

MINUTES

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

Thursday, April 16, 2020

9:04 a.m.

Due to the continuing State of Emergency in Virginia declared by Governor Ralph Northam to address a national health crisis related to COVID-19, there was no physical meeting of the Regional School Board. Instead, the Regional School Board met using the Zoom digital platform. The meeting was recorded and posted on the school website at its conclusion. The public was also offered a listen-only option using Free Conference Call service during the meeting.

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

There was no moment of silence due to the virtual format.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was not recited due to the virtual format.

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. 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. George Fohl for 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. Melody Hackney, *Superintendent*, Hopewell Public Schools

Mr. Wayne Elliott for Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, *Superintendent*, Prince George Public Schools

Mrs. Lynn Pleveich 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. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools, attempted to attend but incurred technical difficulties.

Absent:

Mr. Royce Paige, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mr. Scott Barlow, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. David Gaston, *Superintendent*, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, *Superintendent*, King & Queen 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
Mrs. Megan Perez, *Deputy Clerk*, Maggie L. Walker Governor's

Also present:

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

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by John Axselle, the minutes of the regular meeting and the FY21 budget work session of February 20, 2020, plus the virtual vote meeting of March 19, 2020, were approved on a unanimous voice vote, with Valarie Ayers abstaining.

VII. Recognitions

There were no recognitions.

VIII. Public Comments

No public comments were submitted to the Clerk for the board.

IX. Director's Report

A Verbal Update

The last day students were at Maggie Walker Governor' School was on March 13th. Since that date teachers have been teaching remotely in what capacity they can. The faculty will follow State grading guidelines for the remainder of this academic year. The leadership team has discussed also using a simplified grading system of (P) Pass, (S) Satisfactory, and (F) Fail, but how universities will view this change on a transcript is a question. Dr. Lowerre hopes those institutions would make allowances due to the national emergency,

but that is unknown at this time. Final grades will post to student accounts on June 1st, and students will have a 2-week window to change their grade to P/S/F.

The social life of the school has come to a complete stop. We've canceled prom, graduation is an unknown as of this meeting, and seniors are being recognized online on the schools' media pages; i.e., Facebook and Twitter. Administration discussions have included some type of recognition for the Class of 2020 in the fall if we can overcome the obstacle of almost all of them in college at that time.

Dr. Lowerre's team is planning for instruction in the fall with possible interruptions.

Finally, the MLWGS faculty and staff deeply regret the lost opportunities with our incoming freshmen through shadowing and registration to get them excited about coming to this school.

B *Coming Events*

April 16, 2020, through May 21, 2020 (see page IX.b for details).

X. Unfinished Business

Dr. Lowerre offered his opinion that this is not the time to 'not' have a medical professional on campus. While the position is not incorporated in his budget proposal at this time because it was crafted before the concern coming to the board, he stated he would move items within the budget as necessary to fund the position. He will look to have a medical professional on campus approximately at the same time teachers' return in August for the start of the next academic year.

Approval of an FY21 operating budget is needed as a starting point to get a working budget in place, with the caveat of amendments (reductions) if or as needed for future board adoption based on the new economic realities all schools face as a result of COVID-19.

XI. Consent Items

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Linda Hyslop, the following consent items were unanimously approved on a roll-call vote: March and April personnel actions, fiscal status reports of January 31, 2020, and February 29, 2020, the donations report of January 31, 2020, and approval of the membership of Advisory Committees to the board 2020 (Wellness Committee and Policy Committee).

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools | Absent |
| Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John Axselle, III, Hanover County Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools | No Vote Recorded |
| Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools | Yes |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. J. Scott Barlow, City of Richmond Schools | Absent |

XII. Action Items

Agenda Action Items were adopted out of the order listed:

f. Resolution: MLWGS to comply with temporary laws and regulations without enacting policy (first read).

The Director recommended members of the Regional School Board approve this resolution in response to Virginia’s and the national state of emergency from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak pandemic.

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the resolution to comply with temporary laws and regulations without enacting policy was unanimously approved on a roll-call vote:

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools | Absent |
| Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John Axselle, III, Hanover County Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools | No Vote Recorded |
| Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. J. Scott Barlow, City of Richmond Schools | Absent |

a. FY21 School Operating Calendar (Second Read)

The Director stated a change may be required to this proposal and is due to recently enacted actions by the General Assembly in their session making Election Day in November a holiday. Lee/Jackson Day will be eliminated from the calendar. If dates on the calendar proposal are changed, it will require a few other adjustments yet to be determined and an amended calendar will be presented to the board.

On a motion by Jill Andrews, seconded by Sarah Barber, the FY21 School Operating Calendar was unanimously approved on a roll-call vote:

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools | Absent |
| Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools | Yes |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Mr. John Axselle, III, Hanover County Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools | No Vote Recorded |
| Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. J. Scott Barlow, City of Richmond Schools | Absent |

b. FY21 Operating Budget (Second Read)

The Director recommended the Regional School Board adopt this proposal with the caveat an amended budget will be calculated if needed, probably at their August meeting. Reductions are anticipated due to the diminished funding availability resulting from the national COVID19 crisis, but exact levels of reduction are unknown at this time.

The Chair inquired about any calculated savings due to the early shutdown in FY 20. Dr. Lowerre responded it is too early to calculate but obvious areas of reduction include substitute teacher pay, athletics, but unknown at this time for energy and supply savings.

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the FY21 Operating Budget was unanimously approved on a roll-call vote:

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools | Absent |
| Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John Axselle, III, Hanover County Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools | No Vote Recorded |
| Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. J. Scott Barlow, City of Richmond Schools | Absent |

c. Annual Authorization for the Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for FY21 (Second Read)

The Regional School Board grants the Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School the authority to issue faculty/staff contracts based upon salary scales, clubs/activities, and athletic stipend scales incorporated within the FY2021 Operating Budget. The Director recommended approval of this request.

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by John Axselle, approval for the Director to issue personnel contracts for FY21 was unanimously approved on a roll-call vote:

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools | Absent |
| Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John Axelle, III, Hanover County Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools | No Vote Recorded |
| Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. J. Scott Barlow, City of Richmond Schools | Absent |

d. FY21 Student Fees (Second Read)

The proposed student fee schedule has been updated for FY21 with current projected costs for all subject areas.

Changes from FY20 are minor. Those fees that were adjusted are largely due to inflationary increases in workbooks. New additions to the Senior Seminars reflect new topics being taught but the range of fees is aligned with past practice. Several workbooks were eliminated in the Foreign Languages section to reduce cost and streamline vertical learning. Per instructions from the Director, the fee for VCU Dual Enrollment courses was increased from \$20 to \$25 per credit hour.

On a motion by John Axelle, seconded by John Wright, FY21 Student Fees were unanimously approved on a roll-call vote:

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools | Absent |
| Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John Axelle, III, Hanover County Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools | No Vote Recorded |
| Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. J. Scott Barlow, City of Richmond Schools | Absent |

e. Waiver of Building Fees for Richmond Parks & Recreation Summer 2020 (Second Read)

Richmond Parks and Recreation has requested to utilize a part of the MLWGS facility to host their Youth Summer Camp, a program open to area youth. RP&R projects up to 40 participants in this program. The Director, however, stated as of this meeting it is unknown if RP&R can still offer this program as the country moves out of the COVID-19 crisis.

The requested fee waiver allows RP&R to maintain affordable tuition fees for all program students and restarts a partnership of Richmond facilities for sporting events and MLWGS facilities (the last summer academy at MLWGS was 2013).

Areas requested: The Black Box, Room 126, and Room 128, 7:30 am – 5: 30 pm. Monday – Thursday, June 22 – August 20, 2020.

Regional School Board established fees to be charged: \$42,000.00

Fees requested waived: \$40,110.00

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, if this activity occurs given the national State of Emergency, normal building charges for Richmond Parks and Recreation were waived and replaced with a minimum usage fee and unanimously approved on a roll-call vote:

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools | Absent |
| Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. John Axselle, III, Hanover County Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools | No Vote Recorded |
| Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools | Yes |
| Mrs. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools | Yes |
| Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools | Yes |
| Mr. J. Scott Barlow, City of Richmond Schools | Absent |

XIII. Items for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Approval of the 2020-2021 Governor’s School Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors (First Read)

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

Brian Baird (Richmond)

Brad Ewald (Richmond)

Adam Powers ’10 Alum (Richmond/Chesterfield)

Emily Stegmaier Winbigler ’00 Alum (Chesterfield)

Rolling off the board are Bill Benos, Liz Blue, and Marianne Macon.

Officer Nominations: Ginger O’Neil – Chair, Cynthia Kostelecky – Vice-Chair, Karen Setzer – Treasurer, and Jewel Caven – Secretary.

GS Foundation Board member’s approval will be sought at the Board’s Executive Committee May 2020 meeting.

XIV. Information

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2020
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2020

- 2019 Russian Scholar Laureate
- MW Junior Wins Travel Award to Ecuador from Spanish National Honor Society
- MW Junior Wins VA High School Oratorical Contest, Advances to Next Level
- Scholastic Writing Award Scholastic Art Awards Presentation
- Robotics Team 422 wins Entrepreneurship Award at Richmond FIRST Competition
- Dragons take 2nd Place at Academic Quiz Bowl State Championship
- MW Chess Club places 4th at US Chess Federation Under 1400 Section
- Dragons Attend Performance of the National Symphony Orchestra
- Math Modeling Students compete at SABR Competition in Phoenix
- 2 Dragons Advance to National History Day State Competition
- Scenes from the International Language Fair at MLWGS, March 7th
- VCU Medical and MLWGS Advanced Orchestra Concert, March 11th
- Dragons win Virginia Governor's Challenge in Economics & Personal Finance

- Lexus Leadership Award Week 16 - Avery Bowers (Hanover)
- Lady Dragons take home runner-up award at VHSL State Indoor Championship.
- Individual and Relay Champions
- Girls Basketball advance to VHSL 3B State Semi-Finals

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Cashwell reported the Superintendent's team met via digital conference before the RSB meeting. Items for their discussion included senior graduation ceremonies and if there is some sort of option to be devised that would be ceremonial and personal for the students. Also discussed were online summer Health and PE programs for freshmen before their entry at MLWGS. Lastly, there was discussion regarding the proposed nursing position which the superintendents support regardless of the budget position.

XVI. Closed Meeting

None

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None

XVIII. Announcements

None

XIX. Adjournment

On a motion by John Axelle, seconded by Sarah Barber, this meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 9:47 am.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Executive Board, May 21, 2020.

Michelle Ogburn, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk