

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, April 26, 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  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
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  
Ms. Kimberly Gray, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools (late arrival)  
Mrs. Dudley Olsson, *School Board*, West Point Public Schools (late arrival)  
Dr. Janet Crawley, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools (late arrival)  
Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools (late arrival)  
Dr. Linda Underwood, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools  
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  
Dr. Alvera Parrish, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Bobby Browder, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Yvonne Brandon, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools  
Mr. Don Skeen, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Mrs. Megan Marcinkevich, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

**Absent from Meeting:**

Mr. Jerry Warren, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Margaret Meara, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Jeffrey Smith, **Superintendent**, West Point Public Schools

**Also present:**

Phil Tharp, Patti Chappell and Wendy Ellis ó **Administration**  
Hal Waller, Doug Scheibe and Burt Hazelwood - **GS Foundation**  
Thomas Raper, Susan King, Terri Purcell, Bill Yates, Chamie Valentine, Julie May, Juliani Sidharta, Joy Moretti Neighbors,  
Michelle Oppenheim, Kathleen Fulton, Karen Akens ó **Parents**  
Julie Weissend, Mary Phillippo Parker and Shelley Allen - **PTSA**  
Karl Zweerink, Barrett Brown, Donna Bennington, Ainslie McLees, Susan Hefty, Cynthia Losen, Lisa Williams, Joy Davis and  
Dawn Grois -**Faculty**  
Malcolm DocøMcConnell ó **Alumni**, Class of 2008 and Malcolm McConnell - **Alumni Parent**  
Ian Kelley ó **MLWGS Varsity Girls Soccer Coach**  
Michele Surat ó **Faculty Liaison to the Regional School Board**

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Marcinkevich for their efforts to digitize the Board packet.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Cora Armstrong, seconded by Valarie Ayers; minutes as submitted for March 15, 2012 were unanimously approved.

## V. Recognitions

Mr. Skeen thanked the Board for their participation in the MLWGS program while acknowledging the successes of these students are the successes of each of the divisions.

- **2012 National Scholastic Winners:** MLWGS had the most students from any school locally to win national awards. Gold Medal or American Vision Medal winners will have their work exhibited in New York where they will be honored on June 1<sup>st</sup> along with their teachers at a ceremony in Carnegie Hall. Winners include: **Elizabeth Ballou ('12-Richmond)** won a Silver Key for her Writing Portfolio and two Silver Keys for individual pieces, **Miranda Elliott ('12-Richmond)** ó American Vision Gold Key for Photography (first ever American Vision award by MLWGS student), **Selena Kitchens ('13-Hanover)** ó Gold Key in Painting and **Erika Chu ('14-Chesterfield)** ó Silver Key in Drawing. Accompanying faculty: **Denise Yagel** (English), **Jeff Hall** (Fine Arts Department Chair), **Kori Mosley** (Fine Arts Teacher) and **Georgianne Stinnett** (Fine Arts ó Photography).
- **Science Fair Winners:** Student winners were introduced by **Pam Edgerton** ó Science Department Chair. **Samantha Marquez ('14-Chesterfield)** was a Grand Prize Winner for Engineering and will represent the Metro competition at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held in Pittsburgh in May. **Matthew King ('14-Henrico)** won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Botany and will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate to the Intel ISEF. **Saumil Bandyopadhyay ('13-Henrico)** won the First Grand Prize in the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair and will also present at the Intel ISEF in May.

Update: **Samantha Marquez's** paper on Biomicrofluidics was accepted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Advances in Microfluidics and Nanofluidics (AMN 2012) where she will present her paper in Dalian, China May 24-26, 2012.

- **Lexus Scholarship Weekly Winner: Alexandra 'Alex' Pinkleton ('12-Prince George).** Alex was accompanied by her soccer coach Ian Kelley. Weekly winners participate in a live on-air interview on the WRVA Morning Show and a taped interview on Sports Radio910, plus a TV spot on WRVA WRNL. An overall scholarship winner is selected from the weekly winners pool in late May.
- **2012 U.S. Presidential Scholar Semifinalists.** Approximately 550 semifinalists have been selected from across the country out of nearly 3.2 million graduating high school seniors. Ultimately one male and one female will be chosen to represent each state at this prestigious awards program held in Washington, DC later in June. Student winners were introduced by Counselors **Penny Deck** and **Rachel Loving: Bethany Bruno (Powhatan), Judy Hou (Chesterfield), Sameer Sarkar (Henrico), Eileen Wang (Henrico) and Siqi Wang (Chesterfield).**

## 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.

**Julie Weissend - PTSA President**, addressed the Board as a representative of that organization. After giving a brief personal background, Mrs. Weissend stated, "This year has been interesting and for those of us active within the school and/or community have come to realize that we need to cross-pollinate more within the school and with the regional board. We need a macro/micro analysis and we need to communicate effectively and consistently. We have tried. Based on the meetings we've seemed to do that. Our successes are your successes; this is a phenomenal example of regional cooperation. But, it is also incumbent on us, especially in terms of budget scenarios, to figure out where we are and what kind of stewards we've been with your investment of tuition money. That said, we've sharpened our pencils and come up with an analysis of where we are; and we've shared that with some of you, but we want to do the Reader's Digest version today." Mrs. Weissend yielded the remainder of her time to the GS Foundation.

**Doug Scheibe – GS Chairman** and parent of two students from the Chesterfield division, using a PowerPoint (a copy will be retained for the permanent record) addressed the Board with the following, "As Julie said, it's important that we all work together and we appreciate the school board reaching out to the parents in the Director's selection process. We found that very valuable; we learned a lot. We also learned that there were some things that we didn't know and one of those was the budget process. Especially as the PTSA and the Foundation, we wanted to understand some things more so we did some independent research and tried to understand where the school's budget has been and where it was going, how that relates to the districts, and how we might be able to participate and work with you and the school in the future. So we've put together some slides and will roll them very quickly. We've had some meetings with some of you; we've been trying to get out to see you individually, this is something we wanted to do as organizations (PTSA/Foundation). We did not want to ask everyone to jump into this process. We wanted it to be something that was based on numbers and facts, and something that we share with you to see where we go next. So, we had a few questions that we wanted to ask. Number one, what was the budget? Where had it been? Where was it going? Does Maggie Walker deliver its great results efficiently? What options exist this year for the budget?"

Mr. Scheibe continued, "As Don mentioned when the students came in, this is a great example of regional cooperation. This is a great place where twenty-one years ago, maybe a little before that, the state and the districts said we need a place that's a full schedule school for gifted education. We all can't do it ourselves, but we can do it together. So twenty-one years ago this was established and we believe over time it's serviced well all the districts. We also wanted to look at the results and achievements on a micro level because we do have a charter from the state that says we will focus on government and international studies on

top of a wide ranging education. So, while there are lots of great academic achievements overall; and I am not sure why I haven't been able to print out a liver or solve the world's oil crisis or do some of that, we know that the students do. And they do that not only in math and science, but they also have achieved a lot in their emphasis on government and international studies through Model UN, We the People, lots of language awards over time. This quality and this program that you and your predecessors have put together over time has been very successful, and over time it's drawn a lot of attention and it's been a great program for your districts; in fact it's getting more and more popular, even over the last five years it's gone up thirty-one percent. So we believe that the schools delivering results and delivering them for all of the districts; the question: are they doing that efficiently? Mr. Scheibe then introduced Mr. Hazelwood.

**Mr. Burt Hazelwood – GS Foundation** and parent of a student from Henrico County, is a Financial Executive with Genworth Financial and Accounting. Mr. Hazelwood addressed the Board, "What we did, we pulled a lot of information from the Department of Education site and each of your localities' websites and tried to look and see if the administration here is doing well as financial stewards of the money you are giving. Just to highlight (see hard copy of presentation) the school gets 75% of its funding from your localities, 25% from the state. It has no bonding authority so it cannot go out and borrow in hard times to get it through for the future, so it really looks to you and tries to mirror what the counties and cities are doing for what it should be doing. Keep in mind that the infrastructure here is significantly different than the localities; there are teachers here that are also doing administrative stuff, there's administrative people doing teacher stuff, there are a lot of individuals that do both central office and teaching work here. But what we'd like to show you is that on a total budget basis the school has felt the same pain the localities have. From 2008/2009 they've reduced their budget about 7.5% compared to the district budgets (refer to presentation tile for comparison), in line with where they are going and they continue to try to mirror what the localities are doing. On the side (refer to presentation tile) we put what the student cost is but that is a little unusual because we don't have transportation costs in there, so we've sewn some transportation numbers in there for you too. So just keep in mind that your funding to the school is their funding, and their cuts are significant just as yours are."

Addressing spending cuts, Mr. Hazelwood stated, "Total spending down 7.5%. We've had to cut through, and when I use the word 'we,' I'm speaking on behalf of the school; we've had to cut some significant areas. There is no capital budget. There is no separate capital spending. It all comes from the budget...those are contingencies that we've had to cut into. Total spending is down on textbooks in the last two years. Our contingency fund we've had to cut; is that something you should be scared of? Yes, you've cut into savings. I know some of the counties now are looking at cutting their savings for the first time; Maggie Walker has been doing that for quite a while. Equipment is down. Athletics - \$17,000; probably the cost of football helmets for some of the larger localities. Here they rely a lot on outside boosters, you can't always count on that."

Additional information covered by Mr. Hazelwood included Virginia DOE information illustrating, "Maggie Walker is right in-line with the others as far as ratio of pupils to classroom teaching. Average teacher salaries; you can see (refer to presentation) that Maggie Walker's average teacher salaries has been flat for the last five years. Overall teacher individual salaries are

higher, but you have to keep in mind as we have noted that 67% of the teachers here have advanced degrees, either masters or doctorate degrees. So when you compare that to the scale that is on DOE, again, right in line. Personnel spending, this is what I really want to get to, 82% of the budget here goes to personnel spending. The other 15-18% is for infrastructure, service contracts, things like that. So when we are asking Maggie Walker to look at cuts it is difficult not to look in areas that are non-personnel related. Please keep that in mind.

Options. The school continues to follow the practice of the four large localities. This year when we evaluate the four largest localities it's an overall increase of 1%; that's an option that this Board has. Another option is to hold flat. Given the financial prudence this group has had over the last five years, I think they've done a good job... Option three is just to cut our percentage as a mandate. We want you to be able to go back to your constituency and say your dollars are being spent well. So please look at that. The last table shows what a 5% cut would be and a 2% cut would be to each large locality and on a per student basis.

In summation Mr. Scheibe stated, "What we would like the school board to do is continue its precedent which is to follow some kind of average, some kind of equation that you have done in the past. As we look at the budgets we know some of those numbers may still move up and down and end up somewhere between 1% positive and may reach down into zero or some negatives. So, we appreciate what you have done, and we hope you will continue to do that moving forward. Also, we want to work with you more as the new director comes in as he will be tasked with a large goal of bringing all of us together to set a plan, and a strategic plan and budget moving forward."

Lastly, Mrs. Weissend remarked, "Because we are so unique and we have such a smaller scale, when you say personnel, it's programming to us. So a cut in personnel is mitigating the programming that we offer."

**Mr. Malcolm 'Doc' McConnell** addressed the Board. "Good morning, my name is Malcolm McConnell; I'm a graduate of the Henrico County Public School system, Class of 2008, and a beneficiary of the Maggie Walker Governor's School program that has been so wonderful to me. It's really been a pleasure looking back on Maggie Walker as I've been at the University of Virginia for the past four years. I'll be receiving my Bachelor of Arts from their Politics Department in a little under a month, and I will have completed at that time my first year of Master's program there. I'll be staying for an additional year at the University of Virginia receiving my Master of Public Policy. So, I've come back today to talk a little bit about my experience at Maggie Walker and the direct effect it had on me at the University of Virginia. Specifically, I'd like to talk about my time in the "We the People" program in my senior year here. Phil Sorrentino taught his last "We the People" team my senior year of high school. And "We the People" does two things for its students: it gives them the government credit that they need to graduate from high school here in the Commonwealth of Virginia, but more importantly than that, the "We the People" program teaches them in a really direct and personal way, the connection that an individual has with his government. It teaches them about the connection that a constituent has with his representative in the government; teaches him about the connection that a citizen has with the society around him. And, more than just an abstract right that someone has as a citizen in that society, he has a

responsibility. He has a responsibility to participate in the democratic process. And when he finds an issue that is important to him he has a responsibility to reach out and to exercise that democratic right. And so I come back to you to express my concern that Maggie Walker may be losing some of the support that it had in the past because as a citizen of the Maggie Walker community, it's my responsibility to express that concern to you. Now, specifically at the University of Virginia as I've said, I've studied politics and public policy, so I've staked my claim on the belief that someone can have an effect on his government, that when someone reaches out and makes that effort that he's going to make a change or that he's going to leave the world a better place than when he went into it. And so I've come back to express to you my concern that if Maggie Walker were to lose some of its support, it wouldn't be the English and the science and the math core programs, what we would lose would be something additional, something that I got out of Maggie Walker that was above and beyond what a U.S. Government credit could have given me. The "We the People" program gave me the opportunity to go to Washington, DC, to sit in the Senate Hearing Room and to debate the very principles that underlie the Constitution of the United States. That has had a profound effect on me that will change the rest of my life and it would be a tremendous loss I think for future students not to have that same opportunity. Thank you so much for your time.

**Mr. Malcolm McConnell** addressed the Board. "That's a tough act to follow. I'm Malcolm McConnell III, that's the fourth, and I am the parent of a 2008 graduate of this school, soon to be the father-in-law of a 2008 graduate of this school, the father of a tenth grader at Freeman High School in Henrico County. I am a 1980 graduate of Tucker High School in Henrico County. When I was a pupil at Skipwith Elementary School in Henrico, my father was a visiting teacher for special needs kids, and when I was in college he retired from his position as Supervisor of Special Services for Henrico County Schools. I mention this as a matter of pedigree to point out that I am invested of course in Maggie Walker, but my investment in Henrico County, my personal investment in the Henrico County School System, is both of longer duration and more immediate. But I'm here to speak against the proposed budget cut. You've seen evidence of what this school can achieve both in facts and figures, and in personal presentation, and I'm not going to repeat that and I could never match that. I would point out to you that money that goes into this school is not an expense. It's not even just an investment. It is emblematic of the responsibility that the public leaders have to manage their public resources wisely. The resources that go into this school return enormously to the benefit of the entire community and beyond. My grandfather was a Southern Baptist preacher and probably for that reason the situation here reminds me of the story of the parable of the talons in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew where the first servant was given five talons and he returned with ten. And he was rewarded, not punished for those efforts; sent forth to do more. The question here should be; if this school can do this much with what they've been given what could they do if we gave them more? That should be the question. Sadly it is not sadly it is not. But this Board and this school's administrators are like that sermon, the servant who turned the talons into more. That's good stewardship, its good public service; it is what we hope for and we strive for as members of the community and as public leaders. Thank you so much for your continued support of this school."

Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber left the meeting.

The last speaker, **Mr. Bill Yates**, addressed the Board. "Good morning, my name is Bill Yates. Very tough act to follow after, the two McConnells, Doc and his dad, but, I'd like to just take a few minutes this morning and first off to introduce myself, as I said my name is Bill Yates; I've got a son, Danny, who graduated here in 2009 and is finishing up at William & Mary in a couple of weeks and going on to law school in August. I've got a son Johnny Mac who is a junior here and is heading off to We the People tomorrow morning, along with about 40-50 parents, so, a lot of folks, a lot of support for that program. I would like to thank Julie, Doug and Burt for the enlightening information they provided; a lot of good detail that really shows how effective this school under the various administrations has been with the money that you have entrusted here; they've been very, very wise with that."

"What I want to stress today is that as you look at budgets and you talk about keeping a flat, 2.5%, 5%, different possible decreases, that those decisions will make a fundamental difference to what our students get from this school. This is not something where we can say you can cut 5% and it's not going to affect the program. Mr. Tharp, Mr. Skeen, Dr. Ellis will tell you, we've managed to make it work, we squeeze, we can do this. Trust me, as a parent I can see where those cuts will fundamentally harm this program. And I'd mention a couple of things, class sizes will be increased. That's okay, a couple of more students in a class we can all live with, you've done it in your localities. But what happens when they have to drop a section of a class and you now have students who would like to take one of the AP classes and they can't get in a section, or want to take a science class and not able to get in that section or class because instead of four sections, there are only three now. And there are twenty kids who can't take that and will graduate from this school without that. Club sponsors; there's been a discussion about reducing costs by not paying teachers to sponsor some of the clubs. To me that is *irresponsible*. You are expecting teachers to do this for free; they are already teaching with an eight period day. They are already tremendously invested with these kids. Yes, they will probably do it, they will probably step forward, but it's expecting a lot there and it may mean some clubs disappear. Finally, Security and Guidance are at risk. Security and Guidance! People say; oh, you're staffed more highly than some. Those two areas are fundamental to this school and they are fundamental to the diversity in this school, which I would like to stress having served on the diversity committee several years back. I have to tell you, when you look at Mr. Charles and his team and when you look at Mr. Zweerink and his team, they make those kids who may have come from disadvantaged environments and may not have some of the benefits that a lot of the kids here have; they help them through, they get them through that first year and they help them succeed and go on and really do well here. So I really encourage you to keep us whole. Please, anything that you do in budget cuts is going to damage the program and I just ask you to keep investing. As Mr. McConnell said, don't take a short term dollar savings for each one of your districts at the expense of a real long term cost. Thank you."

## **VII. Director's Report**

**Policy Steering Committee:** Don Skeen announced that Valarie Ayers had agreed to serve on this committee as the Board representative. Other members include Mr. Don Skeen, Dr. Wendy Ellis, Mr. Phil Tharp, Mrs. Patti Chappell, Mrs. Barbara



Marshall, Mr. Dickson Benesh and Mrs. Shelley Allen ó Parent. This group serves as a steering committee to identify the process and priorities of the policies that need to be reviewed. This group is not the policy review committee.

**Updates:** Senator Mark Warner and former Governor Tim Kaine met with students and faculty in a roundtable event at MLWGS on April 4, 2012.

Defending national champions, MLWGS's "We the People" team competes in Washington, DC April 28-30, 2012.

AP Testing May 7-18, 2012 with 1,118 tests administered to 466 students. Typically, 96% of MLWGS students earn a score of 3 or higher each year translating to a potential of 3,219 college credit hours in 2012.

**Coming Events:** See page 29 in the Board packet.

## **VIII. Action Items**

### **a. Personnel – Leave of Absence Request**

The Director recommends approval of the following requests for Leave of Absence during the 2012/2013 academic year: Sherri Arnold ó English Department and Lynn Foshee Reed ó Mathematics Department. Mrs. Reed briefly addressed the Board with a description of her award and work as an Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship next year.

Also, in her capacity as graduation coordinator, Mrs. Reed distributed invitations to Board members and Superintendents for the commencement ceremony of the Class of 2012 at the Carpenter Center. Graduation speaker: Dr. Ed Ayers, President of the University of Richmond.

There being no additional discussion on this matter; on motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the leave of absence requests for 2012/2013 of Ms. Sherri Arnold and Mrs. Lynn Foshee Reed were unanimously approved.

### **b. Policy for Directory Information**

As reviewed in March, the Director recommends approval of the directory policy submitted to ensure compliance with FERPA regulations.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Barbara Crawley, seconded by Dianne Smith, the policy for directory information was unanimously approved.

**c. Rental Rate Changes (Includes Pavilion Restrooms)**

The Director recommends approval of proposed rental rate increases as submitted.

There being no additional discussion on this matter, on motion by Kimberly Gray, seconded by Diana Winston, rental rate increases for specific areas defined in the proposal within Maggie L. Walker Governorø School property was unanimously approved.

**IX. Materials for Board Review**

**a. FY13 Proposed Operating Budget**

Expressing gratitude for his skillful efforts to develop this proposal and presentation, the Director requested Phil Tharp present the FY13 budget proposal to the Board (using a PowerPoint that will be retained as a permanent record of this meeting and line-item spreadsheet).

Highlights include: Three objectives were followed in this proposal, similar to what other divisions have followed in these tight budget times: 1) maintain the integrity of MLWGS program, 2) no loss of current full-time staff and 3) limit the impact of VRS changes on staff compensation.

Revenue review: Tuition reduced to \$7,072 from \$7,445. Slot commitments reduced from 720 students to 718 altering the amount of funding received by the state. Miscellaneous revenue is off-set by payments from billings to the GS Foundation for personnel expenses. Total projected revenue = \$7,276,860.00.

Other income is provided by MLWGS support organizations; i.e., GS Foundation, PTSA and Boosters for teacher professional development and student/athletics enrichment.

Projected expense increases: VRS +4%, retiree healthcare, group life, salary +1%, and employee healthcare = \$333,117.00.

Projected loss of revenue: Tuition reduction and state funding reduction = \$284,993.46.

Actions taken: Healthcare ó staff will absorb any increases above 2%. Staff reductions of .9 FTE, cut overages and reduce sections. Reduce sections in Health and PE. Overall reduction of 1 FTE. Reduce Security hours. Consolidate evening coverage positions. Eliminate two Administrative Aide positions for evening coverage. Eliminate forty-two club activity supplements.

Eliminate four assistant coaching positions. Reduce non-professional services and contracted support. Non-personnel cuts of \$200,775.00 for books, maintenance, supplies, printing, etc. (see PowerPoint for detail). Use \$250,000.00 of the fund balance with \$230,000.00 projected remaining from FY12 and the completed audit of FY11.

Total loss of revenue since FY09 ó state = \$98,456.00 for 5.44%; tuition = \$620,176.00 for 15.4%.

At the conclusion of this review, Mr. Axelle asked that digital copies of Mr. Tharp's presentation be sent to the Board.

In closing, Mr. Skeen stated that MLWGS would be open to Board input over the next month as you review the FY13 budget proposal, and barring any changes, approval will be sought at the May 2012 meeting of this Board.

**b. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2012-2013**

Annual notice whereby the Board authorizes the Director to issue employment contracts applying human resource policies and salary scales. Authorization action will be requested at the May 2012 meeting of this Board.

**c. 2012-2013 School Operating Calendar**

As directed by Mr. Skeen, Phil Tharp reviewed the operating calendar proposal submitted to the Board noting his calendar review and attempt to align as best as possible with the four largest participating school divisions. The proposal contains 180 instructional days and is posted to the MLWGS website for public review.

2012-2013 School Operating Calendar approval will be requested at the May 2012 meeting of this Board.

**d. Copier Contract**

Five vendors submitted bids for a three-year copier lease agreement with an option to purchase installed equipment at the end of the lease for \$1.00. This award will replace one existing machine in the building. Based on bid pricing and demonstrations provided by the vendor, Mr. Tharp is recommending OCEøNorth America.

Vendor approval of copier equipment leasing will be requested at the May 2012 meeting of this Board.

**e. Auditorium Upgrade Contract**

Three vendors submitted bids for auditorium upgrades that include audio, video and lectern upgrades, along with integrated control system upgrades. Mr. Axselle questioned the disparity in pricing by one vendor. Mrs. Chappell responded that the vendor in question (Whitlock) priced a high-end digital sound board while the others priced analog boards. She stated the high-end board had more features than the school would ever use in this environment. To allay Board concerns, Mrs. Chappell stated there was no misunderstanding on Whitlock's part as they attended a mandatory pre-bid meeting and specific equipment specifications were provided at that time.

Vendor approval of auditorium upgrades will be requested at the May 2012 meeting of this Board.

**f. Annual Approval of GS Foundation Board of Directors**

The Director requested Mr. Hal Waller review this request for the Board. Mr. Waller described GSF as a 501c3, Type 1 Supporting Organization, directly tied to the school with a mission to support the school. All members of the Foundation Board of Directors must be approved by the Regional School Board annually. Mr. Waller noted that each member present had been provided at table with a list of candidate names for the 2012-2013 Governor's School Foundation Board.

Approval of Board of Director candidates for the Governor's School Foundation will be requested at the May 2012 meeting of this Board.

**g. 2012-2013 School Advisory Council Members**

The Director distributed a list of nominee names for consideration as stipulated in the School Advisory Council Bylaws. Upon concerns and discussion regarding the randomness of the selection process, the Board requested a bylaw revision to reflect diversity of representation. Mr. Skeen will develop a proposed bylaw change to represent the demographics and the diversity and size of the districts and their students for the May meeting.

**X. Informational Items**

- Finance Committee Minutes, April 5, 2012
- Foundation Update
- Student News:
  - Sweeney Todd Wows Sell Out Crowd
  - Former Governor Tim Kaine and Senator Mark Warner at MLWGS, April 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Seniors Thank Their Local School Board
  - Civic Society Honors Maggie Walker's Memory with State Historical Marker

- Model Congress Club Hosts Conference at MLWGS
- Model Congress Club Ends Season on High Note at W&M
- French Student Awarded Highly Competitive Grant Scholarship
- MLWGS Science Students Recognized at VA Jr. Science & Humanities Symposium
- MLWGS Richmond PTA -Reflectionsø Winners
- Robotics Team Wins VA Finalist at Regional FIRST Competition
- TSA Students Win Top Awards at Regional Conference

**XI. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Meeting**

Dr. Alvera Parrish, Chairman, stated the committee met recently for an extensive discussion on the budget process and provided feedback to Mr. Skeen and Mr. Sharp concerning situations faced by various divisions and how it was impacting them, requiring an alignment to be reflected in the Walker process. The other item discussed was the development of the 2012-2013 operating calendar and its alignment with division calendars to facilitate the transportation of students during holidays and breaks.

**XII. Closed Meeting**

None

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

None

**XIV. Announcements/Unfinished Business**

Mrs. Ayers was acknowledged and thanked for her commitment to serve on the Policy Steering Committee.

**XV. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by John Axselle, seconded by Kimberly Gray, the motion was unanimously approved and this meeting was adjourned.

**XVI. Next Meeting**

May 17, 2012 at 9:00am. MLWGS Board Room, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 226, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800  
x2190 or x2111.

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Kenneth Pritchett, Chairman

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Don Skeen, Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk