie Walker. So, please come to our Fall Festival at Maggie Walker on Friday, October 4th starting at 3:00pm. I hope to see you all there. Thank you so much for your time."

The Chairman thanked Ms. Green for her remarks.

VII. Director's Report

- Dr. McGee introduced English Teacher John Piersol to represent **Ms. Sharon Parker, Coordinator of the MLWGS Mentorship Program.**

Mr. Piersol presented for Ms. Parker who was serving as a guest lecturer in his class. Mr. Piersol described the rigorous mentorship program designed to allow senior students to explore an area of personal interest that also promotes the mission of the school. A confidential list was provided to each Board member that illustrates where MLWGS students are being mentored.

- **Maggie L. Walker Joins Council of International Schools.** CIS is a global non-profit membership organization of schools, higher education institutions and individuals focused on international education. CIS is focused on the development of global citizens through perspectives of ethics diversity, global issues, communication, service and leadership.
- **Website Redesign.** The Director displayed and briefly navigated Walker's newly launched website located at mlwgs.com
- **New Maggie Walker Monument Base Located near Walker's Lombardy Entrance.** Seeded from a gift by the Class of 2011, a masonry base has been constructed and bronze plaque mounted recognizing the school's namesake Maggie L. Walker. Moving forward, the school will engage former MWHS students to develop the resources necessary to commission a rendering of Mrs. Walker to be placed on top of the base. In line with this effort, artifacts from the MWHS era are now on display on the third floor in two cases graciously provided by the MLWGS PTSA.
- **Opening of School – General Information.** 726 students were welcomed on September 3rd.
- **Goochland and New Kent Elementary Students Visit MLWGS.** This activity is coordinated by Dr. Ellis to expose elementary students to MLWGS. Any division interested in a similar activity can contact Dr. Ellis for scheduling. See Coming Events Calendar for Goochland and New Kent visit schedule.
- **Middle School Informational Visits Begin.** See Coming Events Calendar.

- **Class of 2014 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists.** Total seniors in the Class of 2014 = 164. Total NMS Semi-Finalists = 11.
- **Fall Festival 2014.** Friday, October 4th at MLWGS, 3:00pm-8:00pm.
- **ACT Scores, MLWGS v State:**

ACT College Readiness Letter comparing School/State Trends and DOE State/National Trends

2013 ACT SCORES	MLWGS	VIRGINIA
ENGLISH	31.3	22.3
MATH	30.3	22.5
READING	31.8	23.1
SCIENCE	30.4	22.2
COMPOSITE	31.0	22.6

- Congratulations to **Lisa Williams**, English Department Chair, for her appointment to serve on the **Governor’s Teacher Cabinet** consisting of twenty two educators from across the State.
- Dr. McGee is re-engaging the **Planning Committee** to review Walker’s **admissions** process pertinent to diversity and to make recommendations to the Superintendents.
- **MLWGS Coming Events:** September 19th through October 17th.

VIII. Action Items

a. Policy Approval

The following policies presented at the August meeting are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for approval: **No. 0014** – Students in Decision Making, **No. 1011** – Board Legal Status, **No. 1012** – Board Committees, **No. 2020** – Emergency Response Plan, **No. 2021** – Safety Drills, **No. 3000** – Moment of Silence, **No. 3001** – Instructional Goals, **No. 3010** – Library, **No. 5006** – Evaluation of Professional Staff, **No. 6001** – Volunteers, and **No. 8005** - Ethics. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

Dr. McGee reminded the Board that the Policy Steering Committee is currently comprised of the administrative team and Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Grois representing the faculty, Mrs. Ayers representing the Regional School Board and Dr. Allen representing the parent community. Two slots will be offered to students once all class officer elections have been completed. All policies submitted to this Board have been vetted by this committee.

The Director recommends approval of the policies noted.

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by John Axselle, the Board unanimously approved policies submitted as noted above.

b. Proposed Additional Budget Workshop

Pursuant to Board request, the Director has proposed an additional Budget Work Session on October 17th to the approved 2013-14 Board Calendar of Meetings.

There being no discussion on the matter, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved adding a budget workshop to their schedule.

c. Lock Replacement

Submitted in August for Board review; the Director recommends approval of Pleasants Hardware for all interior door locking system replacement at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. This request resulted from a recent safety audit recommendation. Funding for this project will be drawn from current year operational accounts.

Mr. Hazzard queried the status of a safety grant application which had been filed, with the Director responding that MLWGS was not on the awards list and therefore not receiving any state funding for this modification/upgrade.

On motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Deborah Marks, the Board unanimously approved Pleasants Hardware as the supplier for interior door locking system replacement.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. Policy Proposals

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for review: No. 1012.a – Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board, No. 1016 – Policy Adoption, No. 2009 – Evaluation of the Director, No. 2011 – *Amended* Policy Implementation (Adopted 12-13-2012), No. 2022 – Emergency First Aid, CPR and AED Certified Personnel, No. 2030 – Small Purchasing, No. 5000 – Personnel Policies Goals, No. 5001 – Personnel Records, No. 5009 – Expense Reimbursements, No. 5040 – Third Party Complaints Against Employees, and No. 7001 – Support Services. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

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

b. Upgrade Security Camera System, Software and Hardware

The Director reviewed bids received on this proposal (#MLW SCS1-2013), ranging from \$150,481.10 to \$154,310.00 and then requested a detail review by Mr. Tharp.

Mr. Tharp reported that eight contractors originally expressed interest in this project but only two submitted bid offers. The low bidder, Richmond Alarm, is the vendor Mr. Tharp recommends as they met all specs in the RFP. The systems proposed by both vendors are state of the art and IP addressable which allows for monitoring offsite. One major difference with the Richmond Alarm system is a pan tilt zoom feature that can produce a digital enlargement of any part of the field of view without redirecting the camera to do that while still recording other areas. Another advantage of the Richmond Alarm system is in the management/storage of data; i.e., if ever needed in court their system allows one to isolate an image, time stamp and overlay notes onto it without having to copy/paste into another document. From a legal aspect this process will stand up in court, whereas the other might not as the image has been manipulated.

Mr. Tharp stated that Walker’s issues are not particularly dangers from inside the school. He added this was a reason why the state safety grant was not obtained remarking that Walker has only had five fights in twenty one years. One of the state’s criteria is to look at aggressive behavior within the school(s) so the case presented to them is its not what’s within that’s Walker’s risk, it’s what is outside coming in. When you’re ranked 14th in the nation, a school for government and international studies, located on I-95, it’s an opportunity for someone that wants to make a name for themselves to have an issue with Walker.

Finally, Mr. Tharp noted the system quoted provides eighteen cameras in various locations on the property. The current system provides sixteen cameras, which are all analog and maxed out. In conclusion, his recommendation to the Board is to consider moving forward with this project utilizing Richmond Alarm. Funding for this project will be drawn from Capital Reserves.

Discussion followed regarding operational issues of the camera system.

The Director requested Board consideration of this project.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal

Brenda Thornton, ASL and Seminar Teacher at MLWGS, presented her proposal for an interdisciplinary trip to Guatemala during spring break 2014.

Approval for this proposal will be requested at the October meeting of this Board.

Dr. Newsome left the meeting.

X. Informational Items:

• **Student News**

- Christopher Benos ('14-Chesterfield) Shines at Summer French Academy
- Jake Zaslav ('16-Richmond) presented a video on an organization he founded, Music Orchard, which gives private music lessons to young elementary students that are free and individualized to each student.

• **Faculty News**

- Librarian Wendy DeGroat published in Sept/Oct 2013 issue of Knowledge Quest

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Lane spoke on behalf of Dr. Newsome and presented Mrs. Kathy Kitchen, an expert in the area of school finance as a former Assistant Superintendent for the Virginia Department of Education and recently retired as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Operations in Chesterfield County. Mrs. Kitchen presented her analysis of

Maggie Walker's funding level versus school division budgets. Her presentation will become part of the permanent record of this meeting.

Dr. Lane thanked Mrs. Kitchen for her work noting for Board members her efforts and expertise for this analysis was graciously volunteered.

Dr. Lane next reported that the Superintendent's Steering Committee took no formal actions from their meeting today, only general discussion was conducted.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Kitchen's presentation and Dr. Lane's remarks, discussion and questions were had by Board members. Mr. Hazzard probed into clarification of 'all' debt service of each school system participating at Maggie Walker was included into the basis for the cost/expenditure side of FY12's annual report submitted to VDOE. Mrs. Kitchen said no, debt service was not in the number she presented as she used only regular based school operations and debt service sits outside that category. She followed-up stating that divisions obviously do report debt service to VDOE, but it is not part of the numbers she used.

Continuing, Mr. Hazzard proposed the following concept: should a fiduciary agent stop meeting their obligation, the schools would not run, so they are clearly an expenditure that should be included. He added that to truly understand what it takes to run the school systems operated by the counties and cities that participate at MLWGS, those funds have to be included on the expenditure side. To do so might mean that the concept of a tuition reduction is preposterous. In some measure an approximation of ongoing major repairs and capital expenditures must be found to make Walker an appropriate place for generation after generation.

Mr. Hazzard encouraged all Board members to work together and to come to next month's budget workshop with a sense of what these numbers mean, for while appreciated for the good faith effort presented, there is more to this picture than what we see. Mrs. Kitchen remarked one would not compare a division's per student debt service utilized to pay off school buildings; against those same dollars instead funded to Maggie Walker, which would, unless otherwise banked for future purchase or development, be used for operational expenses. She continued; you can do that should you so choose, but it is not a comparable set of expenditures; one is being used to pay down debt and the other to run a building and pay expenditures such as teacher salaries. Mr. Hazzard agreed, and recognized the distinction. He added that capital funding and debt service that falls outside of VDOE reporting should at least be part of the equation and taken into consideration.

Adding to the discussion Mr. Axselle agreed that it is difficult when comparing a division to a school's debt service and operational costs, newer versus older buildings. Mr. Hazzard stated that within a division it's often said it's not very useful to look at an individual school outside of its operating cost; other costs come into play for running a division. He continued; Maggie Walker also has long term commitments it might want to pursue (example: real estate procurement), but to flatly state that what is reported to VDOE from divisions to this individual school is not complete. Mr. Axselle added; this is the ongoing opportunity, or maybe it's the ongoing challenge, the Board faces. This school is not a division but it reaches students across a region, and general funding is an issue Board members must face back in their locality. Mr. Hazzard appreciated Mr. Axselle's comments and stated what he said goes to the real heart of the issue, which is how do you hire teachers to teach to a population of students for which 97% pass all their ACT's when the state averages for those four tests are in the 50th percentile. Walker has a unique set of constraints and requirements to hire special teachers with a unique set of skills. To say that a tuition decrease that makes Walker level funded with the divisions is fair would assume we have the same hiring constraints, but we don't. The students are special so the teachers need to be special; this is gifted education, it's not the standard scenario that we are trying to solve for every student in every division. Every student deserves a great education, these students have proven themselves that they need something special to get to the next level and we want to give it to them.

Mr. Axselle agreed that Walker is a unique situation but reiterated it is a balancing act and the Board must be cognizant of funding perceptions.

Dr. Lane processed the discussion as the Board's request regarding budget development is to provide a weighted per pupil cost based on the debt service than continue debate regarding how that is include, or if it is included, but the Board will have the data. Mr. Axselle requested seeing debt service listed as a separate item, while Mr. Hazzard preferred that each Board member should be able to decide whether it is included or not.

On a different topic, Dr. McGee updated the Board regarding a recent Virginia Attorney General opinion on Thomas Jefferson Science and Technology High School in Fairfax County as to whether or not they could charge other divisions for capital expenditures that participation in their program. The AG opinion was this could not happen. Walker's situation is different in that we have been able to build up a fund reserve so that we do not need to ask divisions for additional funding when capital improvements are warranted. This places MLWGS in a unique situation in that we can maintain a fund reserve.

Lastly, Mr. Tharp corrected an answer he provided earlier to Dr. Lewis regarding the size of Maggie Walker. The correct information is 151,485 square feet. The total funding packing for maintenance, less salary for the full time facilities personnel is \$309,160. This equals \$2.04/square foot for maintenance of this facility.

XII. Closed Meeting

None.

XIII. Certification of Closed Meeting and Any Action, if Necessary, as a Result of Closed Meeting.

None.

XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business

None.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Cora Armstrong, adjournment of this meeting was unanimously approved.

XVI. Next Meeting

October 17, 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