

MINUTES

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

Thursday, June 18, 2020

9:04 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Micky 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.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

There was no recital of 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. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Ms. Lynn Pleveich – Richmond Public Schools **Gifted Coordinator**
Mr. George Fohl – Chesterfield Public Schools **Gifted Coordinator**
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Dr. Wendy Ellis and Michael 'Max' Smith – MLWGS Administration
David Bortz and Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS Staff
Barry Bowers – Outgoing SAC Chair
Suzannah Stora – GS Foundation

Absent:

Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Not Required to be in Attendance:

Ms. Royce Paige, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Ms. Debbie Bailey, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
M. 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
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 (late arrival)
Dr. Mervin Daugherty, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell 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
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

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 Wright, the minutes of the executive meeting of May 21, 2020, was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- Dr. David Gaston, the outgoing Superintendent for Charles City Public Schools (*in absentia*). Dr. Gaston was thanked for his six years of service on this board.
- Ms. Barry Bowers – outgoing SAC Chair.

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 remarks were provided by Wendy DeGroat.

Board members and colleagues: Thank you for your service to - and support of - our school.

My name is Wendy DeGroat. I'm honored to have served on the Strategic Planning Committee and deeply grateful to serve our quirky, curious students and collaborate with our talented, dedicated faculty. This is a remarkable and rewarding place to be a librarian.

Yet over the past 13 years, despite strategic plans that included goals about our student enrollment more closely reflecting the demographics of participating districts and likewise increasing the diversity of our faculty, we've failed to make significant progress in these areas.

I am hopeful this time is different. Let me explain why.

The students who served on the Strategic Planning Committee, Maggie McKenna, Taurus Patterson, and April Smith, actively shaped our conversations. Their insights and candor guided us to the direct language in the first goal that calls on us to “create a welcoming and responsive environment that... fosters a sense of belonging for all” and for this environment to both reflect the diversity of our participating school districts and celebrate our diversity.

As we strive to make real the school culture this goal envisions, there will be difficult, sometimes uncomfortable work to do. This has always been the case. Yet this time, Dr. Lowerre’s open letter and the Foundation’s subsequent statement have made it clear that “align[ing] our practices and policies with our commitment to contribute to ending racism” is an essential part of this work. In particular, we must do more to show that Black students, parents, families, faculty, and staff - and their dreams - matter here.

We are not alone. The Virginia Secretary of Education and leading organizations for school boards, administrators, teachers, and librarians have issued statements affirming their commitment to address the inequities students of color face in schools across the nation.

We have other key partners in this journey too, including The Governors School Foundation, an independent group of Black alumni, and you.

As we move forward, we must live more fully into Maggie L. Walker’s legacy of leadership, service, courage, compassion, and community-building. We have gifted faculty of color. We need to recruit, retain, and promote more. We have gifted students of color. We need to attract, admit, enroll, and graduate more. We welcome diverse talented students to our school. We need to make our welcome warmer and our embrace wider so all may thrive.

Maggie L. Walker was also resilient in the face of adversity. Regardless of the challenges this upcoming school year – and the ones after - might hold, pandemic-related or otherwise, rising to meet the challenge of this goal must stay at the forefront. By working together to make the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School experience better for our Black students, we can make the future brighter for all our students. Thank you.

IX. Director’s Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **The Class of 2020 had 184 Graduates**
- As a class, they have performed a total of 33,000 community service hours. This is an average of approximately 179 hours per student.
- One student, Kahan Thaker (Chesterfield), had 600 hours of community service.
- As a class, they earned a minimum of \$11,720,210 in scholarship offers as of June 15th and that number continues to grow. (Communication has been difficult without students in school so we suspect this total will grow).
- The average Grade Point Average was a 4.30 (a new record!)

- The average SAT score was 1411 and ACT is 31.
- They are going to 65 different colleges, 120 are staying in-state, 64 are going out-of-state, and 8 students are planning to take a gap year and have deferred their college acceptance until Fall 2021.
- 11 were National Merit Finalists and 47 more received Commendations in the National Merit Program. 2 were offered National Merit Scholarships.
- 3 were Presidential Scholar candidates. One proceeded to the semi-finalist stage.
- In total, the Class of 2020 was recognized with 346 different honors, awards, and scholarships!

The director commended Ms. Kerry Sheppard, class and graduation sponsor for her efforts to make our students last year memorable, and Mr. Todd Raviotta for producing the graduation video.

