

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, September 20, 2018

9:02 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 Executive School Board and visitors stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

### IV. Introductions

Each member present is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico 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  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. David Myers, **Superintendent**, New Kent 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

#### Not in Attendance:

Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools

#### Not Required to be in Attendance:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
M. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Mr. Christopher Reber, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools  
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Mr. Rob Eley, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Mr. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools (late arrival)  
Mr. Donald Fairheart, **Interim Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools

Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools  
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools  
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell 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  
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

**Also present:**

Dr. Wendy Ellis and Michael ‘Max’ Smith – MLWGS Administration  
Lynn Reed and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff  
Suzannah Stora and Liz Blue – GS Foundation

**V. Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Harwood Hall, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Harwood Hall, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the minutes of the Regional School Board meeting of August 16, 2018, were unanimously approved.

**VII. Recognitions**

- None

**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.

There were no public comments.

**IX. Director’s Report**

**A. Verbal Updates**

- **The opening of School:** Since the end of the last school year, our school has hosted a 1-week freshmen boot camp and a multi-day college boot camp for seniors. Our custodial and maintenance teams dealt with facility upgrades that include track resurfacing and parking lot resealing/painting, and our tech team was working on connectivity and device servicing. We have also worked on a website upgrade that will incorporate an alert on the landing page if needed and a much better photo editor.

Freshmen orientation, early AP classes, and fee collection have likewise been very smooth and productive because of planning and hard work by our office staff. On September 4<sup>th</sup> we welcomed 755 students, including 194 freshmen from 12 school districts.

- **Staffing Update:** the school is fully staffed at this time in all of its positions.
- **Middle School Information Visits Begin Shortly:** Starting the first week of October.

**B. Coming Events:**

Back to School night will be hosted this evening, September 20<sup>th</sup>. For all other events see the citation page listed below.

September 20, 2018, through October 18, 2018 (see page IX.b for details).

**C. 2018-2019 Division Enrollment**

As MLWGS begins the planning process for the next school term as directed by a policy adopted May 18, 2000, amended December 18, 2014 and December 17, 2015, it annually seeks this slot commitment statement from participating divisions.

Letters will be provided at table in October for participating school divisions for their 2019-2020 student enrollment commitment. Note that each letter should be executed by the division superintendent and school board member, and returned to MLWGS by December 1, 2018.

**X. Unfinished Business**

None.

**XI. Consent Items**

The Director provided a review of each consent item presented. Dr. Lowerre concluded by thanking Mrs. Marshall for her work crafting the MOU with Lighthouse Labs. To follow-up, Dr. Myers asked if there was a requirement in the MOU for Lighthouse Labs to provide MLWGS with a Certificate of Insurance, and Mrs. Marshall responded yes.

On motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate: September 2018 personnel actions, fiscal status reports of June 30, 2018 and July 31, 2018, the donations reports of June 30, 2018 and July 31, 2018, and the Memo of Understanding between Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School and Lighthouse U, aka Lighthouse Labs RVA.

**XII. Action Items**

**a. Bullying Prevention Proclamation (First Read)**

In an effort to promote awareness of school bullying, the Regional School Board has designated the month of October as Bullying Prevention Month.

Childhood bullying is a significant problem nationwide. It can cause school absenteeism, mental and physical stress, poor school performance, poor self-esteem, and, in some cases, school violence. Over twenty percent of all school-aged children are bullied each year – upwards of 13 million students.

School board members, administrators, teachers, and parents play a critical role in creating a climate where bullying is not tolerated. When adults and children stand together, bullying ends.

On a motion from Micky Ogburn, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, a Proclamation declaring the month of October as Bullying Prevention Month, with the intention that the issue of bullying and its prevention be discussed in the classroom during that time was unanimously approved.

**b. Audit Reports FY13 through FY16 (Second Read)**

Mr. Rob Churchman of Cherry, Bekaert CPA's presented audit reports FY13 through FY16 to the Regional School Board in August 2018 that contained auditor responsibilities and opinions.

Mrs. Ogburn stated she was troubled there are five years of unaudited financial reports and maybe the Board should put a group together to discuss options that avoid this happening again in the future. She added that Henrico as the fiscal agent for CodeRVA is conducting an audit annually. Dr. Myers recognized that RPS with their changes in leadership seems to be trying to fix the situation now. Dr. Lowerre added that its good news the auditors have found more surplus funds than we thought we had which enabled us to complete the track repair. He added for consideration that if at the end of the current fiscal year there is no significant progress seen and a new audit process begun, the Board might consider a change of fiscal agent. Mrs. Ogburn stated the RSB will be watching for progress in this matter.

On a motion from Micky Ogburn, seconded by Harwood Hall, the Executive Board unanimously accepted audit fiscal reports FY13 through FY16 from Cherry, Bekaert CPA's along with the auditor opinions.

**c. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal-Russia 2019 (First Read)**

Sponsor: Michael White, Russia, June 28-July 18, 2019 (3 weeks). This trip was successfully experienced in 2018.

Combining tourism with study and broad-based travel with the development of personal relationships with locals, this trip represents a unique opportunity for students to become well acquainted with the Russian people and their history, architecture, religion, culture, and way of life. By combining the background knowledge gained in the seminars and readings with real-life, first-person examination and access to skilled, experienced Russian educators who are professionally and personally knowledgeable in precisely these fields, students will have a unique opportunity to experience Russian hospitality, appreciate the nation's history, and gain a profound and personally meaningful appreciation of Russian history and culture.

This trip is designed to accommodate eight (8) to twenty-five (25) students and one or two (1-2) chaperones. The estimate per student cost is \$4,275 (approximately).

On a motion from Harwood Hall, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, Mr. White's Interdisciplinary Trip proposal to Russia summer 2019 was unanimously approved.

**XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

**a. Policy Proposal (First Read)**

The following is submitted to the Board for first read and review:

- Pol 3003 – Academic Standards and Community Service *Amended*

Originally submitted for review at the board’s August meeting, based on feedback received the policy proposal has been modified and resubmitted for review. This update includes a statement of flexibility from the Director with regard to the number of hours that must be performed off-site.

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

**XIV. Information Items**

- None

**XV. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

- Mrs. Barber recommended attending Fall Festival stating the foods available and the performances presented are noteworthy.
- Dr. Myers asked about the status of the Board/Superintendent/Student luncheon at MLWGS. Dr. Lowerre verified the Board’s desired timeframe of November and will begin luncheon planning and coordination.

**XVI. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:26 am.

**Next Meeting – Regional School Board**

October 18, 2018, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

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Sarah Grier Barber, Chair

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Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk