

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY21 Budget Work Session
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2020

9:03 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Michelle Ogburn, 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 recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

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
Ms. Jill Andrews, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Merv Daugherty, **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. Jay McClain for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Mr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools (late arrival)
Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Dr. Wendy Ellis for Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mr. Royce Paige, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, **School Board**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. J. Scott Barlow, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Michael 'Max' Smith– MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Ann Gill, Mariam McAtee, and Manisha Asher – MLWGS Parents

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, the minutes of the reorganizational meeting of January 16, 2020, were unanimously approved.

VII. Recognitions

- **National Board Certified Teacher Pinning Ceremony for Hana Voight.** Ms. Voight, MLWGS Social Studies teacher, was recognized for becoming a 2019 National Board Certified Teacher, an achievement she accomplished in one year on what is typically a 2-year process. Dr. Wendy Ellis awarded Ms. Voight her NBCT pin and congratulated her on this accomplishment.

Ms. Voight shared a few words of gratitude for this recognition and spoke to the task of completing the required work necessary to become an NBCT while managing a pregnancy throughout.

- **Cubing Club Students Recognized for Sponsorship of the 2nd Annual Cubing Tournament at MLWGS.** Club Sponsor John Wilkes was also in attendance. Students provided a brief cubing demonstration which they all re-assembled within 7 seconds after the cubes were scrambled.

The MLWGS Cubing Club hosted its second World Cube Association (WCA) competition on January 18, 2020, attracting over 80 speed-solvers from multiple states testing their skills. The tournament was led by John Staley ('21-Hanover), Jacob Lee ('21-Chesterfield), Ryland Wilson ('21-Hanover), Ross George ('21-Hanover), and Uzair Bhatti ('21-Chesterfield). The

club raised \$500 for charity (The Foundation for Cardiac Sarcoidosis Research) from this tournament.

Dr. Pennycuff arrived at the meeting.

- ***Sophomores Sanjana Murugavel and Pooja Muthuraj*** (both from Henrico) were recognized for spearheading efforts to bring sanitary products to female restrooms at MLWGS and in schools statewide. The project began as both ladies noticed in middle school, continuing into high school, that specifically girls have to go to the clinic to ask for sanitary products and can be an embarrassing situation. The two reached out to a group entitled Sylvia's Sisters [*an all-volunteer nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide quality feminine hygiene products to disadvantaged girls and women - both locally and abroad - so they can thrive in school and work every month*] that have a similar mission for their support and to put products into our school.

Both students had input in a committee conference in support of the Virginia General Assembly Senate Bill 232, which passed, mandating this service in all schools and were featured in a story in the Richmond Times Dispatch.

- ***Junior Perisa Ashar*** (Henrico), was recognized as a national recipient of the 2020 NCWiT Award. NCWIT proudly announced the 2020 NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC) national recipients, honoring four hundred high school women from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and all U.S. overseas military bases.

High school students who self-identify as a female in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to receive recognition for their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing, as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans for post-secondary education. This year, 40 winners and 360 honorable mentions were selected from more than 4,700 amazing, talented young women.

- The ***Regional School Board*** was recognized for their service to the MLWGS community. A 'thank you' banner signed by our students was on-hand for board viewing. Dr. Ellis stated, "we [*the MLWGS community*] appreciate all this board is able to do for us and for the privilege of allowing us to have some of your students here."
- ***Sarah Barber (New Kent)*** was recognized for her service as chair of the Regional School Board 2018-2019 and presented with a gavel award by Mrs. Ogburn in gratitude.

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.

The following comments were provided by Ann Gill:

MLWGS needs its feeder counties to contribute their proportional share to the cost of hiring a registered nurse (RN) to manage the on-site health needs of its students.

The National Association of School Nurses estimates that as many as 1 in 4 students manage a chronic condition. [Collaboration to Support Students with Chronic Health Conditions](#). Common health conditions that require on-site school management are: ADHD, allergies, concussions, anxiety disorders, asthma, autism, cancer, cardiac conditions, diabetes, migraines and seizures (Ronda Scriven, BSN, RN, NCSN, Nurse Supervisor, Office of Student Health Services, Department of Equity and Student Support Services, Chesterfield County Public Schools).

Public school systems are duty bound to accommodate the needs of students who suffer from chronic or disabling medical conditions. A trained and informed staff is the fundamental basis to any successful program. The VA Department of Education, state law, and federal law all support a proper safety net of appropriately trained staff, procedures, and Emergency Action Plans that are developed and implemented by a registered nurse [Manual for Training Public School Employees in the Administration of Insulin and Glucagon \(1\).pdf](#)

In Virginia, ONLY a Licensed Registered Nurse (“RN”) can train medically unlicensed staff in emergency medication administration and treatments (i.e. recognizing symptoms of problems as well as administering medications such as insulin, EpiPens, etc). Having an RN at MLWGS is essential in the management of all types of student health challenges. In Virginia, counseling and teaching are also nursing tasks that cannot be delegated ([18VAC90-19-280. Nursing Tasks That Shall Not Be Delegated.](#))

A school that lacks a registered nurse can not create Individualized Healthcare Plans (IHPs) and Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), which are the very safety net that all students with medical conditions depend on in a school setting. [Individualized Healthcare Plans: The Role of the School Nurse](#) The IHP is the document which describes how the student’s medical management plan (created/signed by the student’s doctor) can be achieved in a dynamic and often complicated school setting. Only the school RN can then take the IHP and create an EAP which is the quick one-page emergency reference guide to which teachers and substitutes often refer.

Needed safety nets are NOT in place for all students with health needs at the MLWGS. As only an RN can legally create health advisories, train staff in emergency medication and treatments, teachers are not being trained or informed. This means that students with health conditions are leaving on field trips and attending school sponsored sports events without access to trained staff. In fact, the other spring, the one person in the entire school who was trained to administer diabetes emergency care was across town at our daughter’s 504 meeting at Robious Middle School- leaving every other Type 1 student at Maggie Walker exposed.

I’m here today as a parent that can very clearly see the huge holes that exist at this school and to try to help avert a terrible, preventable tragedy. Headlines regularly tout MLWGS as one of the very best public high schools in the United States. Such a special school should be able to provide the most basic of health supports for the common, chronic conditions that exist within all student populations.

I'll leave you all with your MLWGS school board policy [Pol-4019-Student-Health-Services-Final.pdf](#) which underlines each county's responsibility in ensuring the safety and health needs of their students at MLWGS.

The following comments were provided by Mariam McAtee:

My name is Miriam McAtee. I am the parent of a Maggie Walker student and also a pediatrician. This morning I am here to ask you to consider funding a school nurse for our high school.

School nurses are able to communicate fluently with both medical practitioners and school personnel to develop Individualized Health Plans. Yes, we are talking about high school students, and most of them are capable of managing their chronic illnesses. But symptoms don't always come on as expected, and things like asthma, diabetes and anaphylaxis can incapacitate students mentally before they are able to take care of their needs. School nurses are able to communicate fluently with both medical practitioners and school personnel to develop Individualized Health Plans. Yes, we are talking about high school students, and most of them are capable of managing their chronic illnesses. But symptoms don't always come on as expected, and things like asthma, diabetes and anaphylaxis can incapacitate students mentally before they are able to take care of their needs.

As a pediatrician, the bane of my existence in late August are the school forms we are asked to fill out before the school year begins. While our staff are capable of filling out physical forms and shot records, every single medication form comes to us for completion. We use these forms to communicate with the school the medical needs of patients with developmental issues such as attention deficit disorder and chronic conditions such as asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes. I often think to myself "Why do I have to fill out the same information over and over? A school nurse knows how to identify symptoms of asthma or anaphylaxis and how to treat them." At no point have I even considered that my explicit instructions are for anyone other than a nurse. Even though they are explicit, I wouldn't expect someone with no nursing experience to be able to follow them. I would never hand those instructions to a parent and say "Here. Here's everything you need to know if your child is having an anaphylactic reaction." I spend time with parents, discussing the signs to look for, what to do first, when and how to administer an epi-pen and when to call 911. I'll never forget the look on my husband's face the first time I left the house when my son had a friend over with severe allergies and I handed him the epi-pen. Complete and utter panic. I had to take a step back and explain to him what to look for and how to administer that particular epi-pen. I can send instructions to the school, but without anyone who is trained to follow them or capable of teaching other adults in the school how to follow them, my efforts are futile. For this reason, it is necessary that a school nurse be available to each school to undertake the training of enough staff for the student to be safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Chair thanked today's speakers.

IX. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **(3) Presidential Scholar Candidates from the Class of 2020:**

Alyssa M. Smith, Powhatan
Nicholas M. Xie, Henrico
Daniel L. Xue, Chesterfield

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

- **Interdisciplinary Travel to France 2020** approved by the RSB at their October 2019 meeting has been rescheduled to June 24, 2021.
- **MW Drama presents The Addams Family (a musical)**, February 27 – February 28, 2020, at 7:00 pm. Matinee performance Saturday, February 29, 2020, 2:00 pm

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School invites you to see The Addams Family! Embracing the wackiness present within all of us, the musical features an original story that is every father's nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family. If that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before— keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on a fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

- **MLWGS International Language Fair for Middle School Students, March 7, 2020.**

Similar to our previous International Language Fairs, the twelfth fair will have a welcome ceremony, a variety of workshops led and designed by Maggie Walker students before and after a lunch break, a closing ceremony, and an international dessert sampling. Students will choose one language of interest, which will be taken into consideration when assigning workshops and to expose students to all languages, other workshops will be assigned via lottery. Pizza will be provided for students during lunch. Workshops will incorporate the following languages: Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, American Sign Language, and Arabic.

- **Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, February 29th, John Marshall Hotel.**

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

What happens during Night of the Dragon (NOTD)?

Everyone has loads of fun and we make lots of money to support our amazing school. The evening looks something like this:

6:30 p.m. Check-in begins
6:30-7:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, mingling
6:30-8:15 p.m. Auction items on display
7:30-8:15 p.m. Dinner buffet and carving stations open
8:15 p.m. Silent Auction ends
8:30 p.m. Welcome from Dr. Lowerre
8:45 p.m. Live Auction begins with Head and Tails
9 p.m. Dessert and coffee served
9:45 p.m. Student Performance

What Does the Money from NOTD Support?

All proceeds for the Night of the Dragon support the students and faculty at MLWGS! Last year's event yielded more than \$70,000! Proceeds benefit the enhancement initiatives of the Governor's School Foundation as well as the efforts of the Athletic, Music, Visual Arts, Drama Boosters, and the PTSA.

- **College Kick-Off for Juniors and Sophomores on February 4th.**

On Tuesday, February 4th, at 9 am, all juniors attended "College Kick-Off 2019" in the auditorium at Maggie Walker. Parents of juniors were also invited to attend this event. The audience heard presentations from college admissions officers representing the University of Mary Washington, Davidson College, University of Richmond, Radford University, University of South Carolina, and the College of William and Mary, followed by a time for general questions and answers about college admissions.

On the same day at 1:30 pm, all sophomores attended the same program.

- **New Student Assessments Completed – Director's final report.**

The Regional Evaluation day was February 12th. Invited students will be offered an opportunity to shadow on Future Dragon Days at MLWGS March 16-19, 2020.

B. Coming Events

February 20, 2020 through March 19, 2020 (see page IX.b for details).

C. Walker Model UN Conference XXIII, March 20-21, 2020 presented by Max Smith-Sponsor, Julia Ochsenhirt ('20-Henrico)-Director of Charitable Giving, Richard Zhai ('20-Henrico)-Secretary-General, and Siddharth Venigalla ('20-Chesterfield)-Director-General.

This year marks the 23rd iteration of GSMUN, a conference built and run on the mentality of creating change in the community. Being the premier Model United Nations conference in the Richmond Area and a top high school organized conference in Virginia, GSMUN prides itself on having an amazing and dedicated staff who work year-round to make this conference

possible. GSMUN has meticulously crafted 19 fun and innovative committees this year for delegates to partake in, ranging from general assemblies to our brand new tri-crisis. With delegate help, GSMUN hopes to be able to donate more than \$10,000 to the Strong Minds-Mental Health Africa by the end of the conference and show support for women tackling the depression epidemic.

The keynote speaker for this conference is Karim Sadjadpour, a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment.

- D. *Division Luncheon with Students: Richmond, February 4th*** Dr. Ellis expressed gratitude to the Regional School Board for their participation in the luncheon series thereby allowing our students a discussion with you about things that are important to them here at MLWGS and hopes we will have even more participation next year.

Mr. Axselle expressed his support for the luncheons stating this should be something we keep doing for a long time. The Chair agreed and said it gives the RSB some insight into what the districts are doing for their students.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On a motion by John Wright to approve consent items as a slate, seconded by John Axselle, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions, fiscal status reports of December 31, 2019, and the donations report of December 31, 2019.

XII. Action Items

a. Policy and Regulation Approval (Second Read)

The following was submitted by the Policy Steering Committee to the RSB for the second read with a slight change from the first read in Section H of Policy 4075 that better addresses specifics of bringing outside foods into the school building for fundraising efforts:

Policy 4075 – Student Wellness *Amended*

Regulation 4075-R – Implementation of a Wellness Program for Students of MLWGS

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by John Wright, Policy 4075-Student Wellness and Regulation 4075-Implementation of a Wellness Program for Students were unanimously approved.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Gymnasium Bleacher Refurbishment RFP (First Read)

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit pricing from qualified contractors who can provide mechanical services to the Regional School Board of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. The Board is seeking to refurbish the gymnasium bleachers.

The RFP was released to the school website on November 12, 2019.

The RFP proposals were due from qualified vendors on November 21, 2019, at 2:00 pm.

One contractor submitted a bid: Precision Installations, Inc., Powhatan, VA. Amount: \$35,065.00. Installation of materials to be performed during the summer, 2020. Precision Installations is the only contractor in the area that provides this service.

Approval will be requested at the March 19, 2020, meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. RSB Consideration to Fund a Full-Time Nurse Position

A request has been made for the Regional School Board to consider staffing a full-time nurse position for MLWGS. A position is currently not included in the budget proposal provided by the director.

The chair distributed a chart prepared by Dr. Lowerre that illustrated additional required monies by enrollment per division estimated to fund a full-time nursing position at \$65,000 per year going forward. The chair noted the person who currently provides health services at MW is a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and also performs attendance duties. Continuing, she added that Dr. Lowerre was specific during their discussion that student issues are present here every day which caused the staff some concern for being responsible for specific student healthcare needs with compliance issues and the lack of training. Currently, this staff is not trained as they are required to be by a statute by a registered nurse and that is an issue we have to solve. There are ways to farm out training, but the greater overarching concern is student health daily.

Ms. Bailey, who recently retired as a 34-year classroom teacher, stated she was shocked when she learned there was no nurse on campus at MW. As a teacher, she was annually trained by a nurse at school for Epipens, etc. Before field trips, she sat through specific training by the school nurse how to react in emergencies. As a teacher, she always had a thick medical alert binder on her students and if nobody is preparing those alerts here that is a huge compliance issue. We don't want to be retroactively acting after a tragedy.

Mr. Wright reported he heard from three parents from MW that were all in support of adding a nursing position. He added, 'there appears to be a clear need.'

Ms. Barber stated that while she had not been contacted by any MW parents, in New Kent there are nurses in all of their schools so she is supportive of adding the position.

Ms. Andrews of Prince George supports the nursing position, as well as Mr. Hall of King and Queen.

Ms. Hyslop of Hopewell shared her memory of an experience as a principal of an elementary school which shared nurses between schools. Once a child fell from playground equipment

and had no nurse was on hand during the incident so they sought services from the fire department that was located two blocks away. Now Hopewell has a dedicated full-time nurse in each school which is very helpful.

Dr. Cashwell noted that while there was no superintendent's steering committee this morning, this matter has been discussed among the committee before and we are supportive and understand the need. In Henrico we have tried to make sure there is an RN in each school; however, sometimes there may be a need to balance or rotate time between an RN and an LPN in the schools, making sure that an RN is assigned to some capacity is a critical need.

Dr. Daugherty question if there was not already money available in the budget from the overflow funds from year-to-year? The chair stated the information she passed out from Dr. Lowerre addresses costs going forward but he never mentioned if this could be covered from surplus or overflow now. Dr. Ellis added she believes Dr. Lowerre would say that idea is a dangerous precedent to set because we never know from year-to-year what amount of overflow funds will exist and that funding personnel here is difficult for MW to maintain and sustain from surplus monies.

Mr. Axselle questioned the salary and benefits level for this position? The chair responded based on Dr. Lowerre's feedback it would be approximately \$65,000.

The chair then read Dr. Lowerre's email communication to the board from February 11 for the record: "A discussion has been taking place in the community regarding the needs for a full-time RN at MLWGS. I think that just about all of the folks who have been part of the discussion agree that this position is needed, but the issue of funding is the challenge. By state statute, only RNs can train staff on medical safety procedures, such as epi-pens, etc. and manage medical plans in a way that LPNs and CNAs are unable to do. We have several students with Type 1 Diabetes that require support as well as the usual cases of managing concussions and other conditions.

A proposal was made to consider having each locality fund their share of what the cost would be to employ an RN. This is an agenda item for next week's board meeting. To give you some useful data, I have attached a spreadsheet that costs out the position per district, if you were to choose that route. Chesterfield is currently advertising for a school nurse at about \$45,000. With benefits and other associated costs, the actual cost to us would be in the neighborhood of \$65,000. That sum divided by 756 students comes out to about \$86 per child. The attached spreadsheet does the math by district and will show you how that would look if you were to add it to the existing tuition. I hope this helps provide some sense of cost for you." This chair added for clarity that the sum estimated by Dr. Lowerre would be in addition to the tuition shown.

"As all of our localities are in budget season, this is the time to have this discussion," stated Ms. Ogburn. She suggested each member take this item back to their boards for inclusion adding there is already a commitment from RPS and King & Queen for this additional funding and felt that Henrico also would not have a problem with it. The target is to get a commitment detail over the next 2-3 weeks of funding from all of the divisions. If this action is to be approved, the next question is what do we do now to cover the rest of this academic year to get the school into compliance.

Ms. Bailey asked if medical personnel come to MW from the home districts? Dr. Ellis stated yes they do, and teachers have access to medical information in the student information platform, they just don't have access to training.

Mr. Axselle suggested the board look at this action as part of the upcoming budget work session as he's heard arguments for ways in the current budget to handle the increase through an adjustment elsewhere. The chair agreed and stipulated her understanding is a) adding \$86/student, b) look at the budget and find another way to fully fund the position or c) find a partial way in the budget to fund the position.

Mr. Wright stated this need has come to us as a component proposal because of the prior notification of what tuition costs will be so each of the divisions could build out their budgets, so he didn't want to assume there are no monies available in locality budgets to cover this. Further, maybe the nursing position funding will be addressed as we go through the budget work session later. He added, in discussion with Dr. Raley they both believe that Goochland could cover their \$2,400 increase, but recognize that for some divisions this may be a significant choice with funding their budgets and could present some difficult decisions within the member divisions related to these costs. Short term, we do not have a person funded within the FY20 budget but perhaps we could find a means to provide training to be relatively self-sufficient to finish out the current academic year.

The chair will be looking to Dr. Lowerre when he calls-in for clarity on some of these questions and expects with board member feedback on the feasibility of a tuition add-on by the next meeting, the board can come to a consensus decision soon.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes February 6, 2020
- MLWGS returns to We the People National Championship
- MLWGS Yearbook wins 'best-of' award
- 9 Dragons play for the Central Regional Orchestra
- MW students perform at VCU Jazz Day
- Sophomore Dragon selected for Greater Richmond Youth Wind Ensemble
- Dragons win VHSL Scholastic Bowl Regional Championship
- MLWGS achieves notable results at the Johns Hopkins Model UN Conference
- Varsity Girl hits 1,000 Points in Basketball at MLWGS

Faculty News

- David Barnes wins 2020 Taylor Teaching Award, travels this summer
- Jenn Todd selected 2018-19 Mideast-Section Boys Tennis Coach of the Year by NFHS

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

The committee was unable to conduct a meeting today before the start of the RSB meeting due to Dr. Lowerre's absence so there was no report to present.

XVI. Closed Meeting

None.

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None.

XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XIX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On motion by John Wright, this meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am. Board photographs were taken at the conclusion of this meeting prior to moving into the FY21 Budget Work Session.

Next Meeting and Budget Public Hearing

March 19, 2020, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Michelle Ogburn, Chairman

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

Continued

MINUTES

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

FY21 Budget Work Session

Thursday, February 20, 2020

10:50 a.m.

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
Ms. Jill Andrews, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Merv Daugherty, **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. Jay McClain for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Mr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School (via telephone)

Absent:

Mr. Royce Paige, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Mr. J. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Wendy Ellis and Michael 'Max' Smith– MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff

Call to Order

Micky Ogburn, Chair, gaveled the work session to order.

Dr. Lowerre Via Telephone

Dr. Lowerre began by asking if there were questions for him regarding the full-time nurse position and its funding. The chair advised him the board had come to the consensus there is a need and each member will be taking the matter back to their respective divisions to see if there is a possibility to add it to their budgets. She added there is already an agreement to add funding from Richmond and King and Queen but our other divisions are in different stages of their budget process and it will need to be addressed within their boards. She advised Dr. Lowerre the superintendents will be reaching out to him in the next 2-3 weeks with their budget status follow-up that will be discussed at our March meeting.

Continuing, the chair added there has also been discussion to see if we can find training and support from the divisions for MLWGS through the end of this current academic year. Dr. Lowerre responded he may be able to provide a temporary creative funding solution so that by July 1st the school may be able to get someone in place regardless of the funding position of the local divisions on their budgets; however, we need to make sure during FY22 development there is an understanding the position will be included with a tuition increase sufficient to sustain the position.

Ms. Bailey asked the director if her understanding is correct that he is saying there is a little extra revenue this year that could be used to cover an RN and he will be asking the divisions going forward to fund the position with a tuition increase. Dr. Lowerre affirmed her understanding and stipulated that carryovers are always risky because you never know how much is available and for how long they are available to sustain a position. Also, carryover is funding that is typically directed to capital improvements.

Ms. Ogburn remarked another option to explore is the inclusion of funding from the localities that still have flexibility in their budget process to add their shared amounts giving us a base to work with and leaving the school in a position to supplement rather than to fully fund.

PowerPoint Executive Summary on the FY21 Proposal Highlights *(a copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be retained for the permanent record)*

FY21 will be the first year of the State biennium budget and revenue numbers are reflective of the current funding level provided by the DOE. There were budget amendments to the Governor's proposed budget that would have increased funding; however, they were not adopted. Dr. Lowerre stated everyone at DOE that the 19 Governor's School directors worked with told them they recognize there is a shortfall in State funding for Governor's Schools and the funding model is flawed while also recognizing the 19 directors were unified in their efforts to raise State funding, it simply is not a priority of the Governor or General Assembly to act upon.

The Director is proposing a modest budget increase to address the needs of the school and to continue to fund capital projects.

Revenue

\$8,929,405. Total increase = \$168,394 (+2.0%)

Revenue Detail:

- Tuition = \$8,399 (2%/student increase), 756 Students
- Total Local Contribution = \$6,349,644
- Building Rental = \$7,000
- Free Lunch Receipts = \$8,000
- Dual Enrollment = \$50,000
- Technology Initiative = \$26,000
- Building Reserve Carryover = \$150,000
- State Contribution = \$2,338,761

Total Expense

\$8,929,405

Expense Detail:

Increases \$173,394 *(includes incremental increases for inflation in certain areas)*

- Service Contracts (Instructional) + \$27,025
- Maintenance + \$1,295
- Salary /Benefits Increase + \$130,104 (Provides 2% raise)
- Payroll/HR Service + \$27,500
- Utilities + \$5,288
- Technology + \$9,694

Major Expense Detail Reductions

- Copier Lease - \$5,000
- Non-Professional Consultants - \$9,910
- Books and Periodicals - \$1,175
- Printing and Binding - \$2,650
- Auto Insurance - \$1,000
- Classroom Furniture - \$3,816

Conclusions

- Funding Outlook for FY22
- Capital Improvement Continues to be a Challenge

Next Steps

- March 19, 2020, Budget Public Hearing
- April 16, 2020, Request for Budget Approval

The director suggested board members refer to the budget spreadsheet within their packet if they have specific questions regarding expenditures.

Mr. Wright asked about significant changes within Instructional Staff Other showing costs reduced by approximately 1/3rd and what precipitated that change. Dr. Lowerre answered that

tracking of Professional Staff Other is for anyone that is not a full-time teacher and projects next year that several of those teachers will be consolidated into a full-time position.

Another question from Mr. Wright related to benefits increased at 7.2% and wondered if that was due to an early estimate or have we gotten a more refined quote. Dr. Lowerre responded one of the issues is the school won't have a firm number of enrollments until after the annual open enrollment season. Mr. Smith joined the discussion and informed the board the school's broker, Scott Eastman, looked at several industry indicators to give us an estimate of 6-8% so we went with the middle percentage increase noting that the number could be revised at a later date.

Looking to fiscal year 22 the director stated he has to assume the State will continue the funding path we have now. He added he didn't know what more could have been done to change minds for a different funding model. With the Governor's budget out now, and there are two competing budgets out, it has a 3% bonus or raises for teachers in 22 that are based on SoQ's that we send to our divisions. He cautions the typical 2% increase will not be sustainable to be able to match what the State is giving.

The other piece of concern in the budget is capital improvements. The gym roof was patched last summer but there are new leaks now; we are soon approaching the time the roof will need to be replaced. The parking lot is also in need of repaving. The director reminded us that capital improvement is currently funded by carry-over amounts but there will come a point we may need to consider a different funding model or public-private partnership to manage the physical needs of the building that will need addressing.

Mrs. Ogburn reminded that teachers are concerned with the issue of bonuses because a bonus does not contribute to their VRS.

Dr. Lowerre acknowledged there is a level of frustration when we hear in the news there is record funding from the State to education in the Governor's budget, but at the end of the day we have to deal with what we have and continue to provide an excellent experience to our students and families.

The work session adjourned at 11:20 am.

Michelle Ogburn, Chairman

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk