

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 16, 2019

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 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. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Carol Fenn, **Interim 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)

Dr. Merv Daugherty, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield 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:

Michael ‘Max’ Smith – MLWGS Administration
Lynn Reed and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation

V. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Harwood Hall, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Harwood Hall, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2019, were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- **Maggie Walker team wins Governor’s Challenge in Economics:** MW’s four-student team, consisting of Alex Nikolov (’19-Henrico), Kevin Ren (’20-Chesterfield), Aashri Aggarwal (’19-Henrico), and Richard Zhai (’20-Henrico), competed against 15 teams, including 9 teams from Northern Virginia high schools. To be invited to the state finals, all teams took online tests and the regional winners (including Maggie Walker) and other high scoring teams were then invited by the Virginia Council on Economic Education to the state finals competition.

Following a series of tests, the Maggie Walker team and a team from the Thomas Jefferson Science and Technology high school were the two top-scoring teams on April 11th. The two teams then met in a “quiz bowl” contest in front of an audience of the other contestants, teachers, and guests from universities and from the Federal Reserve Bank. The questions were difficult and covered a variety of topics in economics and current events. Maggie Walker won the quiz bowl competition, beating Thomas Jefferson Sci-Tech, and was named the state champion. (This was especially gratifying since Maggie Walker’s team lost to Thomas Jefferson in the state finals competition last year and became the state runner-up.)

The team was accompanied by their teacher, Dr. Julius Oreska.

- **Meredith Peters (’20-Hanover) wins a study abroad award:** Meredith won the 2019 Junior Study Abroad Scholarship for her achievement on the National Spanish Examination and for her excellent skills in the Spanish language.

This national award, valued at over \$3,500, is given each year to twenty-four students from across the United States who become eligible by earning high scores on the National Spanish Examination and then submitting samples of their written and oral work in Spanish to a selection committee.

In July, Meredith will be traveling to Spain with the other 23 winners to study Spanish language and culture at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

- **MW is the #1 school in Virginia in Math League Competition:** The following students were recognized for being among the highest-scoring students in the state: Ankit Agrawal ('22-Henrico)-30, Ryan Kaplan ('19-Henrico)-29, Derek Chen ('19-Henrico)-27, Sam Lichtman ('22-Henrico)-26, Varun Natarajan ('20-Henrico)-26, John Corson ('20-Chesterfield)-25, Kaillou Macon-Goudreau ('21-Henrico)-24, Nicholas Xie ('20-Henrico)-23, Daniel Xue ('20-Chesterfield)-23, and Eric Qian ('22-Chesterfield)-23.

This year, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School tied for the honor of being the top school (#1) in Virginia Math League Contests along with Albemarle HS with a cumulative score of 157. The last year MW earned this distinction was 2011.

The students were accompanied by their teacher, Mr. John Walter who has sponsored the MW team in this competition since 2007.

- **(5) MW students will attend summer Governor's School Academies:** As most Dragons are starting to enjoying their summer break, five of their classmates were recommended for participation in a month-long extensive educational opportunity sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education and Gifted Services. The Summer Residential Governor's School programs provide rising gifted high school juniors and seniors with intensive experience.

Students will live on campus this summer for up to four weeks where they will participate in classroom and laboratory work, field study, research, and individual and group projects and performances, seminars with noted scholars, and visiting artists and other professionals.

Student applications to this program are managed by Joy Davis Cobb, Counselor.

The following students were accepted into the 2019 Governor's Foreign Language Academies:
Alexander Broening- in absentia ('20:Richmond) – German
Nathan Lord ('20:Richmond) – Spanish
Donald McKinney – in absentia ('20:Chesterfield) – Japanese
Tejas Muthusamy ('21:Henrico)- French
and,
Jessie Steadman ('20:Goochland) – Virginia Institute of Marine Science through the Academic Summer Governor's School.

- **(2) MW teams earn scholarship awards at 2019 Modeling the Future Challenge:** The Actuarial Foundation proudly announced winners in its second annual Modeling the Future Challenge, a national scholarship competition aimed at introducing the actuarial profession to high school students, April 11 & 12, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois. The Challenge was developed with the Foundation's partner, the Institute of Competition Sciences. This is the first year MW participated in this competition.

Coming in second place and winning the \$15,000 scholarship award were Nikhil Brahmapuram ('19-Henrico), Henry Coates ('19-Hanover), Russell Graviet, Jr. ('19-Chesterfield), Madoc Kimball ('19-Henrico) and Shivani Kundalia ('19-Henrico) from Maggie Walker Governor's School. The third-place scholarship award of \$10,000 went to Thomas Blue ('19-Richmond), Derek Chen ('19-Henrico), Nicolas Ferree ('19-Chesterfield), Mary Caroline Heinen ('20-Richmond) and Ryan Kaplan ('19-Henrico) also from Maggie Walker Governor's School. Students from each winning team will share the scholarship awards, which will be sent to the colleges of their choice. Combined, MW won the largest dollar awards at Modeling the Future Challenge over any of the other participating schools.

Both MW teams were accompanied by their teacher Mr. Dickson Benesh.

- MW 'We the People' team takes 5th Place at Nationals, wins Tinker award:** This year Maggie Walker attended its 21st national hearings on April 26–April 29, 2019, at the National Conference Center in the Washington, DC area. 56 classes representing 44 states came to the nation's capital to participate in the academic competition where students demonstrate their knowledge of the Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of state supreme court judges, constitutional scholars, lawyers, public officials and 'We the People' alumni. The Dragons were aiming to continue their streak of top ten finishes and they succeeded.

After three riveting days of simulated congressional hearings on the history, present, and future of the U.S. Constitutional system, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies from Virginia placed fifth in the nation. MLWGS has won the national title three times in the We the People competition's 32-year history. This year the Dragons also won the Tinker Foundation Award for best expertise in unit competition.

Results were announced at an awards ceremony Monday evening before an audience of more than 1,400 students, teachers, coordinators, judges, and other program participants. The Award Ceremony, held at the National Constitution Center, included speakers Tom Kilgannon, Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, John Tinker, John F. Tinker Foundation. (John and Mary Beth Tinker were part of the landmark Supreme Court case: Tinker v Des Moines Independent Community School District, 1969).

Team Members:

Cameron Baird (Richmond)	Veronika Matysiak (Chesterfield)
Megan Bale (Chesterfield)	Kaitlin McCullough (Powhatan)
Thomas Blue (Richmond)	Cole Mier (Henrico)
Katelynn Bortz (Richmond)	Joseph Mistretta (Henrico)
Nikhil Chandravel (Henrico)	Lauren O'Neil (Chesterfield)
Emily Dai (Henrico)	Marina Peebles (Henrico)
Cara Davis (Chesterfield)	Reona Pereira (Henrico)
Madeline Dunn (Hanover)	Adam Sachs (Henrico)
Silas Hayes (Henrico)	Kamyia Sanjay (Chesterfield)
Lawrence Jia (Chesterfield)	Spencer Smith (Richmond)
Ashton Longo (Richmond)	Grady Trexler (Chesterfield)
Sive Lowell (Henrico)	Yashodhara Varma (Henrico)

Dr. Fenn posed a question regarding the Tinker subject, “what was the unit perspective?” Unit members responded that the question was, ‘has the Tinker standard been upheld...the standard being that students have full free speech rights unless it interrupts a conducive learning environment.’ The unit answered they felt it had not been upheld so they proposed a new test that essentially gives a strict definition of what speech actually violates a conducive learning environment so only speech that is intended to target, harass or demean an individual based on sex, color, creed...personal attributes that cannot be changed, only that speech can be controlled and censored by the school. As an example, any speech criticizing the administration we believe should not be restricted. Another part of the Tinker question spoke to due process for students, as surprisingly school administrators are not confined by the 8th amendment which speaks to prohibition on cruel and unusual punishments. Although community standards mostly keep punishments in check regarding students, theoretically a school official could impose any number of cruel and unusual punishments so we argued that the 8th amendment should also be applicable to schools and that students are entitled to a hearing if they are being punished.

The team was accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Sam Ulmschneider.

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.

No Comments

IX. Director’s Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at MW** on May 22nd @ 5:00 pm.
- **Graduation Reminder:** June 14, 2019 @ 3:00pm. Please RSVP so seating arrangements can be finalized.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5-10. Activities provided by the PTSA:**

Monday: sandwiches with salad, chips, and cookies

Tuesday: breakfast with donuts, fruit, bagels, and coffee

Wednesday: boxed lunches and or Lee’s chicken

Thursday: chipotle taco bar

Friday: pizza and salad

- **The Allstate Foundation/VHSL Achievement Award 2019:** Jack Jeffrey (Henrico) and Joey Mistretta (Henrico), are one of the nineteen recipients of the VHSL athletic and activity programs, and are students who represent the very best of Virginia’s graduating seniors, each receiving \$1,500 in scholarship monies. Recipients are chosen by a committee of athletic directors, media representatives, and VHSL staff.

Jack is recognized as the **Class 2 Male Athlete of the Year** and the **first for Maggie Walker**.
Joey is recognized for Class 2 Academic Activity.

Each will be honored at a formal luncheon at the Omni-Charlottesville on May 20th.

- **MW Orchestra Spring Concert with the VCU Medical Orchestra** to perform a **Night of Movie Music**, June 5th at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. This is a first-time collaboration for the MW Orchestra. This event is coordinated by Mrs. Christina Sienkiewicz, MW faculty.
- **Facility Improvement Projects:**
 - Phone System Replacement
 - Gymnasium Ceiling Repair
 - Mural Project

- **Mental/Emotional Health at MW:**

Stress Less, Laugh More Week April 29-May 3

Stress Less, Laugh More Week is an event designed to provide some fun and relaxation for our students prior to AP exams and the spring SOL assessments. It is coordinated by Lisa Ebeling, School Psychologist and Paige Hawkins, Activities Director. A committee of students has worked with Mrs. Ebeling and Ms. Hawkins on generating ideas for this event. During lunch, our students can look forward to free treats (thanks to the PTSA!), a visit with therapy dogs, and some other entertaining activities.

Students can also check out books from the MW Library related to humor, mindfulness, stress management, reducing anxiety, or stop by the library's Creativity and Calm cabinet for a creative diversion. Ms. DeGroat will have some special additions to the Creativity and Calm cabinet during Stress Less, Laugh More Week. The library web site provides more tips and resources about mindfulness and calm, accessible at <http://bit.ly/mindfulnessandcalm>.

MONDAY-April 29	Art Activities in Room 131 – Mandalas and Zentangles!
TUESDAY-April 30	Get physical – shoot hoops in the gym or come on the field for hula hoops, Frisbees, and jump ropes
WEDNESDAY-May 1	TREATS! Look for the counseling staff throughout the building for some cookies or nut-free snacks.
THURSDAY-May 2	Performances by the Deadbeats, Improv, and Appalachian Folk Group in the auditorium.
FRIDAY-May 3	THERAPY DOGS! On the field, weather permitting or in the gym. Parent permission needed. *

B. Coming Events

May 16, 2019, through June 20, 2019 (see page IX.b for details).

C. Senior Showcase June 10 with Les Cook, Program Coordinator

The culminating activity for the Senior Seminar/Mentorship Program is Senior Showcase Day. This day is devoted entirely to the seniors who have spent the last year in either a seminar or mentorship studying and researching a field of particular interest. Seminar students work collaboratively in each of their respective seminars to create a presentation about their year of study. Mentorship students present their specific type of mentorship experience, as well as the research they undertook during that process. Showcase Day provides the forum for students to communicate their research to an audience in a professionally appropriate manner. There are two sessions in the morning, followed by a lunch break, and then two sessions in the afternoon (each session is 1 hour 20 minutes). Invitations are usually provided by mid-May to parents, Board Members, Superintendents, Planning Committee Members, and mentors. Additionally, the entire student body selects presentations they are interested in attending and are provided a schedule on the morning of Showcase Day.

The freshmen will be divided into two groups. Each group will attend a freshmen experience field trip for half the day and then attend two Showcase sessions for the other half of the day.

Mr. Cook stated he had ninety students in the mentorship program this year with twenty-one of those at VCU and sixteen with VCU Health Sciences. Ninety students participated in a seminar class.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On a motion by Mickey Ogburn, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate: May 2019 personnel actions, fiscal status reports of March 31, 2019, and the donations report of March 31, 2019.

XII. Action Items

a. Approval of the 2019-2020 Governor's School Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors (Second Read)

In nomination for a term of 3-years as new members are:

Misty Morton Clark '96 (Henrico, Richmond)
Stephen Crowe '04 (Richmond, Chesterfield)
Cynthia Kostelecky (Richmond)
Julie Seabury (Richmond)
Beth Simms (Richmond)
Kristi Turner (Chesterfield)

Rolling off the board are Faith Alejandro '01, Kate Cooper, Steve Leibovic, and Julie May.

Officer Nominations: Liz Blue – Chair, Ginger O'Neil – Vice Chair, Brick Brickley – Treasurer, and Jewel Caven – Secretary.

Ms. Stora stated the Foundation always tries to focus on diversity for its board recruitment, including regional diversity, however, representation does typically seem to come from the larger divisions. Dr. Lowerre added that one of the recruiting problems is that there are three large organizations [*PTSA, boosters, Foundation*] that draw parent commitments.

On a motion from Harwood Hall, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the 2019-2020 Governor's School Foundation Board of Director as presented was unanimously approved.

b. Textbook Adoption (Second Read)

The MLWGS textbook adoption process for implementation in 2019-2020 followed protocol. Recommendations are made after the public comment period.

The following was posted to the mlwgs website on February 27, 2019:

A public comment period will be open until March 28 for the adoption of new textbooks in the following courses: Modern Political Theory, Pre-AP French, and Topics in Digital Arts. Textbooks for review and accompanying comment forms will be available in the MLWGS library through the public comment period.

Textbooks were chosen by a committee in each subject area. The total 2019-2020 textbook adoption budget is \$75,500.00.

On a motion from Micky Ogburn, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, textbook adoption was unanimously approved.

c. Amend Previously Adopted FY20 School Operating Calendar (Approval with First Read)

The 2019-2020 school operating calendar was adopted at the April Regional School Board meeting.

Firstly, this request is to correct the legend at the bottom of the calendar. Changes purple color code from 'Only 11 and 12-month employees report' to 'Only 12-month employees report.' No schedule changes are requested.

Secondly, a change for the date of graduation from June 12 to June 15 (venue is not available on the 12th). Proposes Friday, June 12 become a half-day for students.

On a motion from Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Harwood Hall, the amended calendar was unanimously approved.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Assignment of Reserve Funds FY19 First Read

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board statement 54 (GASB 54) establishes fund balance classifications and provides a hierarchy of spending constraints. MLWGS implemented GASB 54 beginning in FY 2011.

Under GASB 54, *Assigned fund balance* represents amounts *intended* to be used for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority. Assigned fund balance also includes any portion of fund balance that will be incorporated into the subsequent year's budget. The governing body must take *formal action* that specifies to whom the delegation of authority to recommend fund balance assignments is given (i.e., the Director).

Unassigned fund balance represents resources remaining after all other classifications have been met, and that is available for any purpose.

It is estimated that on June 30, 2019 the General Fund balance will be \$_____ and the Capital Improvement Fund balance will be \$_____. I propose that by June 30, 2019 we move \$_____ from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund which will bring the Capital Improvement Fund to \$_____, leaving \$_____ in the General Fund, \$_____ of which will be assigned to benefit reserve. That will leave a balance of \$_____ in unassigned reserve in the General Fund.

Approval with dollar amounts will be sought at the Executive Board's June 20, 2019 meeting.

XIV. Information Items

- Induction Ceremony for Language Honor Societies at MW, May 1st
- (3) Dragons Advance to Statewide History Day Competition
- (3) Dragons Present Research Papers at VA History Day, one advances to National competition
- Future Problem Solving Team Wins' Berth in International Competition
- (7) Students, (1) Teacher have worked accepted into the Bridges Mathematical Art Organization's Annual Conference Exhibit
- (2) Dragons take top prizes at Asian American Celebration, win \$1400 for MW Art
- MW freshman wins' state championship of the 'Optimist Oratorical Contest'
- MW TSA Club with a strong showing at Technosphere, May 3-5
- MW Jazz received awards at South Side Jazz Assessment in Virginia Beach
- (2) Dragons have video accepted into VHSL Film Festival
- Signing Ceremony for Athletics
- (3) Dragon golfers among six area honorees at VSGA Day
- Student Schedule Changes Impacts Lunch Times During June Final Exams
- National Student Leadership Week April 22-26
- College Boot camp for the Class of 2020
- College Jump Start Program for Freshmen & Sophomores June 4th
- AP Exams, May 6-17

XV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XVI. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mickey Ogburn, seconded by Harwood Hall, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:44 am.

Next Meeting – Executive Board

June 20, 2019, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220.
804-354-6800 x2190.

Sarah Grier Barber, Chairman

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk