

MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 21, 2021

9:04 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Director called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

There was no recital of the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Board members and superintendents are listed in alphabetical order by locality. New members were welcomed to the board: Mariah White-Richmond Public Schools (not in attendance).

Present:

Ms. Debbie Bailey, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. John Wright, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools
Mrs. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Linda Hyslop, **School Board**, Hopewell Public Schools
Mrs. Harwood Hall, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Mrs. Sarah Grier Barber, **School Board**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, **School Board**, Petersburg Public Schools
Mrs. Valarie Ayers, **School Board**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Daphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Merv Daughtery, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Jay McClain for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell 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
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mrs. Megan Perez, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Mr. Royce Paige, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Mariah White, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Michael ‘Max’ Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Ginger O’Neil – GS Foundation
Emily Figley - Community

V. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Election of Chair

Nomination: John Wright was nominated by Micky Ogburn. There being no other nominations from the floor; on a motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Valarie Ayers, John Wright was unanimously elected to serve as the 2021 Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. After congratulations, the Director turned the gavel over to Mr. Wright.

VII. Election of Vice-Chair

Nomination: Harwood Hall was nominated by Sarah Barber. There being no other nominations from the floor; on motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Valarie Ayers, Harwood Hall was unanimously elected to serve as the 2021 Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Ms. Hall.

VIII. Election of Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Nomination: Barbara Marshall was nominated for Board Clerk and Megan Perez was nominated for Deputy Board Clerk by the director. There being no other nominations; on motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Micky Ogburn; Barbara Marshall was unanimously elected to serve as the 2021 Clerk and Megan Perez the 2021 Deputy Clerk of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Ms. Marshall and Ms. Perez.

IX. Election of Executive Board 2021

Membership of the 2020 Executive Board is comprised of Sarah Barber, Micky Ogburn, Harwood Hall, Kenneth Pritchett, and John Wright. All 2020 members agreed to continue to serve on the 2021 Executive School Board.

Linda Hyslop made a motion to nominate and continue the same slate of Barber, Ogburn, Hall, Pritchett, and Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the slate was unanimously approved for the 2021 Executive Board.

X. The announcement of the Superintendent's Steering Committee Leadership

Per agreement among the superintendent's, Dr. Jeremy Raley will serve in 2021 as the Superintendent Steering Committee Chair [attached to the board chair].

XI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Debbie Bailey, minutes for the Executive Board meeting of November 12, 2020, were unanimously approved.

XII. Recognitions

- *None.*

XIII. Public Comments

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes.

None.

XIV. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **Amended AY21 School Operating Calendar Adjustment** - Reflects an asynchronous day on 1/27, a "reading day"/teacher workday on 1/28, and a teacher workday on 1/29.
- **Review of Budget Calendar Regulation 7003.1 Budget Calendar**

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

 - A. At least one public forum will be held before December 30 to solicit public input. (*Held December 8, 2020*)
 - B. The budget work-session date(s) will be published as part of the Regional School Board's Meeting Schedule. (*Proposed for February 18, 2021*)
 - C. The proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February.
 - D. The budget shall be adopted per applicable statutes.
 - E. At least one public hearing will be held before budget adoption. (*Proposed for March 18, 2021*)

- **Budget Town Hall December 8rd:** The Director's reported the town hall was not widely attended so there is no feedback to report to the board.
- **Community Service Requirement for the Class of 2021.** Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Class of 2021 community service hours' goal has been adjusted to 110 hours.
- **Admission Status for the Class of 2025 from the Director.** The Director reported that contrary to what was conventional wisdom, the number of applicants for admission is 1,395 students, up by approximately 150 over last year. Students are working on their essays now. March 5th is still the effective target date for mailing out acceptance letters. Dr. Lowerre added that the percentage of underserved students has also risen within this cycle.
- **Save the Date: Virtual Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, April 24th.**

Mark your calendar for the 19th annual Night of the Dragon –April 24, 2021. This special event is a whole lot of fun and provides invaluable support to our amazing Dragons.

- **Legal Representation:**

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

- **VSBA Policy Services Agreement**

MLWGS originally entered into an agreement with the VSBA effective January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2016, at a contract fee of \$1,000 per year. This agreement was renewed with the VSBA January 1, 2017 with four additional one-year terms and no change in contract pricing (2021 is year 5 of this agreement).

This agreement was renewed for one-year through 2021 with no pricing increase.

- **Student School Climate Survey**

The events of 2020 have provided leaders at Maggie Walker the opportunity to look at school practices and identify ways that we might be able to do things differently to be a more inclusive school when we re-open in person. There are currently multiple groups of stakeholders working on implementing the MLWGS Strategic Plan to improve racial climate and several initiatives are planned for when we return to in-person learning including partnering with outside organizations that specialize in diversity and inclusion. School leaders want to learn about current students' experiences and hear suggestions for activities and initiatives that will make Maggie Walker a welcoming and engaging environment for all students, particularly students of color. Students in grades 10,11, and 12 will have the opportunity to share their perspectives, experiences, and suggestions for improvement by completing an anonymous survey that will be made available in Schoology during the first week of January.

- **One Small Step from StoryCorps and the MLWGS Library.**

Wendy DeGroat is excited to share that the MLWGS Library is a partner organization with StoryCorps for the next stage of their One Small Step initiative. She has been planning with them since this fall to launch our work at MLWGS this spring. In case you haven't heard about it on NPR, this initiative provides opportunities for people with contrasting political viewpoints to have a conversation that fosters a sense of shared humanity. Rather than focusing on candidates or policy issues, these conversations are centered on people listening to each other talk about life experiences that shaped them, etc. Students who participate can earn community service hours; faculty who participate in teacher-to-teacher conversations can earn PD points. The project will begin with a series of workshops about active listening and related skills. Each pair of participants chooses the privacy setting for their audio recording (if their opinions differ, the more conservative privacy setting is selected); this includes the option for it to be archived by the Library of Congress. For more information, see the related library blog post @

<https://resourceress.wordpress.com/2021/01/05/one-small-step-coming-to-mlwgs-this-spring/>

- o MLWGS Launch: recruiting and training (February & March)
- o MLWGS Phase One Conversations (March): Student-to-student or teacher-to-teacher within MLWGS
- o MLWGS Phase Two Conversations (April): Student-to-student with partner Virginia high school and/or university
- o MLWGS Phase Three Conversations (Summer): Student-to-relative/neighbor/etc. beyond school

- **AP Scholar Awards for 2020:**

An AP Scholar is a student who receives an award from the College Board for outstanding performance on several AP exams. There are different award levels. Being an AP Scholar offers many advantages for students. AP classes offer another big perk: the opportunity to earn college credit.

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

SCHOLAR SUMMARY

Total Scholars = 290, Average Score = 4.23

Total MLWGS Students Tested = 465 on 1,254 exams

96.1% of MLWGS Students Scored 3 or Higher (SCHOOL SUMAMRY)

96.8% of the Class of 2020 Scored 3 or Higher

AP Scholars = 50	Average Score = 3.54	AP Scholar – Awarded to students who score 3 or more on at least three AP exams.
AP Scholars with Honor = 52	Average Score = 3.77	AP Scholar with Honor – Awarded to students who have averaged a minimum of 3.25 on the AP exams they take and score 3 or more on at least four of those exams.
AP Scholars with Distinction = 188	Average Score = 4.35	AP Scholar with Distinction – Awarded to students who average a

		minimum of 3.5 on all their AP exams and score 3 or more on at least five of these exams.
National AP Scholars = 30	Average Score = 4.58	National AP Scholar – Awarded to students who average at least a score of 4 in all the AP exams they take and score 4 or more in at least 8 of these exams.

Scholar Summary (Total Scholars: 290; Average Score: 4.23)

	AP Scholar	AP Scholar with Honor	AP Scholar with Distinction	National AP Scholar
Number of Scholars	50	52	188	30
Average Score	3.54	3.77	4.35	4.58

Current registrations for AP exams in 2021 listed below are before any students may choose to cancel; some seniors will, of course, cancel once they select a college that will not transfer these credits. Many students have already maxed out the allowable number of transfer credits, so it does not necessarily benefit them to spend money.

2021 Registrations (including approximately 12 non-Maggie Walker students):

Student Registrations	
Students	Enrollments
559	1,606

B. Coming Events

January 21, 2021, through February 18, 2021

Wednesday, January 20 th – Saturday, January 23 rd	ViacomCBS Inc. Productions Filming – SWAGGER , Approximately 7:00 am – 7:00 pm, Gymnasium
Thursday, January 21 st	Virtual Reorganization Meeting for the Regional School Board, 9:00 am
Friday, January 22 nd	Asynchronous School Day
	Virtual ' Be Who You Are ' for Sophomores and Juniors (30 students per session). Ms. Ebeling, School Psychologist, and Ms. Cobb, Sophomore and Junior Counselor will conduct a virtual classroom guidance opportunity for sophomore and junior students using Naviance. Naviance Family Connection, a web-based school counseling tool designed to assist students, parents, and counselors. Naviance contains several helpful advising tools that students will have the opportunity to use during their four years of high school. During January, students can participate in a

	virtual lesson using the Myers Briggs Personality Inventory and a Career Interest Inventory.
	Boys and Girls Basketball v Amelia, 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm, Home and Away Games
Monday, January 25 th – Wednesday, January 27 th	ViacomCBS Inc. Productions Filming – SWAGGER , Approximately 7:00 am – 7:00 pm, Gymnasium
Monday, January 25 th	Wrestling Match @ MLWGS, v Multiple Schools, 6:00 pm
Wednesday, January 27 th	Asynchronous School Day
	Walker Wednesday , 3:30 pm. This is a weekly virtual community service gathering . Students meet with Ms. DeGroat from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm to either transcribe historical documents or write letters/cards for residents of The Virginia Home.
Thursday, January 28 th	Reading Day for Students
	Virtual Course Registration Assembly (Time-TBD)
Friday, January 29 th	Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
	Virtual Course Registration Assembly (Time-TBD)
	Virtual ' Be Who You Are ' for Sophomores and Juniors (30 students per session). Ms. Ebeling, School Psychologist and Ms. Cobb, Sophomore and Junior Counselor will conduct a virtual classroom guidance opportunity for sophomore and junior students using Naviance. Naviance Family Connection, a web-based school counseling tool designed to assist students, parents, and counselors. Naviance contains several helpful advising tools that students will have the opportunity to use during their four years of high school. During January, students can participate in a virtual lesson using the Myers Briggs Personality Inventory and a Career Interest Inventory.
	Boys and Girls Basketball v Appomattox Governor's School, 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm, Home
Monday, February 1 st – Friday, February 5 th	National School Counseling Week
Tuesday, February 2 nd	Boys and Girls Basketball v Amelia, 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm, Home and Away Games
Wednesday, February 3 rd	Walker Wednesday , 3:30 pm. This is a weekly virtual community service gathering . Students meet with Ms. DeGroat from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm to either transcribe historical documents or write letters/cards for residents of The Virginia Home.
Thursday, February 4 th	Virtual American Math Competition, 10:00 am
	Wrestling Match at Clover Hill, 5:00 pm
Friday, February 5 th	Boys and Girls Basketball v Appomattox Governor's School, 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm, Away
Sunday, February 7 th	Virtual Mech Tech Dragons Competition (Robotics), 9:00 am
Tuesday, February 9 th	Report Cards Available
Wednesday, February 10 th	Walker Wednesday , 3:30 pm. This is a weekly virtual community service gathering . Students meet with Ms. DeGroat from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm to either transcribe historical documents or write letters/cards for residents of The Virginia Home.
Thursday, February 11 th	Student Intent to Return Forms are Due from Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors
	Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 pm
Monday, February 15 th	Student Holiday. Professional Development for Faculty.
Wednesday, February 17 th	Walker Wednesday , 3:30 pm. This is a weekly virtual community service gathering . Students meet with Ms. DeGroat from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm to either transcribe historical documents or write letters/cards for residents of The Virginia Home.
Thursday, February 18 th	Virtual Regular Meeting of the Regional School Board, 9:00 am, followed by Budget Work Session.

C. GS Foundation Impact Report by Ms. Ginger O'Neil, Executive Director

Ms. O'Neil introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the GS Foundation.

This past year was very unusual both for the school(s) and the Foundation. At the urging of our alumni, we went to an online 2019-2020 impact report that provides more options to display our many achievements.

Our pivot last summer was to move away from traditional funding programs such as travel assistance to providing needed technology for our students to continue their school participation. We also provided food assistance when needed.

The Foundation also provided quite a bit of professional development funds to our teachers wanting to learn how to better teach their content virtually.

The Class of 2020 profile was included in this report that displays some of their outstanding achievements. The thinking was to include this class since their traditional senior year activities were curtailed.

Ms. O'Neil did a quick review of fundraising and giving results. While finishing in the black, overall donations and program giving was down. Fortunately, the Foundation received PPE funding to offset some shortages. Direct fund-raising was paused in March when the school closed but picked back up in December giving the Foundation a record-breaking December 1st day of giving.

Personnel costs have decreased as the Foundation went from a 2-person shop to a 1 ½-person shop.

Endowments continue to do well as the market does well.

Our focus now is to be ready for when students return to help them. We anticipate increased student financial aid needs. We have also been funding quite a bit of classroom enhancement grants and anticipate those going up.

The chair thanked Ms. O'Neil for the presentation.

XV. Unfinished Business

A. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

The Strategic Plan report is located at the end of these minutes.

The director provided the board an update on the strategic plan specifically reviewing blue shaded areas on the matrix that indicate categories currently in progress. The one green area indicates a completed action; i.e., incentivizing the use of an online payment system by absorbing the convenience fee into the FY22 budget proposal for our families. The director found it is a tremendous help for student families to be able to pay their fees online and said, "it's money well spent."

He also commented that some areas of the plan are very difficult to work on in our current virtual environment,

XVI. Consent Items

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the following consent items were unanimously approved: personnel actions for January 2021, fiscal status reports of October 31, 2020, November 30, 2020, and December 31, 2020, including CARES Act Transactions 2020, and the donations reports of October 31, 2020, November 30, 2020, and December 31, 2020.

XVII. Action Items

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

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

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

b. Code of Conduct for Clerks (Second Read)

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

On a motion from Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Harwood Hall, the Code of Conduct for Clerks was unanimously approved.

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

No corrections were requested to the calendar proposal presented.

On a motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the 2021 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings was unanimously approved.

d. Policy Committee Membership 2021 (First Read)

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

2021 Proposed Policy Committee Members

Mr. John Wright, Regional School Board
Ms. Valarie Ayers, Regional School Board
Dr. Robert Lowerre, Director

Dr. Wendy Ellis, Associate Director
Mr. Max Smith, Assistant Director
Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
Paige Hawkins, Activities Director

On a motion from Debbie Bailey, seconded by Linda Hyslop, membership for the 2021 policy committee listed was unanimously approved.

e. Wellness Committee Membership (First Read)

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

2021 Proposed Wellness Committee Members

Paige Hawkins, Activities Director
Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
Mike Brown, Health & PE Faculty
Don Blanton, Health & PE Faculty
Pam Jones, Food Service Provider
Open, Student
Open, Student
Open, Parent
Open, Parent

The director stated filling of the parent and students positions will occur once they return to campus.

On a motion from Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, membership for the 2021 wellness committee as listed was unanimously approved.

f. Finance Committee Membership 2021 (First Read)

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

2021 Proposed Finance Committee Members

Robert Lowerre, Director
Max Smith, Assistant Director
Wendy Ellis, Associate Director
David Bortz, Technology Officer
Karen Hoover, MLWGS Business Manager
Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
Financial Officer, Richmond Public Schools

Financial Officer, Henrico Public Schools
Financial Officer, Chesterfield Public Schools
Financial Officer, Hanover Public Schools
And
Financial Officer, Powhatan Public Schools

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by Valarie Ayers, membership for the 2021 finance committee as listed was unanimously approved.

g. School Advisory Committee Membership 2021 (Second Read)

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

Per Policy 1050-SAC By-Laws: ARTICLE 1, Membership Section 1.
Composition Membership of the SAC may consist of parents, staff, and students of MLWGS, corporate and community members, alumni, higher education representatives, school administrators, and gifted program specialists. Membership should reflect the diversity of the community in terms of school district size and underrepresented minority groups. The Regional School Board (RSB) shall be notified annually of the SAC membership.

2020-2021 SAC Members

Michael Larkin, Chesterfield, PTSA, Chair
Ed Coleman faculty, Vice-Chair
Denise Rasmussen, Hanover, PTSA, Historian
Karen Townsend, Henrico, PTSA, Secretary
Rachel Gable, Richmond, PTSA
Colleen Hall, Chesterfield, PTSA
Leigh Anne Ratliff, Richmond, PTSA
Rachel Loving, faculty
Crista Hamilton, faculty
Vacant, faculty
Virginia Warren, Chesterfield Junior
Madison Kang, Chesterfield Junior
Chase Gunlicks, Chesterfield Senior
Gabriella Watson, Chesterfield Senior
Max Smith, administrator
Karen Smith-Will, director's appointee
Vacant, director's appointee
Vacant, alumni, director's appointee
Lynn Pleveich, Richmond, Planning Committee

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by Harwood Hall, membership for the 2020-2021 School Advisory Committee as listed was unanimously approved.

XVIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy and Regulation Proposal (First Read)

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following policy and regulation for Regional School Board consideration.

1010	Constitution of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School <i>Amended</i> Change is to add Dinwiddie County to the membership of MLWGS
5062-R	Regulation on Health and Dental Care Benefits <i>Amended</i> Clarifies that health and dental benefits are not available to .2, .4, .5, and .6 FTEs, but 'grandfathers' existing employees that currently fall into this category.

Approval of policy and regulation will be requested at the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Regional School Board.

b. Discussion of Options for In-Person Instruction at MLWGS

The Maggie Walker Governor's School Regional Board is tasked with voting as to when to return to an in-person learning model. Dr. Lowerre reviewed with the board snapshot information provided by the Virginia Department of Health of infection rate datapoints.

Recent survey results show 65.6% of MW students indicate they wanted to return to campus. Transportation may need to be provided for as many as 40 of these students if their home districts were unable to provide it. Staff indicated in their response, 35% would be willing to come back but the majority would prefer to teach from home. The same question was asked once one can receive both doses of the vaccine, 85% indicated they would be willing to return. Those preferring to work from home have other specific underlying medical issues.

The school is partnering with Richmond Public Schools to provide opportunities for all of its staff to receive vaccinations.

Dr. Lowerre stated there is a difference in the statement 'virtual learning' versus 'hybrid attendance.' All learning will continue virtually, what will change is the attendance component. The bottom line, half of the students that choose this model will be on campus Monday and Tuesday, half on Wednesday and Thursday, and Fridays will remain asynchronous learning. No student would be locked into a decision and should conditions change, they will be able to change to or from virtual attendance.

Teachers will be required to return to campus Monday through Thursday.

Health practices will also be adjusted and many aspects of school life will be different; ex: entry and exit procedures, lunch, classroom transitions, athletics, and classroom capacity.

Dr. Lowerre discussed the pros and cons of our learning options but highlighted that many students are struggling and have emotional and social needs too. Classroom content for most of Maggie Walker's students seems to be something they can keep up with and their attendance is good.

Recommendations:

- Do not return to In-person Learning on February 1st.
- Plan on moving to the MLWGS Hybrid Attendance Learning Model following the second round of vaccinations.
- Study data developments at the February 18th, 2021 RSB meeting to reassess and confirm the decision.
- Targeting a return on or about March 15th.
- The director is willing to work with the small number of faculty who are unable to return to the classroom this year, but not able to commit beyond this term.

c. Secretary of Education Recommendation to the General Assembly

Posted today on lis.virginia.gov, H.B 2305 is a bill to require the Board of Education to issue guidance on the governance of academic year Governor's Schools.

The language in this proposal is radically different than what we were led to believe it would be. Essentially it requires the VBOE to issue guidance to all academic year governor's schools on ways to improve diversity and ways to help underserved communities gain access. It further requires the VBOE to issue guidance to participating divisions on how to strengthen their pipelines. It will require the board to conduct programs to evaluate our diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Ms. Ogburn stated the Henrico Legislative Liaison has been following and collaborating with the VSBA on this bill. She hopes we will be able to glean insight and feedback from our liaisons.

Mr. Wright advised that he, along with Ms. Ogburn and Dr. Cashwell met with Dr. Atif Qarni [*Secretary of Education*] in mid-December, and in that meeting, he went through their thought process why they wanted to do this, with more debate as to how they wanted to do this action. The Secretary proposed this language because of the success with Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax County; however, the challenges faced by a small system versus a large one is different. Ultimately, he pointed out this proposed language is merely guidance. But we do appreciate that his office has begun the conversation for us even though it is different from what was presented, some language has softened and some is more aggressive.

Mr. Wright has also spoken to J.T. Kessler of the VSBA about local control concerns. When Mr. Kessler asked what the regional board wanted the VSBA to do, Mr. Wright replied, "I couldn't speak for the entire board, but I would raise it with all of you." Mr. Wright further suggested perhaps Ms. Kessler could make himself available at the February RSB meeting so the board could ask their questions of him.

Lastly, Mr. Wright asked Dr. Qarni at their meeting about any funding model changes anticipated for full-time governor’s schools and would any changes be dependent upon the legislation proposed, to which he replied “No.” There will be no movement on funding in this general assembly session, only in future sessions would it even be a consideration.

Dr. Lowerre added that the actions we have built into the strategic plan far exceed this legislative proposal. He feels we will achieve the right outcome regardless of where the legislation ends up.

d. New Course Proposal 2021-2022 (First Read)

“Topics in Photography” will augment the fine arts offerings available for MLWGS students. The course will allow opportunities for more students to take photography, as it will be open to 10th-12th graders; VCU currently limits our dual enrollment “Darkroom” course to juniors and seniors only. In addition, the course offers differing perspectives on photography than those currently explored in the VCU course and, as a topics course, will be flexible in its particular focus from year to year.

**MLWGS NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
For Possible Implementation 2021-2022**

Department:	Fine Arts
<hr/>	
COURSE TITLE:	Topics in Photography
<hr/>	
Prerequisite(s):	None
<hr/>	
Credit:	1 MLWGS credit
<hr/>	
Is this course:	New

Approval of the “Topics in Photography” 2021-2022 course will be requested at the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Regional School Board.

XIX. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, January 7, 2021
- MW Debate wins VCFL Sweepstakes and qualifies for State Championship
- Dragons Dominate in Math Modeling
- MW Chorus Students Selected for All-District Chorus

- MW Aquatic Dragons are 1-0 this season in swim competition

XX. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report

Dr. Raley reported with a few summary comments. He stated there was a strong superintendent presence at their morning meeting. The group talked about much of what has been discussed today in this meeting including vaccination of staff, plans for in-person learning, student transportation, a proposed tuition increase, and the over-all operating budget for Maggie Walker; all in preparation for the budget work session in February.

XXI. Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXII. Certification of Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion

- *None.*

XXIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:22 am.

Next Meeting and Budget Work Session

February 18, 2021, at 9:00 am.

John Wright, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

STRATEGIC PLAN BOARD REPORT

GOAL 1	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.	Responsible Party	Measurement	Year to begin Implementation	Cost to Budget
OBJ 1.1	MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.				
1.1.2	Develop and enhance relationships with districts, schools, administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and potential students.	Administration, Counseling, Faculty			
OBJ 1.2	MLWGS will create an environment that provides a sense of belonging and fosters student and family engagement.				
1.2.1	Examine and eliminate structural barriers that prevent students from availing themselves of all the opportunities at MLWGS.	Planning Committee, Administration, Foundation			
1.2.2	Access to wraparound services (Identify and fill gaps in student mental health and wellness programs)	School Counseling			
1.2.3	Review and reform policies and procedures that impede inclusion (e.g. mental health intake, bathroom policies, club and extra-curricular policies)	Counseling, Administration, AD, School Board			
1.2.4	Enhance communications to make sure students have knowledge of and are able to seek resources	Counseling			
1.2.5	Facilitate student input and feedback	Administration, Counseling			
1.2.6	Analyze and strengthen the student onboarding process to prepare accepted students for the MLWGS experience	Counseling			
1.2.7	Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment	Administration, External Trainers			

OBJ 1.3	MLWGS will codevelop a plan with its districts to increase enrollment of historically underserved populations.				
1.3.1	In compliance with FY 2021 Budget Item 145, C-27,I, the school will work with the partner districts to collect application and admission data to be used to support a plan to increase the percentage of historically underserved populations at MLWGS.	Dr. Lowerre			
OBJ. 1.4	MLWGS will develop a strategy to increase the demographic diversity of our faculty and staff.				
1.4.1	Examine barriers to hiring and retaining diverse faculty.	Dr. Lowerre, Dr. Williams,			
1.4.2	Strengthen professional development resources for faculty.	Dr. Ellis			
1.4.3	Develop hiring strategy.	Leadership Team			
1.4.4	Develop outreach program for recruiting teachers from multiple districts and education graduate schools.	Dr. Lowerre			
GOAL 2	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.	Responsible Party	Measurement	Year to begin Implementation	Cost to Budget
				2020-2021	
OBJ 2.1	Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.				
2.1.1	Encourage a collaborative environment for ongoing innovation of all course offerings.	Admin, Mr. Zweerink			
2.1.2	Expand dual enrollment course offerings and include courses through additional university partners.	Dr. Ellis			
2.1.3	Investigate offering courses with	Dr. Lowerre, Dr. Ellis			

	comparatively smaller student enrollment.				
2.1.4	Expand the menu of teacher-created courses that center on experiential learning, interdisciplinary and global awareness.	Dr. Ellis Department Chairs			
2.1.5	Expand student enrollment in SGC's and teacher-developed courses.	Dr. Ellis			
2.1.6	Augment opportunities for student travel and beyond-the-classroom experiences.	Leadership Team			
2.1.7	Develop a reimagined FIRC course to equip freshmen to succeed at MLWGS	Mr. Smith, Leadership Team			
OBJ 2.2	Teachers will provide engaging, student-centered instruction.				
2.2.1	Encourage teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Leadership Team, Tech Integrators			
2.2.2	Provide opportunities for teachers to participate in training and collegial discussions about enhancing student engagement, embedding community engagement, and integrating instructional technology within their curricula.	Dr. Ellis			
2.2.3	Incentivize teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Admin			
GOAL 3	MAGGIE L. WALER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL BE A SAFE SCHOOL WITH EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES.	Responsible Party	Measurement	Year to begin Implementation	Cost to Budget
OBJ 3.1	Create and fund a ten-year capital improvement plan.			2023	
3.1.1	Conduct a needs assessment of future needs for the facility and technology.	Facilities and Technology			
3.1.2	Forecast ten-year costs.	Facilities and Technology			
OBJ 3.2	Create a better experience for students, teachers, and parents through available software solutions.			2021	
3.1.3	Implemental funding mechanism separate	Mr. Smith			

	from the operating budget.				
3.2.1	Purchase of on-line teacher receipting program.	Ms. Hoover; Ms. Charity			
3.2.2	Implement field trip request and tracking software.	Mr. Smith			
3.2.3	Integrate field trip software with student information system.	Mr. Bortz			
3.2.4	Reduce student fees.	Leadership Team			
3.2.5	Incentivize the use of current on-line payment systems.	Dr. Lowerre			
OBJ 3.3	Enhance our safe school environment.			2020	
3.3.1	Implement an annual climate survey.	Dr. Lowerre			
3.3.2	Complete a full revision of the safety/crisis plan.	Mr. Smith			
3.3.3	Further develop relations with local fire, police, and EMS in order to incorporate best practices and facilitate external audits.	Mr. Parker			
3.3.4	Train faculty on cyber security and teaching digital literacy.	Library and Technology			
OBJ 3.4	Transition the fiscal expectations of MLWGS to a new fiscal agent.			2022	
3.4.1	Research options for future fiscal processing.	Mr. Smith			
3.4.2	Secure board approval for a new fiscal agent.	Dr. Lowerre			
3.4.3	Create a transition plan.	Ms. Hoover			