

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY19 Budget Public Hearing
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, March 15, 2018

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Sarah Barber, Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Regional School Board and visitors recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axelle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Mrs. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Rob Eley, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Thomas Taylor for Dr. James Lane, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Kinlaw, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mrs. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Robert Lowerre **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mrs. Michelle ‘Micky’ Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools

Mr. Christopher Reber, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools

Mr. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools

Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

Also present:

Michael ‘Max’ Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration

Lynn Reed, Wendy DeGroat, and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff

Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation

Julie Miller, Laura Carr, Liz Blue, Paul Jesselson and Allison Jesselson – MW Parents

V. Approval of Agenda

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the minutes of the regular meeting and FY19 budget work session of February 15, 2018, were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- 2018 National Merit Scholars Finalists: All winners of Merit Scholarship Awards are chosen from an original screening of 1.6 million students advancing to semi-finalist and then the finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments – without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference. Less than 1% of all high school seniors qualify as finalists.

This year MW presented eleven certificates to:

Chesterfield: Eric Campbell, Autumn Hughes, Lauren McCarey, and William Miller.

Henrico: Kristin Hines, William R. Jesselson, Minhie Kwak, and Catherine Qian.

Richmond: Sarah Carr, Alexander Hutchinson, and Brittani Telfair

- Week 18 Lexus of Richmond Leadership Award Winner – Aditya Kannoth (Henrico). Having scored four perfect 5’s on his AP tests is an AP Scholar with Distinction. He was also named a National Merit Commended Scholar.

A member of the MW varsity golf team since 2015, Aditya is a current co-captain of the team. While a part of the team, they took two conference championships. As a part of MW’s varsity tennis team as a freshman and sophomore, Aditya became a two-time 2A State Champion.

- Winter Sports State Championship Teams/Individual Champions:
 - In absentia: Girls Swim Team – 4th Consecutive State Title
 - In absentia: Girls Diving – 4th Consecutive State Title with 1-meter Champion Anna Jepson ('20-Chesterfield)
 - Girls Indoor Track – 5th Consecutive State Title. Mary Caroline Heinen ('20-Richmond) won both the mile and 2-mile titles.
 - Wrestling: Joe Paul ('18-Prince George) earned his second State title.
- Walker's Quiz Bowl Team Captures State Title. Sponsored by Mrs. Hana Voight and Ms. Juanita Lasswell, the winning team is comprised of members Kelin Carpenter ('18-Chesterfield), Alex Dietrich ('18-Chesterfield), Anuj Kotak ('18-Henrico), Owen Peck ('18-Richmond), Catherine Qian ('18-Henrico) and Daniel Xue ('20-Chesterfield). The team has won States eight times since 1998 and came in second place ten times. Catherine also earned a place on the All-Star team.

The team will compete prior to the end of June at the NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournament), the HSNCT (High School National Championship Tournament), PACE (Partnership for Academic Competition Excellence) and NSC (National Scholastic Championship).

- Mr. Jeff Hall, Fine Arts Department Chair, presented students recently honored this year for having their work selected in the 2018 Scholastic Art competition. This is a highly competitive art competition which returned this year to local jurying through our affiliate at the Visual Arts Center. MLWGS students had another record-setting year of **80 total awards**, recognizing Maggie Walker as one of the region's top schools for the Arts.
 - 16 Gold Key awards (10 Photo, 6 Art)
 - 26 Silver Key awards including 2 Silver Key Portfolio (1 Art Portfolio, 1 Photography Portfolio, 18 Photo, 6 Art)
 - 38 Honorable Mentions (24 Photo, 14 Art)

A show of Gold and Silver Key works will be held at The Visual Arts Center of Richmond at 1812 West Main Street, February 17-25th.

The list of student winners is included in the board packet under this section.

- Mrs. Lisa Williams, English Department Chair, presented the talented students that were recently given **21 total awards** in the 2018 Scholastic Writing Competition:
 - 5 Gold Key Awards
 - 6 Silver Key Awards
 - 10 Honorable Mentions

Brittani Telfair read her award-winning poetry 'Naïveté, Immortality is Not a Myth.'

The list of student winners is included in the board packet under this section.

VIII. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes.

Comments:

My name is Wendy DeGroat. I'm the librarian here at Maggie Walker and my path from the corporate world to this position included student teaching in Hanover and Goochland, teaching in Chesterfield, and librarian and educational specialist positions in Henrico. I am grateful for each of those opportunities.

Today I'm speaking on behalf of the Maggie L. Walker Education Association regarding the sick leave policy.

This policy is a key component of our benefits package. As you'd expect, Maggie Walker's curriculum and student body make this an attractive place to work, but benefits are something potential employees consider too, as they would anywhere.

There are certain things employees give up when they decide to work at a single-site school: things like the flexibility of transferring between schools and the broader opportunities for career advancement that exist in districts with multiple schools and a central office.

In addition, among the significant changes for experienced teachers from large districts like Henrico, Chesterfield, and Richmond who transfer to Maggie Walker is giving up the option to participate in an early retirement program.

This is one reason why the sick leave policy plays a more notable role in our benefits package than it might elsewhere.

The sick leave policy at Maggie Walker—all components of it, but particularly the section about payment for unused sick leave when employees conclude their service—offers a counterbalance to giving up early retirement.

When I was interviewing, this aspect of the sick leave policy was among the benefits highlighted and it made losing access to Henrico's early retirement program a little less stressful.

For recruiting and retention, the Maggie L. Walker Education Association urges you to keep all elements of the sick leave policy competitive for both existing and potential employees.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Prospective Student Shadow Days by Division:**

- Monday, March 19th – Chesterfield
- Tuesday, March 20th – Charles City, Goochland, Hopewell, King & Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George and Richmond
- Wednesday, March 21st – Hanover and Henrico
- Thursday, March 22nd – Division Visitation for Alternates

- **One-to-One Laptop Pilot Summary**

Maggie L. Walker's laptop pilot was developed with the goal of exploring and collecting data pertaining to the use of students' ubiquitous access to technology at MLWGS. To help oversee this program and to make recommendations to the school administration regarding its outcome, the One-to-One Laptop Pilot Advisory Committee was formed consisting of members from all stakeholder groups. A total of 45 laptops were tested with freshmen who opted into the program.

There were three areas of investigation:

- impact of student laptops on classroom instruction of gifted students
- feasibility (cost, maintenance, and staffing) of having a school-wide one-to-one laptop program
- tools to provide broadband Internet access at home (for those without) as well as online instructional materials.

After reviewing and discussing the collected data, the committee came to a near-unanimous consensus to recommend that a one-to-one laptop program not be expanded or continued in the 2018-19 school year. Despite some positive feedback in the surveys, there were several areas where the pilot program revealed issues including:

- a minimal impact on instruction
- feasibility of an expanded program due to limited financial resources and IT staff.

Despite the fact that the committee did not recommend the expansion of a one-to-one laptop program, there were some other positive outcomes that resulted from the multi-year process.

- The One-to-One Laptop Pilot Committee also came to a consensus that, to be successful, MLWGS students need full access to a modern computer and Internet in the home.
- Successful testing of the portable cellular wireless hotspot (Kajeet). This program will be continued for students who do NOT have Internet in their homes with support from the GS Foundation.
- The pilot devices will be repurposed to address the gap of students who do NOT have a computer at home (2.4% of current students).

The full letter to the community is available on the MLWGS.com technology page.

- **Alumni Showcase, March 30, 2018, at MLWGS, Sponsored by the GS Foundation**

Last held March 30, 2016, on Friday, March 30, 2018, several alumni will return to the school to give presentations to current students on life after high school graduation. This biennial event has been a huge hit with both speakers and students in the past, and we're excited about this year's speakers.

We have a great list of [about 50 speakers](#) signed up for this year, including a solar energy company CEO, an Olympic Trials-qualified marathoner, a radiologist, a novelist, a pastry chef, and so many more. They are prepared to talk about the challenges, setbacks, and successes they've experienced over the courses of their educations and careers.

- **March is Youth Art and Music Month, Exhibition on March 14.** This year, in addition to our regular student art exhibition, various school music groups will also be performing throughout the evening. Student short films will also be shown in the auditorium. The date for this event is Wednesday, March 14 from 5-7 p.m. The event is open to the public and refreshments will be provided.
- Senior Ben Hazelton (Henrico) is a **finalist for 'Jefferson Scholar'** and will attend selection weekend later in March.
- **Dodgeball Tournament at MLWGS.** This year's March Madness Dodgeball Tournament starts March 13th. The tournament will be limited to 16 teams and the money raised will be donated to the Cameron Gallagher Foundation after the championship game at the Spring Pep Rally in April.

B. Coming Events

March 15, 2018 through April 19, 2018 (see page IX.b for details).

C. GSMUN XXI Conference at MLWGS presented by Catherine Qian, Secretary-General and Will Larson, Director-General

This year marks the twenty-first annual Governor's School Model UN Conference. Since our humble beginnings in 1997, we've grown into one of the largest high school and middle school Model UN conferences on the East Coast. Last year, 500 delegates from across the Mid-Atlantic attended GSMUN. Thanks to our partnership with The Richmond Forum, we have hosted prominent speakers like former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, former Federal Reserve Chairman Benjamin Bernanke, former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Nobel Peace Prize Winner Dr. ElBaradei and former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. As the premier high school run Model United Nations Conference in Virginia, we look forward to seeing delegates from across the East Coast at GSMUN XXI.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power to address GSMUN XXI on March 24th.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On motion by John Axelle, seconded by Rob Eley, the following consent items were unanimously approved: March personnel actions, fiscal status reports of January 31, 2018, and the donations report of January 31, 2018.

XII. Action Items

a. Policy & Regulation Proposals (Second Read)

The following were submitted by the Policy Steering Committee to the Board for second read and approval:

- Reg 5013-R - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace *Amended*
- Pol 6006 - Sex Offenders Registry Notification
- Pol 6007 - Violent Sex Offenders on School Property
*Includes Gender Language Update as Requested

The proposed policy and regulation is grounded in a model policy of the Virginia School Board Association.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Martha Harris, the above-stated policies and regulation were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Renee Williams left the meeting.

b. Amended: Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2018-2019 (See XIII.c below)

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, the Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2018-2019 was unanimously approved.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy & Regulation Proposals (First Read)

The following was submitted by the Policy Steering Committee to the Board for first read and review:

- Pol 4000 – Student Honor Code *Amended*
- Pol 7019 – Petty Cash
- Reg 7019-R – Petty Cash Regulation

The following are submitted with Cross Reference only updates:

- Pol 7004 – Funds for Instructional Materials and Office Supplies *Amended*
- Pol 7005 – Food Service Management *Amended*
- Pol 7009 – Management of Funds *Amended*
- Pol 7010 - Advertising in the School *Amended*
- Pol 7014 – Purchasing Authority *Amended*

- Pol 7014.1 – Purchasing Procedures *Amended*
Resubmitted for First Read from February Meeting
- Reg 5065-R1 - Sick Leave *Amended*
VSBA February 2018 Updates with Cross Reference and Legal Updates
- Pol 0012 - Educational Philosophy *Amended* RL
- Pol 2014 – Buildings and Grounds Management and Maintenance *Amended*
- Pol 2020 - School Crisis, Emergency Management & Medical Emergency Response Plan *Amended*
- Pol 2021 – Safety Drills *Amended*
- Pol 5015 – Professional Staff Contracts
- Pol 7001 - Support Services *Amended*

The proposed policy is typically grounded in model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

The Director explained Pol 4000-Student Honor Code Amended involves removing one word only, that being ‘knowingly’ from Article VI, Section B.

Regulation 5065-R1 is resubmitted for first read this month after legal review using changes made by counsel but retains the original intent of the Policy Steering Committee. All changes within this amended regulation impact only future employees of the Regional School Board, not currently employed staff and faculty.

Approval will be sought at the Board’s April 2018 meeting.

b. 2018-2019 School Operating Calendar (First Read)

In December 2017, the MLWGS issued two 2018-2019 proposals for community feedback, one is a standard start proposal and one early start. With great satisfaction, we can report vigorous feedback from the community with 63% supporting an early start.

However, after discussion with various officials of our participating school divisions, the MLWGS Administration is submitting only the standard start proposal next year to the Regional School Board for consideration.

Approval will be sought at the Board’s April 2018 meeting.

c. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2018-2019 (First Read)

The Regional School Board grants the Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School the authority to issue faculty/staff contracts based upon salary scales, clubs/activities and athletic stipend scales incorporated within the FY2019 Operating Budget scheduled for approval April 19, 2018.

Mr. Wright asked if at the next meeting there will be the right people in attendance [*Executive or Regional Board*] to approve this request in April and give the Director the opportunity to

issue contracts as needed. Dr. Lowerre responded that he can issue ‘Letters of Intent’ which is sufficient for offers. Actual contracts will be issued closer to the end of this academic year. Mr. Axselle proposed the Board approve this action on a first read if members were in agreement. Mrs. Ayers reminded that such action would require the agenda to be amended.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the agenda for this meeting is amended for Item XIII.c – Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2018-2019 (First Read) making it an approval item [*XII.b Action Item*]. This motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, the Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2018-2019 was unanimously approved.

d. FY19 Operating Budget Proposal (First Read)

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent’s Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY2019.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on February 15, 2018.

A public hearing on this proposal is scheduled during Section XIX of this meeting. Public advertising for this hearing occurred via the RTD Legal Notices, Sunday, March 4th, and the MLWGS website.

The Director reported that due to the delay of the State Legislature to approve Virginia’s budget, an amended budget reflecting the loss in revenue of \$289,000 is presented today. The crux of the State budget issue deals with Medicaid expansion in Virginia and the split in the legislative bodies on this matter.

Highlights of the new reduced funding proposal include:

- Projecting a carry-over of funds from FY18 in the amount of \$75,000 that will be earmarked for the FY19 operating budget (not a sustainable option),
- A large reduction in funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Overall, the net reduction is approximately \$247,000 because there was an increase in their direct aide along with additional tuition funds requested from the localities or approximately \$30,000 less in funds for FY19 from FY18,
- Personnel are maintained at the current level,
- 2% salary increase is maintained,
- The CIP will not be funded to any significant extent,
- Technology reductions,
- Textbook reduction,
- Healthcare dollars are maintained at current levels,
- Other small amounts in various areas are pushed out,
- Graduation site expenses will be funded from another source,
- Athletic department reduction, and

- The budget is balanced at \$8.346 million.

Dr. Lowerre is hopeful some of these funds will be restored as the GA works through the State budget and he thanked the advocacy efforts of the GS Foundation and the PTSA. The Director is also requesting advocacy from our districts for MW funding going forward. He noted that monies have been frugally spent and is one of the reasons we are looking at an overage this fiscal year but is that sustainable? We need to be looking for long-term solutions.

The amended budget was posted prior to this meeting for public viewing.

Approval for the FY19 operating budget will be sought at the Board's April 2018 meeting.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes, March 6, 2018
- Former US Ambassador to the U.N, Samantha Power, to Address Students at MLWGS
- Robotics STEM Day at MLWGS, February 24, 2018
- March is Youth Art & Music Month at MLWGS
- Musical Dragons Qualify for All-State Orchestra
- Mech Tech Dragons Are Champions at FIRST Competition
- Dragon Chess Team takes 3rd Place at Virginia Scholastic Championship
- March Dodgeball Charity Tournament at MLWGS
- Alum Neil & Amishi Amin Make Large Donation to Transform MLWGS Robotics & Start Speaker Series

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Myers shared from the morning meeting of superintendents they discussed three items: 1 & 2) the budget proposal change with a review of the potential impact on the CIP, and 3) Dr. Lowerre's update on the latest admissions process and what that looks like going forward for MW.

XVI. Closed Meeting

None.

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None.

XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Mrs. Barber noted she attended the "Night of the Dragon" auction stating it was an outstanding experience.

XIX. Public Hearing for the FY19 Operating Budget Proposal

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent's Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY2019.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on February 15, 2018.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School presents this public hearing on its 2018-2019 budget. In lieu of comments represented in this live forum, the Regional School Board will also accept online public comment until April 12, 2018.

Update: Due to the delay of the State Legislature to approve Virginia's budget, an amended budget reflecting the loss in revenue of \$289,000 was presented at the school board meeting today. The amended budget was posted prior to this meeting for public viewing.

Comments Received Online:

2/18/2018 from Caroline Richters, Parent

In light of the tragic shootings that took place across the nation's schools, why is the security budget decreased?

Dr. Lowerre answered this question, stating its due to a personnel issue of a prior retirement that cost us more than the replacement.

2/21/2018 from Eric Lowell, Parent

I'm thrilled that the school is putting a capital improvement plan in place. This is a great idea and has been long needed. One area to potentially research: the line item for 52 HP printers. 52 printers seem high for a school the size of Maggie Walker. At my work (Capital One) we recently consolidated a number of smaller printers to a small number of larger multi-function devices. I think that we have ~4 printer / copier / scanner / fax machines for every ~250 associates. We found that utilizing fewer but higher capacity MFDs was dramatically cheaper, and that the more robust machines have far few problems and maintenance issues, and that keeping supplier for a smaller variety of printers was much, much simpler. Just something to think about.

Dr. Lowerre answered that this item has been removed from the amended budget proposal.

XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Rob Eley, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:11 am.

Next Meeting

April 19, 2018, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x 2190.

Sarah Grier Barber, Chairman

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk