

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY20 Budget Public Hearing
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, March 21, 2019

9:03 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 stood and 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
Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools (late arrival)
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
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. Jonathan Young, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools (late arrival)
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen 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. 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 (late arrival)

Absent:

Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools (late arrival)
Mr. Christopher Reber, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Mr. Rob Eley, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Merv Daugherty, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Also present:

Michael ‘Max’ Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Karen and Johnny Townsend – MLWGS Parents

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by John Wright, the minutes of the regular meeting and the FY20 budget work session of February 21, 2019, were approved, with Valarie Ayers abstaining.

VII. Recognitions

- **2019 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 the Regional School Board members from respective districts [*the Chair represented Chesterfield*] presented thirteen certificates to:

Chesterfield	Richmond	Henrico
Lawrence Jia	Ivan Marshall	Derek Chen
Narmeen Rashid		Emily Dai
Kamya Sanjay		Everett Llewellyn
Grady Trexler		Som Mohapatra
		Alexander Nikolov
		Lisa Qin
		John Strader
		Yashodhara Varma

- **Academic Quiz Bowl 2A State Champions.** The 2019 Academic Quiz Bowl Team, sometimes also known as 'BoB Squad,' participates in local, regional, state, and national quiz

bowl competitions. Team members meet during lunch most days, and area tournaments occur throughout the year, with at least 2 tournaments per month. Virginia State Championships are in late February and National Championship tournaments occur in May and June.

Sponsored by Ms. Olga Plotnikov and assisted by Ms. Juanita Lasswell, the championship team members are Jack Honig ('20-Richmond), Jackson Lamb ('20-Chesterfield), Alex Dietrich ('20-Chesterfield), Dennis Plotnikov ('21-Chesterfield), Sonya Stacia ('21-Henrico), and Daniel Xue ('20-Chesterfield). As all are underclassmen, the prospects for next year look outstanding!

The MLWGS Academic Quiz Bowl team has won at States 9 times since 1998, including the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years. The team also came in 2nd place 10 times since 1998.

- **Week 16 Lexus of Richmond Leadership Award Winner – Emily Callahan (Hanover).** Emily is a member of the National Honor Society with a current 4.27 GPA. Additionally, she is a member of the National English Honor Society, the German National Honor Society, and the Thomas Jefferson History Honor Society.

Emily has been a member of the field hockey team all four years at MLWGS as a goalkeeper. As a senior, she was selected to be a team captain.

Emily's coach and Athletic Director, Paige Hawkins, was also on hand for this recognition.

- **Winter Sports State Championship Teams/Individual Champions recognized:**
 - Wrestling: RJ May ('22-Powhatan) State Champion of the 138 Weight Class, coached by Don Blanton.
 - Girls Swim Team: 5th consecutive State title win.
 - Boys Swim Team: 2nd place team at State Championship.
 - Individual Boys Swim Champions: Noah Ratliff ('20-Richmond) won the 100-butterfly, Henry Paulson ('20-Richmond) won the 100-breaststroke, and the team of Ratliff, Paulson, Lorenzo Galang ('22-Chesterfield) and Bryce Mortimer ('22-Richmond) won the 400-free relay team. The girls and boys swim teams are coached by Matt Chocklett and Heather Kemmerly.
 - Indoor Track – the Girls team won their 6th consecutive State title, while the Boys team recaptured the title, winning State 4 out of the last 6 years.
 - Individual Track Champions: Mary Kemp ('21-Richmond) won the 1000-meter race. Kaitlyn Baker ('22-Hanover) was pole vault champion, Adam Sachs ('19-Henrico) won the 1600-meter race, and Carter Morgan ('20-Henrico) won the 1000-meter race. Mary Caroline Heinen ('20-Richmond) won both the 1600-meter and 3200-meter titles. Girls and boys both won the 4x4 and 4x8 relay events. The track teams are coached by Jim Holdren, Deborah Snagg, Ryan Webb, Bill Powers, and Bob Disse.
- **The SABR Analytics Diamond Dollars Case Competition** pits students from colleges across the country against each other in an analytic major league baseball operations decision — the type of decision a team's general manager and staff face over the course of a season. The

teams present their analysis and recommendations to a panel of judges that included MLB front office executives on Friday, March 8, in Phoenix, AZ.

In this year's competition, twenty teams were asked to determine the best way to utilize the pitching staff of a major league team. The winning MLWGS team used higher-level mathematics to create a simulation to determine its solution. One of the judges commented that the MLWGS team did a better job of explaining Nonlinear Programming than his professor did in graduate school. The competition divided teams into four divisions, and the Maggie Walker team took first place in their division, defeating teams from St. Joseph's University, St. John Fisher College and two teams from Syracuse University.

By winning the college-level SABR Analytics Competition again this year, MLWGS [*still the only high school ever to compete in this program*] is now the first school to boast winning teams in three straight years. Only one other school (Washington University in St. Louis) has equaled the feat of winning three times. The MW winning team is comprised of Tom Blue ('19-Richmond), Creed Crabtree ('19-Henrico), Nicolas Ferree ('19-Chesterfield), Dominic Gammino ('19-Richmond) and Maya Qureshi ('19-Richmond).

Gratitude was expressed to Mr. Benesh, team sponsor, for his dedication to MLWGS.

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 provided by Karen Townsend.

Members of the Board, good morning.

My name is Karen Townsend and you may recall that I gave a presentation during your January meeting about my family's experience with high school study abroad programs and our difficulties with the school administration's handling of our son's academic year in Berlin, Germany. I'm pleased to report that thanks to Dr. Lowerre's efforts, Ian is being allowed to return to Maggie Walker for his final year of high school.

The reason I am back today is to speak out in opposition to the new 'Study Abroad' Policy 3032 that was inserted into the school's Course Catalog following the January meeting. One of the Director's agenda items for today's meeting is a vote for formal adoption of this policy.

Why did the administration draft this policy? Dr. Lowerre told me that it was written to address the specific concerns that I raised in January, but from my perspective, it has done the complete opposite. With Ian's position at Maggie Walker now restored and our second child not intending to pursue a similar path, the Study Abroad policy is not going to directly affect our family. But I care a great deal about the success of this school and its gifted students having access to a diverse array of opportunities. Sadly, the rules set forth in Policy 3032 are so rigid and impractical that NO student after Ian Townsend will ever be able to study abroad for an academic year and return to graduate from Maggie Walker.

The timelines and logistics of study abroad programs are not unlike those of college enrollment. There is acceptance into a general program in early spring, then interviews to figure out specific school and host family placement, with a search for a good match running well into the summer. Only upon arrival in country in August or September does the student meet the host school's administrators and enroll in specific classes. This terrible policy expects the equivalent of seniors knowing the exact classes they are going to take as college freshmen, securing copies of official syllabi, and preparing the teachers to be contacted by a Maggie Walker administrator with curriculum questions...all before April 1st...and for the following school year. These are completely unrealistic expectations ahead of either college or study abroad!

There is a better way to write a study abroad policy. It involves bringing interested and knowledgeable stakeholders to the table and working together to brainstorm reasonable programs that work for both the individual student and the school's collective mission. It also involves having school administrators willing to think creatively, outside of the box of rigid policy adherence.

Please, I urge you not to adopt this ill-conceived, reactive policy that merely pays lip service to academic year study abroad. I'll end with the same thing I said in January... Let's work together to encourage immersive study abroad, as it would truly be a program to set Maggie L. Walker School for Government and International Studies apart as a world-class high school!

I welcome further contact and/or questions, and can be reached at karentownsend@seaislandsoftware.biz,

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Prospective Student Shadow Days by Division:**
 - Monday, March 18th – Chesterfield
 - Tuesday, March 19th – Charles City, Goochland, Hopewell, King & Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George
 - Wednesday, March 20th – Hanover and Henrico
 - Thursday, March 21st – Richmond
- **March is Youth Art and Music Month, Exhibition on March 7.** In addition to our regular student art exhibition, various school music groups also performed throughout the evening. Student short films were also shown in the auditorium. The date for this event was Thursday, March 7 from 6-8 p.m. The event was open to the public and refreshments provided.
- Seniors Lawrence Jia and Kanya Sanjay (both are from Chesterfield) are **finalists for the 'UVA Jefferson Scholar'** and will attend selection weekend later in March. Katie Bortz (Richmond) also earned a similar scholarship to Clemson.

- **Dodgeball Tournament at MLWGS.** This year’s March Madness Dodgeball Tournament starts March 4th. The tournament will have a limited number of teams with the money raised donated to the charity of the winning teams’ choice after the championship game at the Spring Pep Rally in April.

B. Coming Events

March 21, 2019 through April 18, 2019 (see page IX.b for details).

Dr. Lowerre spoke about MLWGS developing a relationship with Carver Elementary (RPS) to coordinate student tutors from MLWGS for academics and life coaching at Carver.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On motion by John Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the following consent items were unanimously approved: March personnel actions, fiscal status reports of January 31, 2019, and the donations report of January 31, 2019.

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:

Policy #	Name	New/Amended	Actions
1022	Regular School Board Meetings	Amended	Adding no meeting is conducted through electronic communication
2045	Service Animals in School	Amended	Policy updated to clarify procedures for requesting permission to bring service animals onto campus. Substantive changes include OCR feedback, removing health certificate requirement that is not required by law, and clearly defines process annually
3032	Study Abroad	New	Outlines expectations and steps for students to apply for study abroad during their junior year with MLWGS

5000.2	Employment of Family Members	Amended	Minor organizational and editorial changes
5074	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse	Amended	Changes correct typographical errors

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

The Director recommended that each of these policies be addressed individually and not as a slate.

Policy 1022-Regular School Board Meetings Amended includes accommodation from the VSBA that MLWGS does not conduct electronic meetings. Mr. Axselle asked for an explanation as this is not consistent with their board [*Hanover*] policy. Quoted from policy “No meeting is conducted through telephonic, video, electronic or other electronic communication means where the members are not physically assembled to discuss or transact public business.” The director reads this to mean the meeting itself is cannot be virtual, and the spirit is that these meetings need to be open to the public.

The board requested additional Policy Committee review of 1022 and it was pulled from action.

Policy 2045-Service Animals in School Amended clarifies procedures, OCR feedback, removes health certificate requirement, and clearly defines the process annually. Upon inquiry, Dr. Lowerre stated Maggie Walker has never had a request for this service. Upon discussion, several of the divisions acknowledge they have adopted this policy too and that is good because they do have service animal requests. Dr. Jones stated Powhatan is going through an OCR complaint at this time on this matter and the OCR attorneys have said they will be fighting the VSBA policy as they do not agree with it and do not believe there should be a pre-approval process.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, Policy 2045-Service Animals in School *Amended* was unanimously approved.

Policy 3032-Study Abroad. Mr. Young requested this policy be tabled from action [allowing Mr. Barlow, RPS board member, an opportunity for input]. Honoring that request, the chair called for a discussion of 3032 in anticipation of action at the April meeting.

Mrs. Ogburn noticed in the timeline that February 15 is the first required notification, followed by subsequent actions on additional timeline items and questioned if this timeline was used in the past and did it work? Dr. Lowerre responded to the best of his knowledge in the past ten years MLWGS had only two students that spent a year abroad so he doesn’t know if he can answer that question definitely. He added that the fundamental piece in this proposal is the first deadline, everything else could probably be adjusted if needed. As we took a look at this our sense was that school districts wanted to know what their slot status is before they send out acceptance letters to prospective students around March 9-10, so if we are going to find out that a student is not going to be in that spot and want to give that spot to another student and

wanting said student to participate in the process, those activities occur in March and April. Later than that, you might be pulling a student off of a waitlist that had already committed to another program and there will be a domino effect. The fundamental discussion that needs to take place is what do the school districts feel about the February 15 deadline and the 'need to know.' Dr. Lowerre added that a second concern brought to him was that while a larger district could absorb a slot by rotating it to an incoming freshman because if you're sending 35-40 students per year it is less noticeable; but for smaller districts sending a total of 8-10 students, if you pull that slot and rotate to a freshman you create an imbalance that carries for four years. We have seen situations develop, not related to this travel policy, where districts that normally has 3 slots for freshmen suddenly have only one and have to buy additional slots to make up because students attrition out. Dr. Lowerre stated, "Maggie Walker can work with anything the board wants, there is not a large number of students this will affect." Again, the February 15 deadline is due to the school districts and the Planning Committee making offers to incoming students.

Mrs. Ogburn also expressed interest in the second deadline of March 1 wondering if that too was problematic for getting information from a receiving school. Dr. Lowerre stated, again he didn't have enough information to answer this question. Dr. Wendy Ellis remarked, when this policy was developed it was based on a timeline used by her predecessor and the actual practice that was in place at that time. She added that one student was traveling abroad the year before she came to MLWGS and returned the summer of her first year, adding, "by using this protocol to look at their transcripts and everything aligned that was pre-agreed to and it worked fine." Mrs. Ogburn stated that her sense is that if it is based on what happened ten years ago we have advanced in technology during that time and some of those issues wouldn't exist anymore insofar as exchanging materials back and forth. She added, "the thing that sways me is the deadline," in Henrico we would want to know and this is a legitimate concern. Mrs. Barber added; "speaking for a smaller district this would create a challenge because of the way we allocate slots we don't have that flexibility and so we would likely end up paying for an empty seat for a year."

Dr. Myers said this concern was discussed in the superintendent's morning steering committee meeting. A larger district might slide someone over but a smaller district would be paying close to \$10,000 with transportation for a student to come to MLWGS and if that student isn't attending, it's a real challenge in the community. However, we struggled knowing there is a real belief that international travel experience is a life experience, and we honestly struggled with the balance. Having been in a larger district I know that imbalance is not just a small district issue, and if there is a way to make it work that a student could have that experience while also giving some flexibility to the district if they knew ahead of time. Of course, when we hear a public speaker saying this is really not a reality that one would know that soon, that too represents a challenge and we understand the balance is tough.

Mr. Wright added he understood the slotting deadline but speculated it may cause a situation where a district would ultimately have additional slots, and asked if there would ever be a situation of fewer slots unless a district had made a decision to back-fill an empty slot. The district should understand that [*scenario*] before they made a decision that there is such a possibility if they decide to back-fill. Goochland currently has someone who is going to be a senior that has moved out of the county so we have one empty slot, we are balancing if we should make a selection for one year and carry that financial obligation for an additional three years and then move back to our normal allocation, or not. In our situation, we decided not to

fill it because we knew there could be a potential backlash in unforeseen budgetary times. This [*practice*] doesn't take away opportunities, it provides extra opportunities. If this truly is as much of an exception as we are saying, why do we need to screw it down so tight and shouldn't we allow for some flexibility in how we approach this and take it on a case-by-case basis? Understanding we still want to meet the same standards, work with the student and their parents or families, to find the best solution. Lastly, we are talking about students that we are not worried will cover a low hurdle for a diploma, we're talking about super high performers and these students will do this in a way that is meaningful for them. We need to recognize this a rare opportunity.

Mr. Axelle's expressed concern about affecting another child, meaning the child that doesn't get in while we hold a slot, that that student is being denied an opportunity.

Mr. Young thanked the chair for tabling action on this item and stated this policy appears to be a solution in search of a problem and is grateful the board is not voting on this today.

With discussion concluded, the board tabled action on Policy 3032. Dr. Lowerre asked that anyone with language change requests please forward to him as quickly as possible.

Policy 5000.2-Employment of Family Members *Amended*. This policy has minor organizational and editorial changes.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers, Policy 5000.2-Employment of Family Members *Amended* was unanimously approved.

Policy 5074-Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse *Amended*. This policy has minor typographical error corrections.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Martha Harris, Policy 5074-Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse *Amended* was unanimously approved.

b. Housekeeping Services starting July 1, 2019

The purpose of this RFP is to attract written proposals from responsive and responsible vendors to establish a one (1) year term contract with three (3) optional one-year renewals to provide Housekeeping Services at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. It is anticipated the contract will be effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

The RFP was released to the school website on February 1, 2019.

The RFP was advertised in the legal section of the Richmond Times-Dispatch February 3-8, 2019.

The RFP proposals are due from qualified vendors March 7, 2019, @ 11:00 am.

The recommended vendor is Golden Gate Service, Inc., 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22031 T: (703) 425-6200

Mrs. Ayers asked if Golden Gate had local offices since they are headquartered in Fairfax. Dr. Lowerre replied yes, they have a local location also.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by John Axelle, the housekeeping RFP award to Golden Gate Service, Inc., starting July 1, 2019, was unanimously approved.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip – Greece/Italy 2020

As the ancient wonders of Athens and Delphi give way to the Renaissance treasures of Florence, it becomes clear how one era leads to another, how one ancient civilization sows the seeds for future awakenings. The Parthenon in Athens and the Colosseum in Rome provide a fascinating framework for the artistic and architectural breakthroughs throughout Florence.

Colleen Hall will accompany as a chaperone. A minimum number of students is 12, maximum is 20.

Trip dates have moved and are now departing June 26, returning July 13.

Estimate per Student Cost: \$3,810 (approximately).

Presentation at this meeting by Mr. Jeff Hall, Fine Arts Faculty.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the trip proposal for Greece and Italy 2020 was unanimously approved.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. 2019-2020 School Operating Calendar (First Read)

The School Advisory Committee has completed the attached draft calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. The 2018-2019 calendar was used as a template to begin the process.

Input was sought from stakeholders among the student body, faculty, and parent community. The calendar largely aligns with those of our top four participating districts with the exception of student half days.

Dr. Lowerre noted with the General Assembly offering flexibility on school start dates after Labor Day, it is possible for the 2020-2021 academic year MLWGS will look at the early start option if other districts are doing the same.

The Director recommends the Regional School Board review the proposed 2019-2020 school operating calendar. Pending any changes from participating divisions and additional community input, a vote for approval will be requested at the Board's April 18, 2019 meeting.

b. FY20 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 FY2020.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on February 21, 2019.

A public hearing on this proposal is scheduled during Section XIX of this meeting. Public advertising for this hearing occurred via the RTD Meetings and Events category, Sunday, March 17th, and the MLWGS website. The public was also invited to comment via an internet form.

The Director recommends that members of the Board review the attached budget proposal. Approval will be requested at the April 18, 2019, Regional School Board meeting.

c. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2019-2020

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 FY2020 Operating Budget scheduled for approval April 18, 2019.

The Director recommends that the Regional School Board consider granting this authorization providing the authority to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for FY20.

d. Textbook Adoption (Deleted from Agenda at Table)

e. FY20 Student Fee Schedule

The proposed student fee schedule has been updated from FY20 with current projected costs for all subject areas.

Changes from FY19 are minor. Those fees that were adjusted are largely due to inflationary increases on optional workbooks. New additions to the Senior Seminars reflect new topics being taught but the range of fees is aligned with past practice. The Industry Certification fee attached to Economics and Personal Finance has been deleted as it is no longer needed.

Dr. Lowerre advised the College Board is shifting their AP registration from the spring to the fall and this action will present a financial hit to families. The College Board rationale is it provides motivation for the student to perform better in the class.

The Director recommends the Regional School Board review the proposed 2019-2020 Student Fee Schedule proposal. Approval will be sought at the Board's April 18, 2019 meeting.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes, March 7, 2019
- March is Youth Art & Music Month at MLWGS

- Newtowne Tutoring Project At MLWGS
- Successful Dragons at TSA Regionals
- MW Girls Basketball Team Makes History at VHSL State Championship Quarterfinals
- Public Notice of Operational Change Due to Lost Instructional Time.

Dr. Lowerre added the school is building into its calendar for next year a slight operational adjustment that does not affect start or ends times and dates, but by reducing lunch by five minutes allows the school to bank two operational days for snow with the understanding that at the end of the year we may be able to give a day or two back if unused.

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Myers stated he has already shared with the board the committee's discussion regarding study abroad. He added the group also discussed staffing and the school is in good shape. Finally, he said we discussed his replacement as Chair [*Dr. Myers is taking a job at the Department of Education in late April*] and Dr. Jeremy Raley offered his service in this capacity and the group agreed so he will assume the chair responsibilities through the term ending in December.

Dr. Newsome added an item not on their agenda but was a side discussion, stating this is his thirteenth year with this board and over the years we have discussed the desire to create a school that is more reflective of the communities it serves but we have not seen the needle move in all this time. He added, it takes courageous, bold decisions to make this happen. Dr. Newsome is retiring at the end of June.

XVI. Closed Meeting

None.

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None.

XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XIX. Public Hearing for the FY20 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 FY2020.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on February 21, 2019.

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School presents this public hearing on its 2019-2020 budget. In lieu of comments represented in this live forum, the Regional School Board will also accept online public comment until March 19, 2019.

Comments Received Online:

From Tracy Jebo, Parent

“Please prioritize the requested 3% teacher raise as well as provide ample funding for capital projects needed to the school.”

XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On motion by John Axselle, seconded by John Wright, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:25 am.

Next Meeting

April 18, 2019, 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