

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies School Advisory Council

Minutes from SAC meeting on February 8, 2022

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m. by Chair, Michael Larkin

Members Present: Michael Larkin, Ed Coleman, Karen Townsend, Jill Blondin, Rachel Loving, Rachel Gable, Virginia Warren, Leigh Anne Ratcliff, Lisa Williams, Lynn Pleveic, Karen Smith-Will, Kyleen Terrana, Julie Solomon, Audrey Paulson. Sean Fang, Madison Kang, and Joy Cobb.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- The agenda for today's meeting was approved.
- Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Strategic Plan Implementation

Ed Coleman spoke about the work of the strategic plan implementation team (SPIT), identifying areas where SAC committee work aligns with elements of the strategic plan (2021-2025). He is serving as a liaison between SAC, the administration, and SPIT.

- Objectives 1 and 3 of GOAL 1 are supported by work of two SAC committees: Cultural and Student Engagement and MLWGS Strategic Marketing Plan.
- GOAL 2 may have overlap with Policy and Curriculum, although the group's current focus is specifically on addressing class weighting for GPAs.
- GOAL 3 is assumed to be mostly outside of SAC's purview, however Rachel G. brought up school climate surveying and Leigh Anne highlighted financial barriers to student participation in Fall Festival as examples of GOAL 3-related issues which SAC addressed last year. Rachel L. suggested that consolidating the various processes for fee waivers could be addressed. Dr. Williams added that once students apply for free lunch services, the MLWGS administration continues to refer to that list to provide ongoing support in other areas.

PTSA Report

Karen T. attended a virtual meeting of the PTSA on February 7 and stated that it was an ordinary business meeting. Because both SAC and PTSA have been meeting virtually for so long, there is concern for both organizations regarding recruiting of leadership for next school year.

Committee Activity Reports

Nominations and By-Laws – No report. Work will commence later in the spring with recruitment of new parent, teacher, and student representatives. Michael mentioned that Director appointments have

been underutilized in recent years, so the administration should begin thinking about them earlier in the process.

Policy and Curriculum – Madison reported that the group decided to survey colleges about perceptions of course tiers (honors, dual enrollment/uni, AP), and also survey students about how pressured they feel to select classes based on course weighting. They plan to review tiers offered in the current course catalog.

Cultural and Student Engagement – Sean reported that this group has been working on Black History activities to occur throughout the month of February. Examples include art activities, a scavenger hunt, guest speakers, an open diversity dialog, and a panel of past Maggie Walker students.

MLWGS Strategic Marketing Plan – Madison reported this group has been meeting together with the Prospective Students Early Engagement group. Michael stated that merging of these groups was also discussed last year, and he will call for just one report out of a combined committee from here forward.

Prospective Students Early Engagement – Kyleen reported the group met last month and decided to focus on outreach to middle school guidance counselors. They would like to do a promotional video that will be easily accessible for all families and schools. There is some overlap with Wendy DeGroat and the guidance department's efforts in student recruitment. Madison mentioned that current students might be able to help with outreach and provide testimonials.

Announcements and Closure

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8th. Due to Spring Break international travel, the April meeting will be moved one week later than normal. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 a.m.