

Maggie L. Walker School Advisory Council
2016-2017 End of Year Report
Chair, Dr. Leslie Anne Hausser

Mission of the SAC:

I am providing committee reports and general insight on the work of the SAC.

The **Global Outreach Committee** has a mission to support the efforts of the faculty and the school to provide opportunities that expand our student's cultural competency and leadership skills through global engagement. This committee strives to provide the following:

Meaningful opportunities for engagement to the maximum number of students and teacher across the curriculum cost-effectively and sustainably as led by our teachers.

This year the committee laid the groundwork for future opportunities. While anticipating the arrival of a new Director, they established close ties with leaders at University of Richmond School for International Studies and at VCU's Wilder Center. While there are constraints preventing student participation in study abroad opportunities through the colleges, Maggie Walker's Leadership team (Dr. Ellis) is exploring the possibility of travel chaperoned by MLWGS faculty that could be granted credit through VCU. Both VCU and U of R have expressed enthusiasm for Maggie Walker student interns during summer events and programs. Discussion with the administration will continue to engage these initiatives.

The **Collaborative Planning Committee** began the 2016-2017 school year with the aim of exploring how the Maggie Walker school support organizations (Foundation, PTSA, and 5 booster groups) could be better organized to advance a shared agenda of supporting the school's students, faculty, and parents through the efficient combination of financial and volunteer resources. After reviewing the considerable duplications, improved communication strategy has improved the challenges but there is a need for more. During the 2015-2016 school year, this committee worked on providing recommendations on simplifying the multiple communication avenues. The director then asked that the SAC continue looking into ways for a more cohesive collaboration of school support organizations. This potential merger of some, or even all, of these School groups was considered, discussed and received interest from leaders in many of the organizations. Progress, however, with leadership changes, is moving slowly despite active engagement. The SAC spearheaded these discussions with extensive input this past year from PTSA, Foundation and Booster Groups. The Foundation plans to host a strategic board retreat during the summer of 2017 to discuss this issue and will return in the fall of 2017 with a recommended strategy for moving forward.

The **Technology Committee** has completed its work for the year and will be providing appropriate support over the summer. This school year, efforts focused on supporting the school's Technology Infrastructure Team (led by Jeff Hall) in planning for the 1:1 technology pilot. The team supported Jeff's work in providing discussion and feedback on the following:

- Developing 1:1 pilot approach
- Creating student selection criteria for participation
- Drafting communications to build awareness
- Brainstorming an assessment rubric to determine success of the pilot

- Determining survey questions to judge program effectiveness
- Based on the request of Jeff Hall, the subcommittee recommends continuing its support work during the 2017-2018 school year

The **Nominating Committee** effectively recruited the executive board for the 2017-2018 school year, shared the SAC mission and vision with the PTSA, SCA, Faculty/Staff, Planning Committee and other MLWGS organizations to include the Foundation and Alumni in the recruiting process for SAC representation, and made recommendations to the Interim-Director re: SAC needs to support the Director Appointee Process. There is one open slot for a Director's Appointee that Dr. Lewis has deferred to Dr. Lowerre.

The **Grading Scale Committee** recommended a 10-point grading scale for review last June. Thank you to Dr. Lewis for following through on this initiative and working with the administration to identify and implement additional positive revisions and supportive input for the current 10-point grading scale that is on the table. This committee evolved into the Curricular Review and Enhancement Committee and had been asked to review the current AP and Dual Enrollment Courses by the Director. It was clarified that this committee would work with Wendy Ellis on some initiatives.

The **Marketing and Recruitment Committee** emerged from other committees over the past 2-3 years. The SAC has provided advisory input on a Marketing Video that the school contracted with Todd Raviotta, a faculty member, to develop. Its intent is for recruiting and general informational use for outreach by the school. This is almost finished. The SAC continues to provide recommendations on recruitment, retention, marketing and community outreach with this committee working collaboratively with the administration and school organizations with the goal of marketing MLWGS in the best ways possible to recruit the highest of caliber students.

The SAC has a link on the MLWGS.com web site and minutes are posted along with member names and reports for the year. This was something new that was started last year for transparency and engagement. The SAC meets monthly during the school year and has routine committee and some executive board meetings. This year, we held the Executive Board meetings with the Director again for continuity.

We had 19 active SAC members this year and will have another 19 with a full slate for next year. My comrade, Eric Lowell, will be chairing the SAC effective July 1st. He is here today and I to introduce Eric. PLEASE do reach out to the SAC chair. More importantly, I highly encourage the RSB to have a relationship with the SAC leadership.

The chair meets with the parents, faculty and students periodically to ensure we are addressing issues and opportunities within the MLWGS community in addition to meeting with administrators and with the administrative appointee. The SAC addresses many of the five -year strategic plan objectives. We also have reviewed our by-laws, which were updated in September 2015, to ensure that we are aligned accordingly.

As a whole, the faculty, staff, parents, students, and other volunteers present in a much more content demeanor as we round out this school year at Maggie Walker. Many of our initiatives have come to fruition. It had been a tough two years but the SAC was able to follow through on a lot of initiatives with the support of Dr. Lewis. I cannot speak highly enough of how well Dr. Lewis has managed to bridge the interim director's role. The transition of officers for next year is in process. Eric and I will meet with Dr. Lowerre and Dr. Lewis over the summer to ensure a continued smooth transition and direction for the SAC moving forward.