

MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 16, 2020

9:06 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Robert Lowerre, Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Director called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Regional School Board and visitors recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Board members and superintendents are listed in alphabetical order by locality. New members were welcomed to the board: Debbie Bailey, Jill Andrews, and Royce Paige (not in attendance).

Present:

Ms. Debbie Bailey, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Mr. John Wright, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools

Mr. John Axselle, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools

Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools

Ms. Linda Hyslop, **School Board**, Hopewell 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

Ms. Jill Andrews, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools

Mr. J. Scott Barlow, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools

Mr. George Fohl for Dr. Merv Daughtery, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland 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. Decarda Jackson for Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools

Dr. Tracie Omohundro for Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Candace Veney-Chaplin and Ms. Lynn Plevich 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

Absent:

Mr. Royce Paige, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

Also present:

Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS Staff
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Election of Chair

Nomination: Michelle Ogburn was nominated by Sarah Barber. There being no other nominations from the floor; on a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by John Axselle, Michelle Ogburn was unanimously elected to serve as the 2020 Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. After congratulations, the Director turned the gavel over to Mrs. Ogburn.

Mrs. Ogburn thanked Mrs. Barber for her service as RSB chair 2018-2019.

VII. Election of Vice-Chair

Nomination: John Wright was nominated by Valarie Ayers. There being no other nominations from the floor; on motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Harwood Hall, John Wright was unanimously elected to serve as the 2020 Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Mr. Wright.

VIII. Election of Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Nomination: Barbara Marshall was nominated for Board Clerk by Harwood Hall. Nomination: Megan Perez was nominated for Deputy Board Clerk by John Wright. There being no other nominations; on motion by Harwood Hall, seconded by John Wright; Barbara Marshall was unanimously elected to serve as the 2020 Clerk and Megan Perez the 2020 Deputy Clerk of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Perez.

IX. Election of Executive Board 2020

Current membership of the 2019 Executive Board is comprised of Sarah Barber, Michelle Ogburn, Harwood Hall, Kenneth Pritchett, and John Wright.

Valarie Ayers made a motion to nominate and continue the same slate of Barber, Ogburn, Hall, Pritchett, and Wright, and seconded by Linda Hyslop, the slate was unanimously approved for 2020 Executive Board.

X. The announcement of Superintendent's Steering Committee Leadership

Per agreement among the superintendent's, Dr. Amy Cashwell will serve in 2020 as the Superintendent Steering Committee Chair [attached to the board chair]. Dr. Jeremy Raley will serve as Vice-Chair.

XI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Sarah Barber, minutes for the Executive Board meeting of November 14, 2019, were unanimously approved.

XII. Recognitions

- **MW Girls Cross Country** team was recognized for their **Class 3A title win at the State Championship**.

Coaches Jim Holdren and Deborah Snagg were on hand to recap the season stating the girls won the championship but the competition was a little tougher than what they faced in Class 2A last year. The MLWGS Boys Cross Country team finished 3rd place at State.

Runners in attendance for recognition were Alexis Bartee ('22-Chesterfield), Gracie Pershing ('23-Chesterfield), Brenna Luczak ('23-Chesterfield), Mary Caroline Heinen ('20-Richmond), Josie Greer ('20-Richmond), Alyssa Wright ('20-Goochland), and Carter Morgan ('20-Henrico) from the boys' team.

- **Mary Caroline Heinen defended and won the State title for the third time as the Girls Class 3 State Cross Country Champion**. Ms. Heinen will be running track at Columbia University next year.
- **Week 9 Lexus Leadership Award Scholarship Nominee, Carter Morgan (Henrico)**

Lexus of Richmond's week 9 scholar-athlete nominee for the Leadership Award Scholarship is Carter Morgan of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. With a 4.51 GPA, Carter is a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Spanish, English and American Sign Language Honor Societies. He has been on the A Honor Roll for every grading period throughout high school. Carter scored a 34 out of a possible 36 on the ACT exam. He additionally has 3 perfect AP exam scores to his name, and in 2018 Carter received a National Spanish Exam Bronze Medal.

- **MLWGS Senior Varun Natarajan (Henrico) Recognized for Crab Trap App Award, Sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science**

Unable to choose between two highly promising software prototypes, judges in the Virginia Institute of Marine Science’s “**Crab Trap App**” competition split the \$2,500 award for first place, recognizing the efforts of both **Varun Natarajan** of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School in Richmond and Jacob Ward of Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg.

On background, Varun described there are currently 145,000 derelict crab traps in the Chesapeake Bay that impact the fishing economy. By removing these traps, it is predicted to improve fishing yields significantly valued around \$6 million economic gain. To combat the issue Varun developed a mobile app (iOS and Android) allowing users in the community to take photographs of the derelict traps that could be immediately uploaded into the app via the cloud and enter descriptive data allowing authorities to see exactly where they are located and remove them.

The finished product is expected in early 2020.

- **MLWGS’s Dr. Rachel Loving Recognized by College Board Counselor Program**

Dr. Rachel Loving, MLWGS Counselor, has been nominated for the 2019-20 College Board Counselor Recognition Program for her hard work and dedication to student success.

As a sign of appreciation, the College Board will acknowledge all recognized counselors during National School Counseling Week February 3-7, 2020, by featuring her profile on their website. They are also sending her an exclusive Counselor Recognition Program lapel pin.

“On behalf of everyone at the College Board,” said Lorraine Hastings, Vice-President of Counselor Engagement, College Board, “thank you for going the extra mile to support students and their families as you guide them to college and career success.”

XIII. 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.

None.

XIV. Director’s Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **AP Scholar Awards for 2019:**

An AP Scholar is a student who receives an award from the College Board for outstanding performance on several AP exams. There are different award levels. Being an AP Scholar

offers many advantages for students. AP classes offer another big perk: the opportunity to earn college credit.

When a student receives an AP award, they are notified by email and the award is added to the students' online score report. Students can log in to the College Board website to view their AP scores and awards.

SCHOLAR SUMMARY

Total Scholars = 293, Average Score = 4.38

Total Students Tested MLWGS = 457 on 1,116 exams. Average Score = 4.2

96% of MLWGS Students Scored 3 or Higher

AP Scholars = 58	Average Score = 3.66	AP Scholar – Awarded to students who score 3 or more on at least three AP exams.
AP Scholars with Honor = 63	Average Score = 4.13	AP Scholar with Honor – Awarded to students who have averaged a minimum of 3.25 on the AP exams they take and score 3 or more on at least four of those exams.
AP Scholars with Distinction = 172	Average Score = 4.47	AP Scholar with Distinction – Awarded to students who average a minimum of 3.5 on all their AP exams and score 3 or more on at least five of these exams.
National AP Scholars = 37	Average Score = 4.71	National AP Scholar – Awarded to students who average at least a score of 4 in all the AP exams they take and score 4 or more in at least 8 of these exams.
AP International Diploma = 1	Average Score – 3.71	AP International Diploma - The AP International Diploma (APID) is a globally recognized certificate awarded to students who display exceptional achievement across a variety of disciplines. Available to international students attending

		secondary schools outside the U.S. and to U.S. high school students applying to universities outside the country, the APID certifies outstanding academic excellence with a global perspective. Students must score a 3 or higher on 5 or more AP Exams.
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- **Admission Testing:**

The following divisions will test students on Saturday, January 25th
Hanover, Henrico and King and Queen

The following divisions will test students on Saturday, February 1st
Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hopewell, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, Prince George, and Richmond

Testing Snow Date: Saturday, February 8th
Regional Evaluation Date: Wednesday, February 12th

Total to be tested in 2020	1,129 prospective students
Total tested 2019	1,234 prospective students
Total tested 2018	1,300 prospective students
Total tested 2017	1,160 prospective students
Total tested 2016	1,077 prospective students
Total tested 2015	1,126 prospective students
Total tested 2014	1,186 prospective students
Total tested 2013	1,138 prospective students
Total tested 2012	1,200 prospective students
Total tested 2011	1,163 prospective students
Total tested 2010	1,130 prospective students

- **Review of Budget Calendar**
Regulation 7003.1
Budget Calendar

The following guidelines will be used in establishing the annual budget calendar:

- A. At least one public forum will be held prior to December 30 in order to solicit public input. *(Held December 3, 2019)*
- B. The budget work-session date(s) will be published as part of the Regional School Board’s Meeting Schedule. *(Proposed for February 20, 2020)*
- C. The proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February.
- D. The budget shall be adopted in accordance with applicable statutes.

E. At least one public hearing will be held prior to budget adoption. (*Proposed for March 19, 2020*)

- **Budget Town Hall December 3rd:**

Form remarks and the director's limited verbal feedback were provided.

- **Legal Representation:**

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will continue to utilize the firm of Haney Phinyowattanachip PLLC for future services as needed. The firm is headed by Stacey Haney and Pakapon Phinyowattanachip who are both well versed in Virginia education issues and law.

- **Board & Superintendent Pictures** will be taken at the February meeting. Members advised they prefer photos taken after the business meeting.

- **2020-2021 Seminars, Les Cook, Coordinator:**

After a thorough and careful analysis of the student survey and mentorship application process, decisions have been made about which students will be placed in mentorship and which students will be placed in seminars. 89 students were accepted into the Mentorship Program. 102 students were placed in Seminar sections based on survey data. 99% of the Seminar students were placed in their 1st or 2nd choice. Below are the seminars that will be offered next year:

- The American Dream in Literature and Film (Piersol)
 - The Cultural Relevance of Game of Thrones (Coleman)
 - Digital Video (Raviotta)
 - The Evolution of London--The Making of a Metropolis (Williams)
 - The History and Sabermetrics of Baseball (Benesh)
 - Music Production and Recording (Merillat)
 - Photojournalism in the Digital Age (Stinnett)
 - Polarpalooza: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of the Polar Regions (Reed)
 - From Winning Elections to Making Laws: Electoral Politics and Public Policy Making (Ulmschneider)
- **Save the Date: Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, February 29th, John Marshall Hotel.**

Mark your calendar for the 18th annual Night of the Dragon -February 29, 2020! This special event is a whole lot of fun and provides invaluable support to our amazing Dragons.

- **VSBA Policy Services Agreement**

MLWGS originally entered into an agreement with the VSBA effective January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2016, at a contract fee of \$1,000 per year. This agreement was renewed with the VSBA January 1, 2017, with four additional one-year terms and no change in contract pricing (2020 is year 4 of this agreement).

B. Coming Events

January 16, 2020, through February 20, 2020 (see page XIV.b for details)

C. Division Luncheons with Students

Dr. Lowerre highlighted the division luncheons, noting we are almost finished (Richmond has rescheduled to February 4th). He added, while the board members enjoy these luncheons, the students do also and it provides them an opportunity to connect to their home districts. When they get a chance to sit down and chat with their board members and superintendents it's a big deal to them.

The director will be building funding into the next budget to cover associated luncheon expenses if the board desires to continue this activity.

D. 2018-2019 GS Foundation Impact Report by Ms. Suzannah Stora, Executive Director

The mission of the GS Foundation is to cultivate resources to enhance the educational experience for all students at MLWGS. The vision is for all MLWGS students to have access to educational resources and experiences to reach their full potential.

The GS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supporting organization that only provides assistance to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and is housed inside the MLWGS building. It also means there is a shared governance structure with MLWGS as the Regional School Board annually approves the membership of the GS Foundation board.

The GS Foundation board is comprised of approximately 20 members that include current and past parents and alumni of MLWGS.

The bulk of GS Foundation support to the school each year comes in the form of an enhancement grant, and working with administration each year, we/they figure out where the largest needs are within the school. Our priorities include a) academic enhancements (classroom enrichments, subsidized academic travel, programs beyond the classroom, etc), b) professional development (teachers), and c) financial assistance (speaks to equity for students to take advantage of all the school has to offer).

The GS Foundation also serves as the alumni affairs office for Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. Our 3,500 plus alumni are hugely supportive of this school. Please mark your calendar for the bi-annual Alumni Showcase on Friday, April 3rd where we welcome back our alumni and dedicate an entire day for them to work with our students who will learn of their successes and accomplishments.

The GS Foundation also coordinates the Night of the Dragon annual auction, this year to be held on February 29th with a theme of Quantum Leap.

Another event that is coordinated by the GS Foundation is the annual Day of the Dragon, a day dedicated to MLWGS. This year it will be held on Thursday, April 30th.

In conclusion, the GS Foundation also provides additional funding for a speaker series at the school that was made possible by Amishi and Neil Amin last year, and the annual Taylor Teaching Award that provides one teacher each year a summer travel grant of \$7,500 and encourages them to bring those experiences back to the classroom.

XV. Unfinished Business

None.

XVI. Consent Items

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Sarah Barber, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions January 2020, fiscal status reports of October 31, 2019, and November 30, 2019, and the donations reports of October 31, 2019, November 30, 2019, including Fall Festival 2019. The Director highlighted Fall Festival donations totaling \$12,883 and commended the efforts of the PTSA.

XVII. Action Items

a. Code of Conduct for Board Members (Second Read)

The Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members is grounded in the model code of the Virginia School Board Association. The Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from Valarie Ayers seconded by Sarah Barber, the Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members was unanimously approved.

b. Code of Conduct for Clerks (Second Read)

The Code of Conduct for Clerks is grounded in the model code of the Virginia School Board Association. The Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by John Wright, the Code of Conduct for Clerks was unanimously approved.

c. New Interdisciplinary Trip Proposal – South Africa 2020, requested by Robinette Cross (originally on the Agenda as Item XVII.g, but moved up to allow the teacher to return to the classroom) (Waive First Read Requested)

As an experimental learning component, the Revival and Revolutions in Southern Africa Senior Seminar students wish to travel to South Africa and observe its present condition, politics, and educational systems. We wish to travel to the capital cities of Johannesburg and Cape Town, the popular city of Soweto, and to the mountainous county of Lesotho (completely surrounded by South Africa).

The seminar students have been studying theoretical concepts of resistance, revolution, gender, labor, and power within the Southern African countries. They have worked extensively with some of the greatest thinkers and studied ‘bottom-up’ history, learning about how countries and

identities are restricted and governments are established or re-established after independence. Shifting power dynamics of race, gender, generation, and geography will converge on our travels to South Africa as we learn from individuals who have experienced such shifts first hand.

A maximum number of students = 10. The number of chaperones = 2 (Robinette Cross and Lisa Williams).

Dates of travel: March 31, 2020 – April 8, 2020.

Estimate per Student Cost: \$3,025.60 (approximately).

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by Harwood Hall, the Interdisciplinary Trip to South Africa 2020 was unanimously approved.

d. 2019 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (Second Read)

The Chair called for a discussion on the calendar proposal based on feedback received about the CodeRVA calendar of meetings and potential conflicts. Dr. Cashwell offered, this matter was discussed in the morning superintendent's meeting and acknowledged while it does make for a long day for members who preside on both boards, no one present at today's meeting found a need to change the existing schedule. Mrs. Ayers added that it actually is beneficial to her schedule as she comes from Powhatan for meetings that occur on the same morning.

With a correction requested to one date on the calendar proposed at the November meeting, the Chair called for a vote on the calendar proposed. On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the 2020 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings was unanimously approved.

e. Policy and Regulation (Second Read)

Acknowledging their service, the Chair thanked Mrs. Ayers and Mr. Wright for their work on the Policy Committee and affirmed they both will continue in this capacity.

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following for Board approval. Originally submitted to the RSB at their October 17, 2019 meeting:

- Pol 4000 – Honor Code *Amended*
- Pol 5040 – Third-Party Complaint *Amended*
- Pol 6000 – Requests for Information *Amended*
- Reg 6000-R – Regulation for Requests for Information *Amended*
- Form 6000-F1 – Request for Information Form *Amended*
- Pol 6005 – Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities *Amended*
- Pol 6010.1 – Community Use of Facilities *Amended*
- Pol 6015 – Public Conduct on School Property *Amended*
- Pol 6020 – Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by John Axelle, the policies and regulation listed above were unanimously approved.

f. Delete Policy 1035 (Waive First Read Requested)

The director requests the deletion of Policy 1035 – Relations with Educational Accreditation Agencies. MLWGS is not mandated by the State on accreditation reporting as it is classified as a program.

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by Harwood Hall, the deletion of Policy 1035 was unanimously approved.

g. International Trip Proposal – Costa Rica 2021 requested by David Barnes (Second Read)

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.

A maximum number of students = 6-18. The number of chaperones is designed for a 6:1 adult/student ratio (David Barnes and other(s) yet to be determined).

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

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Scott Barlow, the Interdisciplinary Trip to Costa Rica 2021 was unanimously approved.

XVIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following policies for Regional School Board consideration.

- Pol 4075 – Student Wellness *Amended*
- Reg 4075-R – Implementation of a Wellness Program for the Students of MLWGS

This policy was pulled from consideration last fall so as to allow time to constitute a Wellness Committee who then crafted Regulation 4075-R. Committee members included:

- Paige Hawkins – Activities Director
- Don Blanton – Health and PE Teacher
- Mike Brown – Health and PE Teacher
- Barbara Marshall – School Board Clerk
- Pam Jones – Serval (Governor's Grill Manager)
- Winnie Brown – Parent (Richmond)
- Melissa Kates – Parent (Richmond)

- Gabriella Watson – Student ('23-Chesterfield)

Approval of Student Wellness policy and regulation will be requested at the February 20, 2020 meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIX. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, January 9, 2020
- MW Senior Mary Caroline Heinen's 3rd State title also earns her USATF Athlete of the Week Honor
- Dragons Boys Volleyball advances to State Final Championship Game
- 3 Dragons Named to VHSL All-State Volleyball Teams
- MW Art and Photography Students Tour the Smithsonian
- MW Student is Snow Queen Candidate 2020
- MW Model UN Club wins' performance awards at UVA Model UN
- Debate team with a strong finish at Fluvanna HS Tournament takes 1st, 2nd & 3rd place
- RSB Approved United Kingdom trip for students – Wednesday, December 4th
- World Cubing Tournament at MLWGS, January 18th
- Dragons awarded positions with the Greater Richmond HS Jazz Band sponsored by VCU
- Faculty News: Nicholas Merillat, MW orchestra teacher, is a published composer

XX. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Cashwell reported that as previously discussed, one of the topics from their morning session was the 2020 meeting dates with the consensus of the superintendents they are fine with leaving the dates as presented if that is the will of the board.

Another topic was the potential need for a professional RN on staff as the current staff member is a CNA and if there is a vision in the future to allow eventually for an RN or LPN. In keeping with wellness, while there currently are no medically fragile students or students that require the attention of an RN, it may be prudent thinking about social, emotional, and wellness to look into future opportunities to expand this position.

Dr. Lowerre provided a budget overview and what priorities are looking like thus far. An in-depth discussion occurred on the implications of the Governor's budget and its workaround on equity and insuring more access to opportunity as it relates to the Governor's Schools programs at large, not just Maggie Walker. There is a call from the Governor to put together a plan or report around equity which may be a good opportunity to align some of the strategic planning goals to some of the Governor's initiatives.

XXI. Closed Meeting

None.

XXII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None.

XXIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XXIV. Adjournment

On a motion by John Axselle, seconded by John Wright, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:05 am.

Next Meeting and Budget Work Session

February 20, 2020, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Michelle Ogburn, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk