

Maggie L. Walker School Advisory Council

2019-2020 End of Year Report

Barrie Bowers- Chair

Good morning and greetings from the Maggie Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies (MLWGS) School Advisory Council, the SAC.

My name is Barrie Bowers, and I am the 2019-2020 Chair of the SAC. I am the parent of one graduating Senior in the Class of 2020, and alumni from the classes of 2013 and 2015.

I have had the honor of serving on the SAC for the last three years, and have been a MWLGS parent for 10 years. I am also a current member of the MLWGS Foundation Board.

I am here today to provide you a brief summary of SAC's work during this past school year. 18 representatives served on SAC this past year, as follows:

- 6- Parents (representing various school districts)
- 4- Students
- 4- Faculty and Staff
- 2- Director's appointees
- 1- Gifted Coordinator
- 1- Administrative Representative

Traditionally SAC meets as a full Committee once a month, but as the rest of the world, we have adapted to conclude our activities virtually through the end of the year. Subcommittees of SAC met at various times throughout the year, as needed, and several SAC representatives also served as members of certain other school committees, all as summarized below.

Calendar Committee

The **Calendar Committee** created the academic calendar for 2020-2021. This process was informed by the 2019-2020 academic calendar, as well as draft calendars posted by MLWGS's participating divisions. Four faculty, two parents, one student, and one member of the Planning Committee contributed input. The committee was chaired by Max Smith, MLWGS Assistant Director, who is a valuable standing member of SAC. No major adjustments were made to the academic calendar. For the 2021-2022 draft, SAC will be significantly exploring an early start calendar.

Nomination & By-Laws Committee

The **Nominations Committee** accepted applications, conducted interviews, and held elections to replace the various openings to replace outgoing SAC members. All of this work was conducted virtually during the latter part of the school year, and a special thanks to Chair, Dan Brown, and the other Committee members, for completing this process.

Policy & Handbook Review and Revisions

There were no new Handbook or Policy revisions reviewed by SAC this year.

Global Outreach Committee Chair

The **Global Outreach Committee** was chaired by senior student, Miles Nardi. This Committee was intended to assist with the new Amin Speaker Series, and was available in an advisory capacity to the MLWGS Foundation. The Foundation had its first Amin Speaker Series speaker as part of the National History Society induction earlier this fall.

Student Outreach

The **Student Outreach Committee** was chaired by Junior student Chase Gunlichs. This committee held several meetings discussing how to implement school wide volunteer events. They decided on a structure for the project, having quarterly volunteer days corresponding with each grade level with one culminating school wide event. They planned to organize these events to take place next school year and were in the process of coordinating potential projects. With COVID-19 prematurely ending the school year and closing many locations we had proposed for volunteer work, they were not able to continue contacting event sponsors. The plan now is to hopefully move forward this fall to coordinate the events as planned.

School Identity/Strategic Plan Committee

This was the second year of this Special Committee, chaired by David Barnes. This Committee was formed in 2018-19 at the request of Dr. Lowerre, and actively assisted with the preliminary stages of Dr. Lowerre's strategic plan process. There were no active projects for this Committee this year.

MW Wellness Council

Two SAC representatives, Junior student Gabriella Watson, and parent Melissa Kates, served as members of Maggie Walker's **Wellness Council** chaired by Paige Hawkins, who conducted a student survey regarding cafeteria food services, implemented a pilot test program for new cafeteria lunch options, and developed recommendations for food services going forward, to ensure the cafeteria offerings are meeting nutritional and wellness guidelines.

Director's Strategic Plan Committee

Two parent SAC representatives, Michael Larkin, and myself, served as members of the Director's **Strategic Plan Committee**. This Committee met multiple times throughout the school year, and served as a work group to create Maggie Walker's updated Mission and Vision statements, and

new 5-year Strategic Plan. This topic was a frequent agenda item for the full SAC meetings this year, and SAC provided valuable feedback to Michael and me, which we then shared with the Strategic Plan Committee. SAC is fortunate to have Michael Larkin serve as next year's SAC Chair.

On behalf of SAC, I thank you for your continued support of Maggie Walker and all of its amazing students, faculty and administration. It has been an honor to serve as a SAC member and Chair for the last 3 years.