

## MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies  
Virtual Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY22 Budget Public Hearing  
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, March 18, 2021

9:01 a.m.

### I. Call to Order

John Wright, Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order.

### II. Moment of Silence

In a virtual format, there was no recognized moment of silence.

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

In a virtual format, there was no recital of the pledge of allegiance.

### IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

#### Present:

Ms. Debbie Bailey, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools  
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Ms. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools  
Ms. Linda Hyslop, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools  
Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools  
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools  
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools  
Ms. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Ms. Mariah White, *School Board*, Richmond 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 (late arrival)  
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 (late arrival)  
Dr. Eric Jones, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools  
Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Robert Lowerre **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

**Absent:**

Mr. Royce Paige, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
Ms. Jill Andrews, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Ms. Megan Perez, Deputy Clerk, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

**Also present:**

Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Wendy Ellis– MLWGS Administration  
Wendy DeGroat, Ryan Webb, and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff  
Ginger O'Neil – GS Foundation  
Mani Hogue – MLWGS Student  
Cyndy Weldon-Lassiter - Public

**V. Approval of Agenda**

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by John Axelle, the minutes of the regular meeting and the FY22 budget work session of February 25, 2021, were unanimously approved.

**VII. Recognitions**

On hand was senior Ghamani 'Mani' Hogue from Hopewell, the 2021 Virginia Indoor 55m Hurdles Champion, Division 3A. Mani was accompanied by her coach, Ryan Webb, MLWGS faculty, who acknowledged Mani as 'a senior captain when we very much needed her.'

Ms. Hogue discussed her years of training and concerns that COVID-19 was going to disrupt her athletic peak. She said, "I got it into my head...why do I have to let my season stop now when I could continue it on it on my own. I could work 2x harder to make sure I don't lose all the momentum I had and I could work out, run and walk, and all sorts of things to continue what I was working toward." She put all doubts out of her head to be there for herself and her teammates at States. Winning the hurdles was something she has wanted since before she became a high school student.

Mani remembered when she first applied to Maggie Walker, she knew nothing about the school, didn't even know it existed. With encouragement from her teachers, she thought she would give it a try. And while she did not believe she would be able to go [*to MLWGS at that time*] because there were many students that while not necessarily more intelligent, knew how to maneuver around the school to be able to get to things they needed or wanted to do. Mani said when she got the acceptance letter in the mail she was beyond ecstatic, wow I did it. I felt accomplished! And that feeling has continued.

The chair congratulated Mani.

## 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.

*Comments provided by Angie Heymin. Richmond parent.*

I believe the rigorous testing requirement as part of the application process cannot be eliminated. Maggie Walker was recently named one of the Best Public High Schools in the country -- #5 to be exact -- and it did not achieve this because of the faculty and staff. While they can be credited some, our incredible children who are the students at Maggie Walker are the real reason.

These amazing gifted children of ours love to learn and push each other to think and work harder than they ever have. The environment is motivating and exciting for these top-level thinkers. Every student at Maggie Walker is brilliant and is there because they are capable of thinking and learning in ways that MOST other students their age cannot or will not. It has nothing to do with color or religion or gender or economic status. It is all about their brilliant minds and their desire to push themselves and each other.

Maggie Walker is not and should never be a school that accommodates the lowest common denominator. It is a place where the top students can and indeed do excel. I want to be on record as being OPPOSED to any permanent change in the application process for Maggie Walker, particularly one that removes the test. Maggie Walker is a gifted school for gifted students, and its legacy will most certainly be destroyed if admission decisions become based on not much more than a coin toss.

For years I watched as my son struggled in school, frustrated that classmates didn't try as hard or didn't quite understand what he was saying. On Day 1 -- the first minute of Maggie Walker, really -- I witnessed (because of the virtual nature of the classes) how the students engaged with one another on a new, higher level than I had ever seen before. It was like they were speaking in code yet had just met for the first time. I know you understand what I am talking about. DO NOT RUIN Maggie Walker. Please.

And thank you for your time.

## IX. Director's Report

### A. Verbal Updates

- **Campus Reopening for Students March 15, 2021**

Students returned under a hybrid approach with in-person half the time and virtual the other half on an alpha rotation. At this starting point, overall, 38% of students have committed to returning to campus slanted more towards the freshmen and sophomores. Most Fridays will

remain asynchronous learning from home. Students who have opted to remain virtual will continue to learn remotely.

A copy of a map of the one-way traffic pattern we have implemented in the building from March 15-June 16 was provided. This was developed through consultation with the MLWGS engineering club. Arrows will be put on the floors and signage will be posted on all stairwells. This will take some getting used to but is one of many best practices for promoting social distancing and health safety in schools.

With Dragons back in the building and on the grounds, the school will require students and teachers to wear masks. Other safety strategies in place include 6 feet of distancing, improvements to the school's air filtration system, and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting. Our leadership team will perform unannounced checks to make sure proper procedures are being followed.

No problems were encountered and all in the building that included students and faculty/staff worked cooperatively to adhere to our guidelines.

With new CDC guidance and information from the Governor's Office, we have learned we will be able to hold a graduation ceremony this year and are developing plans at this time.

- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists:**

All ten semi-finalists presented to the board in October 2020 have advanced to the finalist phase of the National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are from the following home divisions: two (2) from Henrico, two (2) from Chesterfield, three (3) from Richmond, two (2) from Hanover, and one (1) from Powhatan.

- Hugh T. Feehan (Richmond)
- Kapil E. Iyer (Henrico)
- Anika Kalluri (Chesterfield)
- Emma E. Lindley (Hanover)
- Tejas A. Muthusamy (Henrico)
- Kiera E. O'Flynn (Richmond)
- Caroline E. Rucker (Powhatan)
- Stamate T. Theofanos (Richmond)
- Ryland L. Wilson (Hanover)
- Ken M. Zhang (Chesterfield)

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program by taking preliminary SAT /National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests (PSAT/NMSQT®) – a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

- **AP Test to be Administered in 2021.** These are the AP order numbers before students start to cancel exams. We are way up from last year (we have about 30-35 students coming from other schools/home school to take one or more exams with us; last year was about 15-20).

Information will be available in the coming days and weeks about exact exam dates, times, and formats. All students will have the option to test in-person at MLWGS, but digital at-home testing will also be available.

The director stated he also expects the testing number to drop when students find out if their college of choice accepts the exam.

## Program Summary

Year	Courses	AP Students	Exams
2020/21	26	559	1,609
2019/20	26	502	1,268

- March is Youth Art and Music Month**, Youth Art and Music Month helps to raise awareness of the importance of Fine Arts in education. This year, Maggie Walker Governor’s School celebrated with an online student art and music extravaganza **Thursday, March 4th at 6:30 pm**. Beautiful student artwork was on display by all our visual art students through a website gallery and slideshow, while our talented musicians will perform throughout the evening. This event was open to everyone to celebrate Youth Art and Music Month on Zoom through our event website <https://maggiewalkerarts.weebly.com/yamm21>.

Ms. Ayers stated she watched the MW youth art program online and it was amazing and wonderfully done by Mr. Jeff Hall (Department Chair).

- In closing, the director offered information about initiatives and experiences for inbound students of the upcoming freshmen class [2025]. Last night, the school conducted a webinar for accepted and waitlisted students that replaced the ‘shadow days’ offered in years past. In April, the school will conduct a different kind of Freshman registration [virtual] from the one that is normally held on campus and we hope to give each of them the best experience we can with more time for planning and coordination of the activity.

### B. Coming Events

Thursday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Virtual</b>
Friday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Asynchronous School Day
Monday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Thursday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	In-person campus instruction for students in a reduced capacity
Friday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Asynchronous School Day
Friday, March 26 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	GSMUN Virtual Conference
Monday, March 29 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday, April 1 <sup>st</sup>	In-person campus instruction for students in a reduced capacity
Thursday, April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Finance Committee Meeting, 8:30 am, Virtual

Friday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Asynchronous School Day
Monday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break for Students
Friday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed for Staff
Monday, April 12 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	In-person campus instruction for students in a reduced capacity
Monday, April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Sports Begin
Thursday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Location TBD</b>

Mr. Max Smith was invited to say a few words regarding the GSMUN Conference on March 26 & 27. He said, in its twenty-three-year history this is the first all-virtual conference the club has put on. As such, it drew a much larger range of school participants. The charity selected to benefit from fundraising efforts is the local Comfort Zone Camp with a goal of \$5,000 from this event. There will be over 200 students in attendance at the conference.

## X. Unfinished Business

### A. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

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

The director stated his team has started taking a good look at barriers that prevent students from taking advantage of the opportunities offered at MW. The School Advisory Committee (SAC) conducted a survey in January and will be presenting their data to the director soon. The survey asks for feedback on the welcome level of students on campus as well experiences they may have had that were not positive seeking areas we could work on. He added we had met with the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities having an online meeting with our implementation team right after the March board meeting. We are coming up with ideas for next year in terms of outreach and engagement of faculty. And we are also working on professional development opportunities next year as well to find things the faculty can do to make the environment more inclusive.

Budget-wise we are working with partner districts on application and admissions data. We have raw data for the Class of 2025 that shows some improvement already. Last year approximately 18% of applicants were black with 4% accepted black students. With the Class of 2025, the number of applicants was static at 18-20% but the accepted rate went to 12%. Hispanic students accepted rate was approximately 8% and Asian students 21%. The only area of disparity remaining is white/black students in that white students were still accepted at a higher rate than black students.

The director stressed numbers he is quoting are aggregate because he has not received a breakdown by districts. He does not yet know if these changes are a trend or specific to a district. He added, ‘under no circumstances, should anybody perceive anything we are doing as a lowering of standards or expectations for this school.’ It is my job [*as director*] to maintain the excellence we have enjoyed and to grow that excellence through the expansion of programs, more opportunities for students, and more partnerships with universities. We will continue to be an outstanding institution and he wanted to go on record saying that.

The director added, his team has met with VCU representatives and they are offering us an expansion of opportunities, but we are limited by staffing at this time to take advantage. However, there is an expansion of teacher-created courses for seniors next year.

We are also looking at our facilities and technology for improvements. Upgrades are upcoming to bandwidth.

Finally, we have incentivized the online payment system by covering associated usage costs in the proposed budget.

At the August school board meeting, the director plans a comprehensive one-year update for the board and public review of the strategic plan.

## **XI. Consent Items**

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following consent items were unanimously approved: March personnel actions, fiscal status reports and CARES Act Transactions of February 28, 2021, and the donations report of February 28, 2021.

## **XII. Action Items**

- a. None

## **XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

### **a. FY22 Operating Budget Proposal (First Read)**

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent's Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY2022.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on February 25, 2021.

A public hearing on this proposal is scheduled during Section XIX of this meeting. Public advertising for this hearing occurred via the RTD Meetings and Events Classified section, Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and the [MLWGS website](#). The public was also invited to comment via internet form [*none received*].

The Director stated this iteration of the budget proposal has been updated to include a 5% pay increase that aligns with the recently adopted Virginia State budget, and not the previously reviewed 2%. Otherwise, the document is similar to that presented in February.

Personnel costs overall were reduced with a few retirements along with expense decreases in other areas. Also, the FY21 budget was adopted with a 2% raise that was never passed along due to unknown COVID operating concerns. Additionally, the State is providing more funding of \$146,000. The bottom line is we were able to give all staff 5% increases with very minimal budget impact.

Contingency reserves are also increased with this proposal that will help with anticipated repairs to air-conditioner units and parking lot repaving.

This budget proposal represents a balanced budget for FY22.

The director recommends the Regional School Board review the proposed FY22 school operating budget. A vote for approval will be requested at the Board's April 15, 2021 meeting.

**b. FY22 School Operating Calendar Proposal (First Read)**

The School Advisory Committee has completed the attached draft calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The calendar largely aligns with those of our top four participating districts except for student half days. Additional religious observances have been incorporated to promote an inclusive school community. Our start date will continue to be post-Labor Day for the 2021-2022 school year.

The director indicated he is anticipating the 2022-2023 calendar will be presented to the board with a pre-Labor Day start.

The director recommends that members of the Regional School Board review the attached calendar proposal. Approval will be requested at the Board's April 15, 2021 meeting.

**c. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts for 2021-2022 (First 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 FY2022 Operating Budget scheduled for approval April 15, 2021.

The director recommends that the Regional School Board consider granting this authorization providing the authority to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for FY22.

**d. FY22 Student Fees (First Read)**

The proposed student fee schedule has been updated from FY22 with current projected costs for all subject areas.

Changes for FY22 are minor. Fees that were adjusted are largely due to inflationary increases on 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 decreased from \$25 to \$20 per credit hour.

The director recommends that members of the Regional School Board review the attached student fee proposal. Approval will be requested at the Board's April 15, 2021 meeting.



**e. Policy and Procedure Proposal (First Read)**

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following policies and procedures for Regional School Board consideration.

Policy #	Name	New/Amended	Actions
	<b>Foundations</b>		
	<b>School Board Governance</b>		
<a href="#"><u>1000</u></a>	School Board Powers and Duties	Amended	Minor grammatical edit plus cross-reference update
<a href="#"><u>1018</u></a>	Agenda Preparation and Dissemination	Amended	Minor grammar edit
<a href="#"><u>1024/6030</u></a>	Public Participation at School Board Meetings	Amended	Adds a new statement regarding extra speaking time only after everyone wanting to has had time to present
<a href="#"><u>1036</u></a>	Relations with Private Schools	NEW	Standard VSBA policy.
	<b>Administration</b>		
<a href="#"><u>2045</u></a>	Service Animals in Public Schools	Amended	Minor grammatical edit and cross-reference updates.
<a href="#"><u>2051</u></a>	Media Relations	Amended	Minor grammatical edit and cross-reference update.
	<b>Instruction</b>		
<a href="#"><u>3000.2</u></a>	Pledge of Allegiance	NEW	Standard policy.
<a href="#"><u>3003.6</u></a>	Teaching About Controversial Issues	Amended	Minor grammatical edit and cross-reference update.
<a href="#"><u>3014</u></a>	Family Life Education	Amended	Updates parental review rights
<a href="#"><u>3036/6001</u></a>	Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers	Amended	Minor grammatical edits. Cross-reference update.
	<b>Student Services</b>		
<a href="#"><u>4005.1</u></a>	Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity	NEW	Standard VSBA policy needed for cross-reference in 4006
<a href="#"><u>4006</u></a>	Field Trips	NEW	Standard VSBA policy replaces existing policy which is a procedure. This

			policy creates a report to the board on field trips. The existing policy will be retained and retitled as a procedure.
<u>4006.P</u>	Field Trip Procedures	<b>CHANGE from policy to procedure</b>	Retitled and reclassified as procedure.
<u>4008</u>	Suicide Prevention	Amended	The update requires we develop procedures for the notification of parents in accordance with VBOE guidelines.
<u>4008.P</u>	Suicide Prevention Procedure for the Contact of Parents	<b>NEW</b>	Taken from the VDOE Guide on Suicide Prevention, link listed on the procedure.
<u>4031</u>	Fund Raising and Solicitation	Amended	Grammatical edits and updates to cross-references
<u>4044</u>	Parental Rights and Responsibilities	<b>NEW</b>	Standard VSBA policy
	<b>Human Resources</b>		
<u>5001</u>	Personnel Records	Amended	Minor edit plus cross-reference update
<u>5006.1</u>	Evaluation of Support Staff	Amended	Minor edits, legal references updated along with a cross-reference.
<u>5016.1</u>	Tutoring for Pay	Amended	Deletes a legal reference and adds a cross-reference.
<u>5017</u>	Staff Salary Schedules	Amended	Minor edit
<u>5028</u>	Staff Participation in Political Activities	<b>NEW</b>	Standard policy.
<u>5060</u>	Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force	Amended	Policy language updated.
<u>5062</u>	Staff Fringe Benefits	Amended	Title change and minor grammar edits
<u>5070</u>	Family and Medical Leave	Amended	Many grammatical edits, mostly to address gender. A

			couple of language inserts that speak to government documents. Legal and cross-reference update. All attachments updated including their links.
<a href="#"><u>5101</u></a>	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members	Amended	Adds a designee. Cross-reference updates.
	<b>Community Relations</b>		
<a href="#"><u>6001/3036</u></a>	Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers	Amended	Minor grammatical edits. Cross-reference update.
<a href="#"><u>6005</u></a>	Relations with Law Enforcement	Amended	Minor grammatical edits. Cross-reference update.
<a href="#"><u>6006</u></a>	Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Information	Amended and Retitled Policy	Big update with a good amount of new content. Reflects amendment to VA Code.
<a href="#"><u>6007</u></a>	Violent Sex Offenders on School Property	DELETED	The substance of policy incorporated into 6006
<a href="#"><u>6011</u></a>	School Visitors	Amended	Changes to who visitors report to with that are on the registry along with cross-references.
<a href="#"><u>6015</u></a>	Public Conduct on School Property	Amended	Minor grammatical edits. Legal and cross-reference updates.
<a href="#"><u>6030/1024</u></a>	Public Participation at School Board Meetings	Amended	Adds chair is responsible for the orderly conduct of meetings
	<b>Finance &amp; Operations</b>		
<a href="#"><u>7014.1</u></a>	Purchasing Procedures	Amended	Minor grammar edit plus cross-reference update
	<b>Student Conduct</b>		
<a href="#"><u>8030</u></a>	Gang Activity or Association	Amended	Minor grammatical edits plus legal references update.

			Deleted one cross-reference.
<u>8090.P</u>	Student Suspension/Expulsion	<b>CHANGE from policy to procedure</b>	Regulation deleted/VSVBA JGD/JGE

The director recommends the Regional School Board review the policy and procedure proposals submitted that have been vetted by the Policy Steering Committee. Approval will be sought at the next full Board meeting, April 15, 2021.

**XIV. Information Items**

- Finance Committee Minutes, March 7, 2019
- Introducing Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse

**XV. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report**

Dr. Raley stated six school divisions were represented this morning at the Superintendent’s Steering Committee meeting along with Dr. Lowerre. The committee discussed many of the items on today’s board agenda except for what the board is about to discuss in a closed session. Otherwise, there are no additional updates.

**XVI. Closed Meeting**

The Chair announced the item for the closed session:

Do I hear a motion to enter into a Closed Session in accordance with Sections (§) 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under the following enumerated subsection, the following items:

**Subsection 1:** Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the School Board. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter which involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the School Board.

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the Regional School Board unanimously approved moving into closed session. The video recorder was paused at this point.

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here of members affirming moving into closed session:

Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools	Absent
Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools	Yes

Mr. John D. Wright, Goochland County Schools	Yes
Mr. John Axselle, Hanover County Schools	Yes
Ms. Michelle Ogburn, Henrico County Schools	Yes
Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools	Yes
Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools	Yes
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools	Yes
Ms. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools	Yes
Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools	Absent
Ms. Mariah White, City of Richmond Schools	Yes

After the closed session, the public was invited back into the meeting.

## **XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting**

The chair opened the session and read the certification of the closed session:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Regional School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i-one) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and (ii-two) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. Any member of the Regional School Board or committee who believes that there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place.

The Chair asked if there were any statements or concerns from board members. Being none, a motion was requested for closed session certification.

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by John Axselle, the Regional School Board unanimously approved closed session certification.

The Regional School Board roll-call vote is recorded here of members affirming closed session certification:

Mr. Royce Paige, Charles City County Schools	Absent
Ms. Debbie Bailey, Chesterfield County Schools	Yes
Mr. John D. Wright, Goochland County Schools	Yes
Mr. John Axselle, Hanover County Schools	Yes
Ms. Michelle Ogburn, Henrico County Schools	Yes
Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hopewell Public Schools	Yes
Ms. Harwood Hall, King and Queen Schools	Yes
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, New Kent County Schools	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, City of Petersburg Schools	Yes
Ms. Valarie Ayers, Powhatan County Schools	Yes
Ms. Jill Andrews, Prince George County Schools	Absent
Ms. Mariah White, City of Richmond Schools	Yes

There were no personnel matters discussed in the closed session that required board action.

## **XVIII. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

None.

## **XIX. Public Hearing for the FY22 Operating Budget Proposal**

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent's Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent's Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY2022.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on February 25, 2021.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School presents this public hearing on its 2021-2022 budget. In place of comments represented in the live forum, the Regional School Board will also accept online public comment until March 17, 2021.

**DISCLAIMER: Pending the Governor's Signature of the State budget.**

*Comments Received Online:* None

No additional information was presented during this portion of the meeting that was not discussed under Item XIII.a.

## **XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Linda Hyslop, this meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:08 am.

### **Next Meeting**

April 15, 2021, at 9:00 am.

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John Wright, Chair

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Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

## MLWGS 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS/OBJECTIVES/ACTION STEPS

DATE: March 4, 2021

Blue Text = Updates

Green = Completed

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
				2020	
<b>OBJ 1.1</b>	<b>MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.</b>				
1.1.2	<b>Develop and enhance relationships with districts, schools, administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and potential students.</b>	Administration, Counseling, Faculty			
<b>OBJ 1.2</b>	<b>MLWGS will create an environment that provides a sense of belonging and fosters student and family engagement.</b>				
1.2.1	<b>Examine and eliminate structural barriers that prevent students from availing themselves of all the opportunities at MLWGS.</b>	Planning Committee, Administration, Foundation			
1.2.2	<b>Access to wraparound services (Identify and fill gaps in student mental health and wellness programs)</b>	School Counseling			
1.2.3	<b>Review and reform policies and procedures that impede inclusion (e.g. mental health intake, bathroom policies, club, and extra-curricular policies)</b>	Counseling, Administration, AD, School Board			
1.2.4	<b>Enhance communications to make sure students have knowledge of and are able to seek resources</b>	Counseling			
1.2.5	<b>Facilitate student input and feedback</b>	Administration, Counseling			
1.2.6	<b>Analyze and strengthen the student onboarding process to prepare accepted students for the MLWGS experience</b>	Counseling			

1.2.7	Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment	Administration, External Trainers			
<b>OBJ 1.3</b>	<b>MLWGS will codevelop a plan with its districts to increase enrollment of historically underserved populations.</b>				
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			
<b>OBJ. 1.4</b>	<b>MLWGS will develop a strategy to increase the demographic diversity of our faculty and staff.</b>				
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			
<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>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.</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Year to begin Implementation</b>	<b>Cost to Budget</b>
<b>OBJ 2.1</b>	<b>Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.</b>			2020-2021	
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	Dr. Ellis			



	additional university partners.				
2.1.3	Investigate offering courses with comparatively smaller student enrollment.	Dr. Lowerre, Dr. Ellis			
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			
<b>OBJ 2.2</b>	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			
<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>MAGGIE L. WALER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL BE A SAFE SCHOOL WITH EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES.</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Year to begin Implementation</b>	<b>Cost to Budget</b>
<b>OBJ 3.1</b>	<b>Create and fund a ten-year capital improvement plan.</b>			<b>2023</b>	
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			
<b>OBJ 3.2</b>	<b>Create a better experience for students, teachers, and parents</b>			<b>2021</b>	

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