- **New Student Summer Assessment**: Wednesday, July 8th.
- **Summer cancellation of building activities**: VCU Classes, Richmond Parks & Rec Summer Camp, Lighthouse Labs, and SPARC Camp. Estimated lost revenue for building rentals approximately \$2,000.
- **Facilitating community service in a virtual learning environment** a presentation by Wendy DeGroat. This virtual community service program happened concurrently with another program of student transcription with the Library of Virginia who partnered with us for this pilot service initiative, along with the Library of Congress and The Virginia Home as a way to build community among our students. Students could make cards for the residents of The Virginia Home or transcribe historical documents for the libraries.

Students meet for eight Tuesdays outside of classroom time via a common link where they shared their work at the end of each gathering. Group photos were often taken as a way of affirmation and celebration and community building. The program had twenty-five active volunteers in the last four weeks and Ms. DeGroat hopes to expand student engagement in the upcoming academic year.

“The letters are great. They are personal, uplifting, and many add some little drawings or doodles to them which they REALLY like. Our residents really have enjoyed receiving them. They tape them to their wall or set them on their windowsill. It is the sweetest thing!” Annie Kennedy, Director of Volunteer Services at The Virginia Home.

Ms. Barber was complimentary of this new way of sharing community service with our students. Ms. Ogburn requested sharing Ms. DeGroat’s presentation with all board members.

B. Coming Events

June 18, 2020, through August 20, 2020.

Monday, June 15th - Thursday, August 20th	Office Summer Hours Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Thursday, June 18 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
	All Summer Activities in the Building have been Canceled
Wednesday, July 8th	New Student Assessment, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Monday, July 20th – Friday, July 31st	Gym Floor Resurfacing
Wednesday, August 19th	First Day for Department Chairs
Thursday, August 20th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153

C. Director’s Public Statement on Current Events

An Open Letter to the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Community, June 5th:

For the past few weeks, I have been focused on putting together a meaningful graduation experience for our Class of 2020 within the governor’s Phase One parameters. On Wednesday and Thursday, we celebrated with our families as each graduate made their way across the stage and teachers cheered enthusiastically for each student as they stepped out of our school building and into their futures. It was a ceremony marked by visible signs of respect and love.

In stark contrast to the joy being experienced on our campus, just a couple blocks away people were grieving, hurting, and protesting against the horrific murder of George Floyd at the hands of officers sworn to protect his community; against the long history of police brutality against people of color, especially Black Americans; and against suffering through other systemic effects of racism. Changing this reality and the racism and inequalities that help it persist requires action, including by our school community. As the Director, I accept full responsibility for leading this effort.

Our school’s namesake, Maggie L. Walker, was a pioneer for the rights and dignity of the Black community. She went beyond words and created opportunities for Black Richmonders when their opportunities were severely limited due to racism and racist policies. At this critical moment in our community’s and our nation’s history, we have the responsibility to engage in Maggie Walker’s legacy of leadership.

In the strategic plan that we will present to the Regional School Board this month, the first goal is to “Foster a sense of belonging for all.” It is first because it is the foundation for building a strong community in which every student is valued and supported. As we develop an action plan to achieve this goal, we commit to taking meaningful actions that would make Maggie L. Walker proud, ones that ensure every student, no matter race or ethnicity, especially those who have been marginalized in the past, can be recognized as a unique and gifted individual; feels warmly welcomed and safe in our environment to pursue their dreams; that they are celebrated along the way as they reach their potential; and that we align our practices and policies with our commitment to contribute to ending racism.

There will be opportunities for engagement from all of our stakeholders to be a part of this process.

I hope that you will join me on this journey.

After his statement, Dr. Lowerre affirmed his commitment to address issues where we may find it on our campus and felt it is addressed proactively in the new strategic plan proposal. One point that has stuck with the director were the last words to this board from Dr. Marcus Newsome...” we’ve been talking about this for a long time and we haven’t made any progress,” which he took personally as a challenge to make progress. The Planning Committee understands the issue of recruitment, retention, and welcoming and are partnering with us to face the challenge and make progress on making this a more inclusive environment for our students and staff. “*Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced,*” by James Baldwin.

The chair opened this item for comments from the board. Ms. Plevitch of the Planning Committee shared the committee has created a sub-committee to streamline the selection process in the fall, primarily for the big three divisions that have multiple middle schools. Anyone from the board is welcome to attend one of their Thursday meetings on GoogleMeet or Zoom.

Ms. Ogburn stated one of the factors she heard from the board’s student luncheons was learning from them [*students*] the feedback process on admissions, some assumed MLWGS was inaccessible to them and that Walker couldn’t be for me. To have some of our minority students tell us they didn’t initially think they could do it... we can work on telling all students they can and should apply, it is open to them and they will be accepted from a personal level and it’s not an unreachable goal for them. This stigma is something each division can work on for anyone who can academically qualify. With proper messaging, more students should apply and make our pool of applicants more diverse and represent our true population.

Mrs. Barber added each division needs to be mindful of the preparation of the students and to let all students know when they walk in the door they can achieve access here as well as any other academic opportunities.

Mr. George Fohl of the Planning Committee mentioned in the sub-committee’s work on equity in the selection process and admissions criteria, they dug up the old 2009 study from UVA commissioned to address these same issues. Accommodations and recommendations were suggested in that study that he felt would be helpful, practicable, and applicable going forward. Recommendations were based on interviews from students who declined to attend MLWGS but some of those recommendations could still be fruitful today to recruit students from our divisions.

Mr. Fohl will forward a digital copy of the 2009 UVA study to Dr. Lowerre who will distribute to the board as most members do not have a copy of this report.

Finally, Ms. Plevitch noted that Richmond is moving forward with preparing its students at an earlier age with sixth graders on track for all to have Algebra I by eighth grade. So this prerequisite would not be a barrier for Richmond students.

D. Year-End School Advisory Report by Barry 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 an MLWGS parent for 10 years. I am also a current member of the MLWGS Foundation Board.

I am here today to provide you a 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 a 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 my 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 COVID19 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

(2) parent SAC representatives, Michael Larkin, and I served as members of the Director's Strategic Plan Committee. This Committee met multiple times throughout the school year and served as a workgroup 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.

The Chair thanked Ms. Bowers for her amazing record of giving back to the school.

E. Fall Opening for Students at MLWGS

Dear MLWGS Community, June 17th

Last week Gov. Northam and the Virginia Department of Education issued [Recover, Redesign, Restart 2020](#) guidelines as to how schools may reopen in the fall. The MLWGS Leadership Team looked at a variety of options that would best fit the needs of our students, families, and staff. As a result of these discussions, MLWGS will pursue a combination of in-person and virtual formats for reopening in the fall.

Given the possibility that we will be unable to open as we have in the past with the full student body on campus, we are focused on creating a plan that combines two approaches: one hybrid model that combines in-person and virtual learning, and a second fully virtual option. In the event that the City of Richmond, where the school is physically located, is in Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the reopening plan as outlined in [Forward Virginia](#), MLWGS would open using a fully virtual model with no on-campus instruction. If we are in Phase 3, we would open using the hybrid model. It is important to note that it is possible that we may move forward and backward between these models as the situation requires.

With the hybrid learning model, one portion of the student body would attend classes on campus for a period of time, while another portion would learn remotely. The two groups would have different days on campus to build a blended learning environment. Having fewer students on campus would make it easier to implement distancing guidelines. The format that we are currently reviewing would have some students on campus on Mondays and Tuesdays while others would be on campus Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the school would be closed to students while the campus was thoroughly cleaned.

The virtual learning model would be used if we are unable to have students on campus or if parents, guardians, or students opt for a fully virtual learning experience that parallels the “in-person” instruction happening in classrooms. This could be due to a student or family member being immunocompromised or with other medical conditions that would merit greater social isolation.

While the document from the VDOE provides guidance and flexibility, our partner school systems must ultimately decide on a reopening plan that works for them and is compliant with the guidelines. It is entirely possible that we may not be in the same phase as one of our surrounding districts. Any school district that opens will be required to submit a comprehensive instructional plan at least 15 days before the start of the new school year.

Because MLWGS plans would incorporate in-person instruction, we would also be required to submit a health mitigation plan.

As one can imagine, there are many details that are yet to be worked out, including decisions regarding athletics and extra-curricular activities. The MLWGS Administration will be at work this summer to iron all of the details out and all can expect additional announcements as plans continue to be developed in accordance with the new health and safety guidelines.

After his statement, Dr. Lowerre reminded that Maggie Walker Governor’s School is physically located within the City of Richmond which may not be in the same phase as other surrounding divisions. If Richmond is in phase 3, we are looking at a model that would allow the school to bring in about 50% of the students at a time and we are working on those details now. Half would come in on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday the school would be closed for deep cleaning, and Thursday and Friday would be for the second half of students. This model would also have minimal impact on transportation with a reduction of 50% rider volume so there may be fewer vehicles needed. Many more details are still to be developed but our families appreciated the early notice. Ideally, Richmond would be in phase 4 and everybody is back on campus but we will prepare for the alternative. The VHSL is also developing guidelines for athletics. This is the lion share of work we will be doing this summer on operations, along with the welcoming and inclusion side.

Ms. Ogburn asked if Dr. Lowerre found this approach to be the most effective model meeting the needs of students while complying with the mandates of social distancing. The director affirmed it was by using a rotation from the alphabet that meets health restrictions but we still need to figure out how to screen everyone and get them inside, along with social distancing meals in the cafeteria. Dr. Lowerre said he is hearing from the students that they need to see their friends... the social and emotional aspects of their lives have been devastated under COVID. The other piece we have to look at is the needs of the districts and we didn’t want to develop a model that would increase those needs. This model will also allow the student to still participate in a virtual capacity if needed or preferred.

So other districts are completely aware of this plan, Ms. Ogburn asked the director to share it with all of the superintendents stating it would be a great resource for them.

Mr. Wright had two points to make, 1) he understood from feedback by Dr. Jeremy Raley, the State Superintendent reported during a statewide call last Tuesday that divisions or school systems can submit their plan for reopening and they do not have to coincide to the letter with everything suggested by the Department of Education. Obviously, in different parts of the State, they are in different levels of threat from the virus. Has anyone else discussed opening flexibility and there being no need for approval from the Department of Education for division opening plans, it's almost a notification that comes with an asterisk of risk if you go a different way than the State and it may cause a problem? The point, there can be some level of tweaking as long as the Department of Education was notified and there is some uniformity. 2) we are hearing VHSL is potentially looking at flipping around the seasons as most of the spring sports are socially distanced. Dr. Lowerre had not yet heard anything on flipping sports seasons and stated it is an interesting concept. Mr. Wright added its important when looking at reopening plans that we understand there may be some flexibility for us.

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. Consent Items

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate on a roll call vote: June 2020 personnel actions, fiscal status reports of April 30, 2020, and the donations report of April 30, 2020.

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

Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools	Aye
Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools	Aye
Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools	Absent
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools	Not Available for Vote
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools	Aye

XII. Action Items

a. Assignment of Reserve Funds FY20 (Second Read)

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board statement 54 (GASB 54) establishes fund balance classifications and provides a hierarchy of spending constraints. MLWGS implemented GASB 54 beginning in FY 2011.

Under GASB 54, the Assigned fund balance represents amounts intended to be used for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority. Assigned fund balance also includes any portion of fund balance that will be incorporated into the subsequent year's budget. The governing body must take formal action that specifies to whom the delegation of authority to recommend fund balance assignments is given (i.e., the Director).

Unassigned fund balance represents resources remaining after all other classifications have been met, and that is available for any purpose.

It is estimated that on June 30, 2020, the General Fund balance will be \$1,916,548 and the Capital Improvement Fund balance will be \$0.00. I propose that by June 30, 2020, we move \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund which will bring the Capital Improvement Fund to \$500,000, leaving \$1,416,548 in the General Fund, \$460,000 of which will be assigned to benefit reserve. That will leave a balance of \$956,548 in unassigned reserve in the General Fund.

The director reported that a draft copy of the FY19 audit was recently received which came back very favorably financially; however, we are awaiting the final draft with recommendations. With his recommendation to fund capital improvements at \$500,000, the school would be able to proceed with projects such as resurfacing and repaving the parking lot and gym ceiling upgrades, and other projects that have been sitting on the sidelines.

Mr. Wright stated it's good to have current information and he supports Dr. Lowerre's recommendation. Mr. Pritchett agreed with Mr. Wright's statement.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the FY20 assignment of reserve funds was unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

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

Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools	Aye
Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools	Aye
Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools	Absent
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools	Aye
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools	Aye

The Chair mentioned it would be good to understand why the school has this level of funds with the director responding that he has yet to see drafts for FY17 and FY18, and assumes once we receive them we can figure out where that happened.

b. Textbook Adoption (Second Read)

The MLWGS textbook adoption process for implementation in 2020-2021 followed proper protocol. Recommendations are pending public comment.

The following was posted to the mlwgs website on March 3, 2020:

A public comment period will be open until April 3 for the adoption of new textbooks in the following courses: Molecular Biology, Data Analytics, and Art IV & V. Textbooks for review and accompanying comment forms will be available in the MLWGS library through the public comment period.

Descriptive textbook detail with a budget of \$100,431 was provided to the Board by Dr. Wendy Ellis.

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, textbook adoption for 2020-2021 was unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

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

Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools	Aye
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Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools	Aye
Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools	Absent
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools	Aye
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools	Aye

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Strategic Plan for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025 (First Read)

Pursuant to Policy No.: 0013, the MLWGS Regional School Board adopted the original comprehensive strategic plan on May 21, 2015. The current proposal replaces the expiring plan.

Dr. Lowerre plans a formal presentation of the strategic plan proposal to the full board in August. Today is a preview presentation.

The plan includes new statements for 1) **Vision** - Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies envisions a school that cultivates a community of independent thinkers who embrace civic responsibility, ethical leadership, and diverse world views. And 2) **Mission** - Our mission engages intellectually curious students in an inclusive environment that offers comprehensive, inter-disciplinary education enriched by local and global connectedness. The committee had a difficult time working through these two pieces because they wanted to get them right but the committee did a great job.

This plan has three goals with supporting objectives and initiatives. **Goal One:** Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School will create a welcoming and responsive environment that celebrates and reflects the diversity of the school districts we serve and fosters a sense of belonging for all. **Goal Two:** Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School will engage students with innovative curricula and responsive instruction that focuses on student-centered experiential learning. Instruction will be interdisciplinary and enriched by local and global connectedness. **Goal Three:** Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School will be a safe school with effective management of resources.

Initiatives include engaging and educating our school districts about the opportunities available. Creating an environment that provides a sense of belonging and fosters student/family engagement and attacking the barriers that have prevented it in the past. Co-developing a plan with our districts to increase enrollment of historically underserved populations, which is also a report that will be provided to the Governor’s office in October. And developing a strategy to increase the demographic diversity of our faculty and staff.

An outcome measurement instrument will be in place by August where we can measure how we are doing with these initiatives.

Normally this plan would have been approved and in place by July 1st, but we are a little behind because of the COVID-19 shutdown. The director stated we hope to count today’s preview as a first read and to get a vote from the full board in August after a formal presentation, but we await the Board’s decision on how to proceed.

Mr. Wright thanked the director for this presentation and suggested we count today’s presentation/preview as a first read so we can vote in August with the full-board.

Mr. Pritchett added ‘on behalf of the board’ he thanked Dr. Lowerre and his team along with the parents and students who participated in the process and appreciated how they all worked together on this plan to come up with a great outcome.

Dr. Lowerre suggested upon approval to add a standing board agenda item relating to outcomes or progress of this plan for at least quarterly reporting. Ms. Ogburn agreed and thought this to be a helpful suggestion. Mr. Wright added Goochland tries to tie agenda items to their strategic plan so there is not the constant need to connect to it and doesn’t allow the plan to sit on the shelf and collect dust.

Approval will be sought at the Board’s August 2020 meeting.

b. Certification of the Crisis Manual 2020-2021 (First Read)

Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section. MLWGS has developed such a plan and it describes the components of a medical emergency response plan in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The Regional School Board shall review this plan annually and has the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of §2.2-3705.2. The Superintendent (Director) shall certify in writing that review has taken place no later than August 31 of each year to the Virginia Center for School Safety VCSS.

The manual will be available for Board viewing at the August 2020 meeting. The existing Crisis Plan was originally approved by the Regional School Board on August 21, 2008. Unless otherwise noted, updates generally reflect personnel changes and vendor contact updates.

Approval will be sought at the Board’s August 2020 meeting.

c. Annual Authorization of DOE Signatures 2020-2021 (First Read)

The Director advised the Regional School Board to be aware it will be necessary to designate a signature to be utilized in the absence of the Director for the Department of Education at its August 2020 meeting.

d. Policy Update Proposals (First Read)

The following was submitted to the Regional School Board for first read and review:

Foundations

0011 Nondiscrimination *Amended*

School Board Governance

1000 School Board Powers & Duties *Amended*

1001 Conflict of Interest *Amended*

1012 Board Committees *Amended*

1016.1 Administration in Policy Absence *Amended*

- 1020 Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations *Amended*
- 1021 Quorum *Amended*
- 1026 School Board Clerk *Amended*
- 1040 School Attorney *Amended*

Administration

- 2012 Administration in Policy Absence *Amended*
- 2014 Buildings and Grounds Management and Maintenance *Amended*
- 2020 School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan *Amended*

Instruction

- 3008 Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records *Amended*

Student Services

- 4010 Substance Abuse-Student Assistance Program *Amended*
- 4050 Release of Student Data/Records *Amended*

Human Resources

- 5005 Professional Staff Probationary Terms and Continuing Contracts *Amended*
- 5006 Evaluation of Professional Staff *Amended*
- 5025 Access to Employee Social Media Accounts *Amended*
- 5030 Professional Staff Development *Amended*
- 5040 Third-Party Complaints Against Employees *Amended*
- 5050.1 Voluntary Retirement Savings Program *Amended*
- 5074 Effects of Criminal Conviction for Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect *Amended*

Community Relations

- 6003 Goals for School-Community Relations *Amended*

Finance and Operations

- 7003 Annual Budget *Amended*
- 7003.2 Financial Accounting and Reporting *Amended*
- 7005 Food Service Management *Amended*
- 7005.1 Food Sanitation Program *Amended*
- 7007 School Annual Report *Amended*
- 7015 Small Purchasing *Amended*

Student Conduct

- 8009 Student Conduct on School Buses *Amended*

Approval will be sought at the Board's August 2020 meeting.

XIV. Information Items

- Richmond Rezoning of MLWGS for Pulse Corridor
- Special Use Permit of Properties Surrounding MLWGS for 90 Condominium Dwellings

- Finance Committee Minutes, June 5, 2020

- MW's Mary Caroline Heinen is named RTD Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year
- Mary Caroline Heinen is the 2020 Lexus of Richmond Leadership Award Winner
- MW 2018-19 Yearbook receives 'Excellent' rating
- Faculty News: Samuel Ulmschneider Awarded National Fellowship

XV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Dr. Melody Hackney, Hopewell Superintendent, has been named the Virginia Superintendent of the Year.

XVI. New Business

a. Condemning Racism

With guidance from the VSBA in light of current events, the chair and director previously discussed the possibility of adopting a resolution. VSBA guidance included how to offer feedback to the public in response to their concerns. Dr. Lowerre indicated that the loudest voices he received after publishing his statement was from our alumni, with some feeling it did not go far enough in our condemnation of racism and police brutality. However, some expressed their support of the statement while others felt no response was necessary. Among the alumni, there is a group of black alums that are conducting a poll among themselves on their experiences of welcomeness at MW dating back to 1995, which responses will be useful to us as we look at how we want to move forward. Although the initial response from many of the alumni was very critical of the statement, they are still supportive and want to engage and help us understand and make the experience better for current minority students. The director welcomes their input which will be useful as fresh voices to tell us how to fix the issues.

The chair asked if as a board we want to come up with a statement, adopt the VSBA statement, or create our own? She added that Henrico developed their own statement and did not use the VSBA template and received positive feedback upon releasing it. The chair questioned if we are too late to release a statement now or do we want the strategic plan and actual action to speak to that and asked each board member for their input.

Mr. Wright stated Goochland passed the VSBA resolution but wishes they had altered it slightly. When part of the message in the protest community is that silence is violence, it would be criminal to not make a statement, even if it is late to the game and not as impactful as if done earlier. Mrs. Barber agreed with this sentiment adding any time is the right time. Mr. Pritchett agreed stating Petersburg adopted the VSBA statement at their board meeting.

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the VSBA resolution template condemning racism was unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

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

Mr. John D. Wright (Vice-Chair), Goochland County Schools	Aye
Mrs. Michelle Ogburn (Chair), Henrico County Schools	Aye
Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools	Absent
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools	Aye
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools	Aye

XVII. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On a motion by Micky Ogburn, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:37 am.

Next Meeting – Regional School Board

August 20, 2020, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190. The chair requested communication from the board on their preferences for an in-person meeting for Zoom format for this meeting.

Micky Ogburn, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk