

MINUTES

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

Thursday, November 14, 2019

9:01 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. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent 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 in Attendance:

Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg 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
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Linda Hyslop, *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
Mr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Wendy Ellis and Michael 'Max' Smith – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat, David Barnes, Jennifer Todd, and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Minji Cho, Rohit Bhagavatula, Tyler Coffey, and Nathan Lord – MLWGS Students

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, the minutes of the Regional School Board meeting of October 17, 2019, were unanimously approved on a verbal vote.

VII. Recognitions

- **Minji Cho ('21-Chesterfield)** joins the 'best of the best' in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) 2019 All-National Honor Ensembles. Minji formally joined NAfME November 7-10, 2019 in Orlando, Florida, where she traveled for recognition. The All-National Honor Ensemble performers represent collaboration and creativity in its highest musical form.
- **Mary Caroline Heinen ('20-Richmond)** was recognized as a Lexus of Richmond Leadership Award Recipient, Week #6. Ms. Heinen recently won the State Cross Country title and stated she will continue to run next year at Columbia University.
- **Jennifer Todd, Science Department Faculty**, was named 2018-2019 VHSL Boys Tennis Coach of the Year. In attendance with Ms. Todd were 3 of her championship players: Rohit Bhagavatula ('20-Chesterfield), Tyler Coffey ('20-Chesterfield), and Nathan Lord ('20-Richmond).

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.

There were no public comments.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Information Sessions for Prospective Families, November 11-13, 2019.**

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will hold three evening information forums for students and families interested in knowing more about the program and the admissions process. Each session runs from 6:30 pm to about 8:30 pm, and they begin in the MW auditorium.

- Monday, November 11 – a special invitation to the prospective students and families from Henrico.
- Tuesday, November 12 – a special invitation to the prospective students and families from Hanover, King and Queen, New Kent and Richmond.
- Wednesday, November 13 – a special invitation to the prospective students and families from Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hopewell, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Prince George.

Prior to the above-mentioned information sessions for prospective families, MLWGS administration and staff conducted over **20 middle school visits** or education fairs to each of our participating divisions.

- **Reminder: Division Slot Letters Distributed at October Meeting are due to MLWGS December 1, 2019.**
- **Reminder: RSB Approved International Trip to England, November 30 - December 7, 2019,** with Matt McGuire and the students of AP Comparative Government.
- **FY21 Budget Development Town Hall, December 3, 2019, @ 6:00 pm, Forum.**
A form for public input (to be published after this meeting) will also be available to the community and the results will be shared with the RSB. This forum is the first step of the budget development process with community feedback to assist in establishing funding priorities. In 2020 the RSB will hold a budget work session at the February meeting, followed by a public hearing and presentation on the budget at their March meeting with approval to be requested in April. Sometime in December the Governor presents his budget to the public and it will be known then if the new Governor's School funding formula will be included.
- **Strategic Planning Update.** The first full meeting of this committee occurred a couple of weeks ago with another happening after Thanksgiving. Dr. Lowerre stated he feels we have a good team and facilitator in place for plan development.

B. Coming Events:

November 14, 2019, through January 16, 2020 (see page IX.b for details).

C. Fiscal Agent Review:

The Director distributed copies of the current agreement between RPS and MLWGS, dated August 1, 2001, that lays out the expectations for Richmond Public Schools and MLWGS. Ms. Ogburn had requested this item be placed on the agenda for discussion in response to her concerns regarding multiple delays incurred with school audits. Dr. Lowerre has been told [*RPS officials and the auditors*] they have all the information needed to complete any outstanding reports and we should be expecting them shortly. In response to a question from Mrs. Barber, the director stated that once the outstanding reports are caught up, he still couldn't predict that school audits will occur in a timely fashion going forward.

Mr. Wright remarked the Goochland School Board had just reviewed their MOU with the local sheriff and that all division policies should require officials to review and re-execute school

MOU's, and the fact the existing agreement is from 2001 and none of the people who are signatories are still around with the exception of Karen Hoover, MLWGS Business Manager, tells him at a minimum we need to refresh this agreement and to revisit responsibilities. The director agreed and stated there have been other transactions that occurred, or not occurred, that had a negative effect on MLWGS.

The board was curious about the level of burden on a Fiscal Agent. Dr. Lowerre suggested it consists of a lot of paperwork, to the degree it would be like adding another high school to your division. RPS also performs snow removal from school lots and manages trash collection. Where the compensation occurs for the FA is with the monies and escrow it holds that earn interest.

During discussion members contemplated if it was possible for the Fiscal Agent to conduct oversight while allowing school personnel to run in-house operations of accounts payable, receivable and payroll. Dr. Lowerre believes there may be a statutory requirement to have a Fiscal Agent but he will do research for the board to see if in the long-term we could operate more effectively. He suggested that part of the ADP package the school recently purchased may have functionality that frees some of the work the FA currently provides.

D. Dinwiddie:

The Director has no update to share as he has not heard back from Dinwiddie officials regarding their inquiries to send students to MLWGS.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

The Director provided a brief review of each consent item presented.

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate on a verbal vote: November 2019 Personnel Actions, the fiscal status reports of September 30, 2019, and the donations reports of September 30, 2019.

XII. Action Items

a. New Course Proposal and Changes to Existing Courses 2020-2021 (Second Read)

New Course Title: Chamber Orchestra: Artist Level

Prerequisite: By audition only, incoming students will be required to submit a video recording and recommendation letter from a music teacher.

Credit: 1 MLWGS Credit

Course Description: Chamber Orchestra enables students to acquire technical and expressive skills at an artist's level of musicianship. Through playing, improvising, and writing, students create expressive rhythmic and melodic variations. Students research career options in music. They perform music at Solo Literature Grade Levels 5 and 6 of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA). Students discuss and critically evaluate the characteristics of personal performances and compositions, as well as those of others. They discuss, analyze, and research relationships between musical concepts and those of other disciplines and are involved in

researching various cultures, styles, composers, and historical periods. Students are provided with opportunities to participate in local, district, regional, and state events. Attendance at scheduled rehearsals and performances both in and out-of-school are mandatory.

Estimated Cost: None

Rationale:

- a. Describe how the proposed course augments the overall department curriculum: -The Artist Level Orchestra will provide a rigorous, competitive ensemble that that expands the current music curriculum and fits the needs of many students at Maggie Walker.
- b. What is the area requirement applicability? Participation in orchestra fulfills the required fine arts credit. Additional courses beyond the first taken will earn elective credit.
- c. What is the target population of students? Students who have advanced orchestral talent and skill and desire to participate in an ensemble that provides the opportunity to play a rigorous and challenging repertoire.

Changes To Existing Courses: Intermediate Orchestra and Advanced Orchestra to Concert Orchestra - Intermediate and Symphonic Orchestra – Advanced.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, the new course proposal for Chamber Orchestra: Artist Level, plus changes to existing courses Intermediate Orchestra and Advanced Orchestra for 2020-2021 as noted, was unanimously approved on a verbal vote.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion (First Read)

- a. January Reorganization Meeting including the election of School Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk(s)**
 - As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the chair, vice-chair, and board clerk(s) at their January 16, 2020, meeting.
- b. Election of Executive Committee Members**
 - As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, Article IV, Section 3, the election of the annual Executive Committee members shall be held during the January 16, 2020 reorganization meeting.
- c. Code of Conduct for School Board Members**
 - Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at their January 16, 2020, meeting.
- d. Code of Conduct for Clerks**
 - Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at their January 16, 2020, meeting.
- e. 2020 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings**

The Director recommended a review of the proposed 2020 calendar of meetings and consultation with the member's local calendar for conflicts and/or modifications. Approval will be requested at their January 16, 2020, meeting of the Regional School Board.

Dr. Raley found a conflict with the proposed November date and it will be corrected before approval.

f. International Trip Proposal Costa Rica 2021

Sponsor: David Barnes. Costa Rica, April 2-April 11, 2021 (10 days)

This is a new trip proposal and Mr. Barnes was on-hand to discuss details.

Students will spend ten days exploring the ecology, geology, history, and culture of Costa Rica. In Arenal, they will hike to the volcano's lava fields, explore geothermal springs, and visit a farming community at the base of the volcano. In Monteverdi, students will experience the amazing flora and fauna in the forest canopy in one of the earth's most diverse national parks. Students will also visit a local school and participate in rainforest conversation efforts. In Coastal Puntarenas students will explore the coastal ecosystem and view rare native wildlife while hiking through Manuel Antonio National Park. Students will tour the craft village at Sachi and participate in an evening of traditional folklore. Students will also experience a variety of adventure activities including kayaking, hanging bridges, zip-lining, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, and a crocodile safari.

The maximum number of students = 6-18.

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

Estimate per Student Cost: \$2,595.00 (approximately).

Approval for this trip will be requested at the January 16, 2020 meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- MW Junior wins VA Delegate Position at Global Youth Institute of World Food
- MW Golfer Advances to the VHSL Girls State Tournament
- Cross Country Teams are 2019 Regional Champions
- FLL First Robotics Tournament at MLWGS, November 17

Not on the agenda; however, the Director shared information that Walker's orchestra students hosted RPS middle school students from Binford on November 13 and all involved had a great experience playing side-by-side performances in the auditorium.

XV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

- None.

XVI. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

This meeting ended at 9:41 am.

Next Meeting of the Regional School Board

January 16, 2020, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x 2190.

Sarah Grier Barber, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk