

Maggie L. Walker School Advisory Council
2017-2018 End of Year Report
Chair – Eric Lowell

Members of the Board and other friends of Maggie Walker, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Eric Lowell and I have been associated with Maggie Walker for 7 years. My son graduated in 2015, and my daughter is now a rising senior.

For the last 3 years, I have had the honor to serve the school as a member of the School Advisory Council. This last year, I have been the Chair of the SAC.

Today, I would like to briefly tell you about some of our activities over the last year. I'd like both to provide you some awareness of our work and to offer ourselves as a resource that the Board can utilize as needed.

The School Advisory Council is a cross functional team of 19 members which includes faculty and staff, parents, students, a representative from the county gifted coordinators, and three appointments from Dr. Lowerre as Director. Last year and next year, these appointments have included an alumnus of the school. I commend this and recommend continuing to include a representative of the alumni in future appointments. Max and Barbara, whom you know, are also members of the SAC and have been key contributors in our work.

We primarily conduct our work in sub-committees. Here is a brief overview of our work this year:

Calendar Committee – Developed the school calendar for next year and provided feedback on the pros and cons of an early start to the school year.

Honor System Committee – Continued our support of the Honor Policy changes the Board implemented last year. We recommended some policy adjustments to refine the Honor Committee approach. We also provided feedback on the Honor Committee's outreach and awareness program, "Living with Honor".

Nominating Committee – We realized that the process to nominate members to the SAC was not clear. So, we've adjusted the By-Laws so that future teams will not have to recreate a reasonable process. Our new By-Laws are available to you for a first read today.

Marketing / Communications Committee – We finished work on a recruiting video in partnership with a VCU student and updated the introductory presentation for middle school students.

Technology Committee – Supported Jeff Hall’s and David Bortz’s evaluation of the 1:1 technology program. After assessing the pilot, we recommend not implementing a 1:1 program. However, we strongly supported providing equitable access to technology for any students in need.

Global Outreach Committee – We worked to help set up ongoing coordination of speaker needs between Maggie Walker, VCU, and U of R. Additionally, going into next year, we are supporting the Foundation’s speaker series which was enabled by a recent, and generous, alumni gift.

Next year, the School Advisory Council will be ably chaired by Cynthia Kostelecky, a Richmond City resident and a parent of a rising junior. The SCA team is being left in good hands.

In closing, please think about us, the School Advisory Council, when you have items that you feel would benefit from a diverse, cross functional perspective. We are eager to continue our support.

And finally, thank you for all your support of Maggie Walker. It is a gem of a school. Actually, it is a local crown jewel and one of the greatest examples of regional cooperation that I know. It is truly an amazing place, and we are counting on you to keep it that way!

Thank you.