

MINUTES
The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 2012

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, Chairman of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional School Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Introductions

Each Board member introduced him or herself and stated their locality, (listed in alphabetical order by locality).

Present:

Mrs. Barbara Crawley, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Dianne Smith, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Kevin Hazzard, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools
Mrs. Beverly Cocke for Mrs. Diana Winston, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Cora Armstrong, **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
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Pete Gertz, **Assistant Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Jamelle Wilson, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Pat Russo, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools

Mr. Charles Clare, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Robert Richardson, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Stanley Jones, **Interim Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mr. Timothy Billups, Director of Human Resources, representing Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Mr. Jeffrey McGee, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent from Meeting:

Mr. John Axselle, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools
Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Kimberly Gray, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mrs. Megan Marcinkevich, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Phil Tharp, Patti Chappell and Wendy Ellis – **Administration**
Hal Waller and Doug Scheibe - **GS Foundation**
Shelley Allen - **PTSA** and Mary Phillippo Parker – **PTSA President**
Bill Yates, and Marianne Macon – **Parent Community**
Michele Surat – **Faculty Liaison to the Regional School Board**

III. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Cora Armstrong; the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Barbara Crawley; minutes as submitted for September 20, 2012 were unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions

Hal Waller presented the Board with a gift of a framed American flag that flew over the 1st Marine Division (Fwd) Headquarters, Camp Leatherneck in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan on July 4, 2012 on behalf of GS alum Calvin Dalton ('97).

VI. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes (in the discretion of the Chairperson) to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes. Citizens must schedule their appearance with the Board's Clerk, not later than 10:00am on the last business day before the meeting at which they desire to be heard.

Mr. Bill Yates addressed the Board. "I am the parent of a son who is a senior here at Maggie Walker, and another one who graduated in 2009 and is now in law school at William & Mary right now. I wanted to take just a minute today and touch on something that is of concern to parents. First off, I'd like to thank you for all that you do for Maggie Walker; your support of this school is just invaluable and we truly value it. We recognize that (*MLWGS is*) part of the very essential offerings in the Richmond Metro/Central Virginia area of high schools and it's an option that makes many of us feel very good about the municipalities in which we live and know that there are reasons to be here; so I think it's a great option and its part of your school districts, not just a separate school. Last year was a tough year budget wise. It was tough for all of you individually in your districts and it was very tough here at Maggie Walker. Parents get together, they talk, we hear a lot and quite frankly I wanted to just briefly today tell you we are concerned about the coming budget year. Last year there was a lot of moving of funds and things to try to make things work with that tightened budget. We lost some things in security; we lost things in the way of club support which quite frankly has not been ideal for moral and so on in those areas, but the teachers have come together; they've really been great about doing their very best with those lower things, larger class sizes and other things like that. Mr. Tharp moved money from some other areas, was able to pull about \$250,000 I believe if my numbers are correct, to cushion that cost or decrease. We are concerned that this year that \$250,000 is not there, that reducing security is not there, that club stipends have already been taken away, that there really is just no room in the budget of Maggie Walker right now and that we would ask you as parents to please consider that right now we are underfunded compared to most of those (*our*) districts. That what you pay for a student to get an outstanding, extraordinary education here at Maggie Walker is less than you are paying for the students in your comprehensive high schools or your specialty centers. And it's difficult, I know there is always pressure, but we want to do

what we can to help you. So if there is a way that we as parents can help you do that, help expand the pie possibly; I know looking for a smaller piece is always hard, bigger piece of a small pie, but if we can help you go out to your boards of supervisors and your city council and so on and help with that, if we can help you in any way explain how we really are part of your districts so that we don't have contention between people sayings 'well, we are tight in our district, why is money going to Maggie Walker?' We need to be recognized as part of your district's still, and we want to be a partner with you on that. We really want to cooperate and we hope that you will be able to support us fully. Behind me is Marianne Macon, parent volunteer. Marianne is leading a lot of efforts working with Friends of Virginia Governor's School, also doing things within the PTSA to help in that area. She'll probably be talking to a lot of you in the coming weeks and months and if there are questions that you have that you think parents can help, please contact Marianne, contact me; Hal can get a hold of us in the Foundation side. But really, we want to work with you, we'd love...I think Dr. Newsome mentioned at the last meeting we don't want to have happen what happened last year, I think is the phrase he used; we don't either. We really want to see this come together and be a positive experience where everyone can plan and no last minute (*changes?*) and we don't have frustration and upset on either side. We'd love to see a unanimous budget again passed this year. So thank you very much."

VII. Director's Report

Participating school division student slot commitment letters for 2013-2014 were distributed by Mr. McGee noting a plan to grow enrollment by up to ten slots each year over the next four years with an 'invite to return' for three original founding division partners. Allowing for fiscal planning, a return date of November 1, 2012 is requested.

Updates:

- **Recruitment** - Mr. McGee distributed a flyer schedule to members illustrating all the middle schools visited by MLWGS in October (*inadvertently omitted King & Queen from list. Lawson-Marriott ES visit on October 24th*). Informational Forums for the public at MLWGS will be held October 29, 30 and November 1st. Informational Forum advertising will be promoted through radio (Clear Channel) this year instead of traditional newspaper reaching a wider demographic across seven local stations and internet radio. Finally, Mr. McGee noted that the flyer schedule at table is being distributed through public libraries in each participating locality.
- **Budget information** – Budget strategies were discussed with the Finance Committee earlier this month that include a mix of growth and potential austerity measures. Realizing that the heart of this program is students, families and teachers, moving forward, potential austerity strategies include feedback from an audit of non-instructional personnel.

- **Audit Status** – MLWGS’s fiscal agent is on track to have the school’s prior year audit requirements completed in the near term and we remain on target with this operational audit.
- **Planning Committee** – Mr. McGee shared with the committee his strong interest of insuring that MLWGS’s admissions process remain in line with best practice and keeps up with both the nature and character of the region’s high ability learners.

- **MLWGS Coming Events: October 18, 2012 through November 8, 2012. See VII.c**

VIII. Action Items

a. New Clubs

Submitted in September for Board review, the Origami Club, Maggie Walker Unicycle Club, International Club of Exchanges and Education Policy Advocacy Club (EduPac) seeks approval of the Board to operate within the structure of MLWGS.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kevin Hazzard, Board members in attendance unanimously approved the start of these club as requested.

b. Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Constitution & By-Laws Amendment

The Director described a procedural amendment request to the MLWGS Constitution as described on Item VIII.b regarding notification methods to Board members that was presented for review and discussion at the September meeting.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, Board members in attendance unanimously approved this amendment request which will be noted on the document henceforth.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip: Grecian Odyssey, March 29, 2013-April 6, 2013

The Director requests approval for the interdisciplinary trip proposal presented by Ms. Gabriella Georgiadis at the September meeting of this Board for review.

There being no additional questions or discussion on this matter, on motion by Dianne Smith, seconded by Barbara Crawley, Board members in attendance unanimously approved this request.

IX. Materials for Board Review

a. New Club Proposals

The following club proposals are submitted for Board review and consideration: Modern Dance Society Club, Project Happy Face Club, Futsal Club, Ballroom and Latin Dance Club, Club FeedRVA and NeuroPsi Club.

Approval of these clubs will be requested at the November meeting of this Board.

b. New Policy Proposals

The following policies are submitted from the Policy Steering Committee for review: No. 0011 – Nondiscrimination, No. 0012 – Educational Philosophy and No. 0013 – Strategic Plan, all pertinent to the foundational commitments of the Regional School Board. These policies are grounded in the model policies of the Virginia School Board Association.

Mrs. Ayers remarked that everyone on the Board needs to be diligent about reviewing policies that will be presented and your input is valuable and needed.

Mr. Hazzard requested change tracking for future policy submissions.

Approval for these proposals will be requested at the November meeting of this Board.

X. Informational Items

- Finance Committee Minutes, October 4, 2012
- Student News
 - Selena Kitchens ('13-Hanover) – art selected by US Department of Education for display.
 - Camille Yoke ('16-Chesterfield) – finalists in 2012 Broadcom MASTERS®.
 - Robert Jones ('13-Chesterfield) – collaboration with the annual Research Science Institute at MIT.

- Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield) – International Space Olympics in Russia.
- Natalie Bruno ('13-Powhatan) – Nordstrom Scholarship winner.
- News
 - Willie Lanier Pro Football Hall of Fame Ceremony October 9, 2012
 - Presidential Candidate Gary Johnson Visits MLWGS October 11, 2012

XI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Newsome reported that, at the suggestion of Mrs. Ayers at the last Board meeting regarding potential legislative feedback for the General Assembly; while not having met as a group, most Superintendents attended the VA Association of School Superintendent's Legislative Conference this week and heard from representatives of the Governor's office, the General Assembly, State Board of Education and the Department of Education, and anticipate a very active session, although not necessarily pertaining to finances due to the biennium cycle. Last year superintendents across the state expressed concern about the direction of education in general in Virginia and developed a blueprint for this state. The superintendents recently worked on an update to provide more specifics for the General Assembly. One area of their concern deals with potential changes to VRS that could negatively impact employees in the future. Compensation issues also impacted a large amount of time at this conference dealing with our anticipation of a pay for performance structure proposal. In conclusion, the superintendents felt they could not support such a proposal as there is no empirical data anywhere in the country that justifies that student performance has improved as a result of this structure. Instead, superintendents will focus on a base-line of pay that is competitive while looking at a career lateral that moves teachers into being better trained and prepared and encourages them to remain in the classroom and receive compensation consistent with their training and experiences. VASS will concentrate efforts in the coming months to unite their priorities and to speak with one voice. Dr. Newsome will continue to bring updates to this Board.

XII. Closed Meeting

Mr. Pritchett asked the Clerk to announce items for closed session.

Mrs. Barbara Marshall stated: "It is my understanding that the School Board desires to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with §2.2-3711.A of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsections, the following items: to consider the assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the Regional School Board."

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Members of the Board, you have just heard the items requested to be discussed in closed session. Do I have a motion in that regard?”

On motion by Dianne Smith, seconded by Barbara Crawley, the Board unanimously approved and entered into closed session.

The room was cleared and the door closed.

I. Certification of Closed Meeting and any action, if necessary, as a result of closed meeting.

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to reconvene in open session?”

On motion by Kevin Hazzard, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the board unanimously approved open session.

The door is opened.

Mr. Pritchett requested: “Mrs. Marshall (Clerk) please read the resolution certifying the closed session.”

Mrs. Marshall stated: “Now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the School Board.”

Mr. Pritchett stated: “Do I have a motion to adopt the resolution?”

On motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dianne Smith, the board unanimously approved this resolution:

Roll Call and Motion Vote (alphabetical order by locality)

Barbara Crawley: Aye

Dianne Smith: Aye

Kevin Hazzard: Aye

John Axselle: Absent

Beverly Cocke: Aye
Cora Armstrong: Aye
Sarah Grier Barber: Aye
Kenneth Pritchett: Aye
Valarie Ayers: Aye
Jerry Warren: Absent
Kimberly Gray: Absent

No action was taken by the Board at this time.

II. Announcements/Unfinished Business

Mrs. Ayers recommended viewing student art work displayed in the hallway.

III. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Kevin Hazzard, the motion to adjourn this meeting was unanimously approved.

IV. Next Meeting

November 8, 2012 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190 or x2111.

Kenneth Pritchett, Chairman

Jeffrey W. McGee, Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

