

**Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
for Government and International Studies School**

**School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 7:30 a.m., Boardroom, Room 230**

Attendance: Leslie Hausser, Beth Bortz, Kristi McCullough, Maureen Moslow-Benway, Dr. Jeff McGee, Raye Rector, Virginia Chambers, Peggy Feldmann, Hana Reed, Mara Guyer, Eric Lowell, Ethan Cruikshank, Anthony Taylor, Kerry Sheppard, Dawn Grois, Laura Razzolini

Welcome and Call to Order (Leslie Hausser) – 7:35 AM

- I. Approval of the February 2, 2016 Agenda - 7:35 AM
- II. Approval of the January 5, 2016 Minutes - 7:35 AM
- III. Director's Report (Jeff McGee)
 - a. Budget work session two weeks ago – just about every piece of the strategic plan initiative has been approved (ex. Psychologist, network personnel, compensation/benefits, textbooks, track repair, technological repairs, 1-to-1 technology pilot for students, graduation venue, increased athletic budget); Proposed budget to be presented for approval in February (earliest approval in March); Public hearing/Public comment for budget will be scheduled soon (possibly February or March – occurs before the budget can be approved); There are still some budget-related issues that need to be addressed, and there is an opportunity for additional funding to come in 2017 according to the governor's budget. In FY 18, there will be more money coming from the state budget. [Salary and benefits – Dr. McGee explained that the school board/school subsidizes the benefits for its employees. There are benchmark levels (ex. Bachelors, Masters, Ph.D. degrees) to determine staff salaries.]
 - b. Phil Tharp will also be continuing on as assistant director through December 2016. This will allow for his replacement to have a transition/training period for first semester.
 - c. Snow led to the cancellation of midterm exams; Dr. McGee complimented the organization of the students for their campaign to cancel exams.
- IV. Chairman's Report (Leslie Hausser)
 - a. Attended the Regional School Board meeting –Leslie Hausser encourages SAC members to attend these meetings to get insight into the mechanisms behind the running of the school.
 - b. By-Laws –Leslie Hausser will be including a comment period on most SAC agendas to ensure they are on the minds of SAC members/part of the decision-making process during meetings.
 - c. Mission and Vision Statement – passed around a copy for SAC to review
 - d. Planning Committee – will be updating the committee during New Business
 - e. Leslie Hausser will not be at next month's meeting, and Laura Razzolini will step in as Vice Chair
- V. Old Business
 - a. Grading Scale Sub-Committee (Maureen Moslow-Benway) – Ten to Twelve faculty members have been invited to a meeting on February 10 to get teacher feedback; Moslow-Benway researched the pros/cons for changing the scales. North Carolina, for example, has mandated that all of their schools change to the

- 10-point scale. A change would impact in many ways (eligibility to enter specialty dorms, car insurance rates, scholarship opportunities...etc.)
- b. Technology Special Sub-Committee (Eric Lowell) – Met with Jeff Hall to obtain context technology work underway at Maggie Walker on January 13 (the tech motto is “Create. Connections.”; rough objectives have been brainstormed [enhance learning, identify and share additional student resources (“the Code Academy”); remove administrative burdens; develop life skills/work skills in technology (what is needed in the work force/college settings); no “shiny objects”. The next meeting will be on February 12, and Eric Lowell invites members to come by.
 - c. Calendar Subcommittee Update (Phil Tharp/Jewel Caven) – Calendar Finalized – The only item not set is “Night of the Dragon” auction. The calendar is heading to the Regional School Board for first read perhaps as early as February.
 - d. Communication Special Sub-Committee Update (Beth Bortz) – group met and decided to examine who the focus for communication is on, timelines, and potential conflicts (hospitality and events; professional development; back-to-school packets; corporate sponsorships, student/school requests)
 - e. Global Outreach Special Sub-Committee Update (Kristi McCullough)– Lisa Williams and Max Smith were going to meet about Shadow Ballads coming to MLWGS for a performance; Kristi McCollough would like the group to look at the mission statement and consider changes to include the newest efforts by the outreach committee.
 - f. Marketing Subcommittee Update (Anthony Taylor) – over the next few months, the committee wants to have a plan for reaching their goal of generating a new video for the school to be completed before everyone leaves for summer break
 - g. Membership Update (Leslie Hausser) – Reminder: PTSA will be adding a member later this year, and new student representatives will need to be brought in. If you have suggestions, please pass on potential names.

VI. New Business

- a. SAC ByLaw Insight 2016-2017 Board Members – Leslie Hausser will comment on the by-laws during each SAC meeting. If any member has input, please don’t hesitate to share your feedback.
- b. MLWGS Mission and Vision: SAC Alignment – These statements will help explain SAC’s role to the school. Leslie Hausser asked Anthony Taylor if he will take a look and determine if SAC is in alignment. Anthony Taylor believes we need to ensure that we maintain focus on pairing what we do in our committees with the mission and vision statements). For our next meeting(s), please take a look and continue to consider what your committee(s) does(do) to determine if any changes need to be made with what and how SAC functions. (ex. The current mission is very vague; it is difficult to assess whether or not SAC has met its objectives.)
- c. Student Input on Mid-Terms and Status of the School from the Student Perspective –Seniors taking more tests than they would have had midterm exams; Pleased to have Friday off; Changing Wednesday to a full day did have a negative impact for seniors because they scheduled college visits and/or doctor’s appointments scheduled in advance; Edu-Pac will be sending students on February 8 to speak with legislatures about the budget; We The People team performed well at this weekend’s state competition

- d. Planning Committee – focused on admissions process (intense time due to rescheduled testing dates)
- e. New Agenda format will be introduced for future meetings (starting in April). This format will set time limits to ensure that the entire agenda is addressed within the hour window of SAC meetings.

Adjournment: 8:25 AM