

MINUTES

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

Thursday, September 19, 2019

9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Sarah Barber, Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Executive School Board and visitors stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member present is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
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. 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 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. Mervin 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. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

Dr. Marcus Newsome, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mrs. Renee Williams, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Wendy Ellis and Michael ‘Max’ Smith – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat, Amanda Lemco, Kyleen Terrana, and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the minutes of the Regional School Board meeting of August 15, 2019, were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- MLWGS ranked #8 nationally for best schools in the US, news post based on ranking by Niche.com.

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.

Wendy DeGroat arose to extend an invitation to board members and anyone within their districts’ to her series of workshops called ‘Family Time Machine Tuesdays’ that will be open to students and families and is presented as a way to give back to the community. These workshops will provide a good experience in primary source research for students and offer parents and students something to talk about. There will be five workshops over the course of the year each addressing a different topic of genealogy research.

Ms. DeGroat is working on a way to broadcast her workshops so more people can participate and as details emerge she will share them with the board.

IX. Director’s Report

A. Verbal Updates

- Since the end of the last school year, MLWGS has hosted a 1-week freshmen boot camp and a multi-day college boot camp for seniors. Our custodial contractor and maintenance team of Troy Mitchell and Anthony Forrest dealt with facility cleaning and repairs. Dr. Lowerre

commended the efforts of the new custodial firm that worked diligently over the summer to provide a much cleaner facility.

Also, our technology team of David Bortz and Deborah Snagg were working on school-wide telephone replacements and new computers for staff.

Karen Hoover and Barbara Marshall worked on a payroll service upgrade with ADP that will provide paperless payroll and tax information for MLWGS staff through a login application on phones or other devices.

In addition, the MLWGS Chess team hosted a 1-week chess camp, Lighthouse Labs hosted their program participants here during the month of July, and VCU held multiple School of Education classes in the building.

This year there were no early AP classes.

Freshmen orientation and fee collection have likewise been very smooth and productive because of planning and hard work by Crystal Charity with assistance from our other office staff. On September 3rd we welcomed 753 students, including 185 freshmen from 12 school districts.

Transportation directors and drivers in your localities have worked hard to make sure that buses ran on schedule.

- Middle School Information Visits Begin Shortly with Dr. Lowerre's team using an updated and trimmed down presentation based on feedback received from the Planning Committee.

B. Coming Events:

Back to School night will be hosted this evening, September 19th. For all other events see the citation page listed below.

September 19, 2019, through October 17, 2019 (see page IX.b for details).

At the next RSB meeting on Thursday, October 17th Dr. Lowerre will present his personal and professional goals to the board in closed session. Also on the October agenda will be an opportunity to review the data we collected this summer and past spring in terms of parent and student perceptions.

Additionally, the Director plans to conduct a school climate survey this fall but timing may be tight for the October meeting to get results back as he is still in the process of contracting with the company who will conduct the survey.

Another item is the pre-planning for the upcoming new strategic plan development. The school will again be using consultant Amy Nisenson who assisted with the development of the existing plan. Initial meetings will focus on the current plan goals and have they been accomplished or do they still need to be looked at. The results will leave a workable document that the committee (which is yet to be selected) can work on.

Mrs. Barber will be seeking a commitment to serve on this committee from a board member and superintendent. Dr. Lowerre was asked by Ms. Ogburn to specify the time commitment

that will be expected for serving and he responded that the large group will probably meet around five times, but he is expecting the formation of several smaller sub-committees with each being tasked with specific review and input that informs the larger committee.

C. 2019-2020 Division Enrollment

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

Letters will be provided at the table in October for participating school divisions for their 2020-2021 student enrollment commitment. Note that each letter should be executed by the division superintendent and school board member, and returned to MLWGS by December 1, 2019.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate: September 2019 personnel actions, fiscal status reports of June 30, 2019, and July 31, 2019, the donations reports of June 30, 2019 and July 31, 2019.

XII. Action Items

a. Bullying Prevention Proclamation

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

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

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

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

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Regulation Amended Proposal (First Read)

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

- Reg 3021.1 – Homework Guidelines *Amended*

This update reflects simple edits to the title of the learning management system utilized by the school.

Approval will be sought at the Board's October 2019 meeting.

b. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal-France 2020 (First Read)

Sponsor Kyleen Terrana was on hand to present her proposal to France, June 24-July 3, 2020 (9 days). This is a new trip proposal using EF Education First Tours.

Language immersion through France. Each day of the tour is built around a daily theme – cuisine, sports or history. Students build language skills and confidence as they explore topics through language lessons, culture and activities, and interaction with locals.

Interactive lessons will be led by a local language instructor. Students will be able to learn how to paint like Picasso, prepare French cuisine, or dance the flamenco which will add authentic culture richness to their language development.

The maximum number of students = 12.

The number of chaperones is designed for a 6:1 adult/student ratio.

Estimate per Student Cost: \$5,020 (approximately)

Approval will be sought at the Board's October 2019 meeting.

c. Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal-Peru 2020 (First Read)

Sponsor Amanda Lemco was on hand to present her proposal to Peru, June 23-July 2, 2020 (9 days). This is a repeat trip proposal from 2019 but with a theme of community development in Peru's mountain villages and using EF Education First Tours.

The nine-day educational trip encompasses art, history, language, and culture. Students will begin by visiting sites in the modern-day capital of Lima, including a monastery, a museum featuring pre-Columbian art, and an authentic shopping district where students can exercise their language skills at the market. Students will then learn about Peruvian pottery at a ceramics workshop in Cuzco, the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Next, they will experience a guided tour and hike through Machu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the world. In the Sacred Valley, students will also engage in a community service project for two days. They will be immersed in cultural activities, customs, and traditions, and have a chance to reflect and discuss as a group each night. Finally, students will have the opportunity to explore Peruvian crafts at the Pisac market in Cuzco and visit the Sacsayhuaman archeological site.

The number of chaperones is yet to be determined but the trip is designed for a 6:1 adult/student ratio.

Estimate per Student Cost: \$4,200 (approximately)

Approval will be sought at the Board's October 2019 meeting.

XIV. Information Items

- College visits at MLWGS
- How do we decide when to open late or close the school?
- Back to School Night, September 19th

XV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XVI. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, this meeting was adjourned at 9:31 am.

Next Meeting – Regional School Board

October 17, 2019, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Sarah Grier Barber, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk