

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

Minutes from SAC meeting on March 8, 2022

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:37 a.m. by Chair, Michael Larkin

Members Present: Michael Larkin, Ed Coleman, Karen Townsend, Jill Blondin, Rachel Gable, Virginia Warren, Lisa Williams, Kyleen Terrana, Julie Solomon, Audrey Paulson. Sean Fang, Madison Kang, and Lynn Pleveic.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

PTSA Report

Karen T. attended a virtual meeting of the PTSA on March 7 and stated that it was an ordinary business meeting with discussion of all the activities that come up in the spring. The next PTSA meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13th. This will be a special in-person gathering at a brewery, with the goal of recruiting new members for leadership roles in the next school year.

Committee Activity Reports

Nominations and By-Laws – Karen T. stated that this subcommittee will have a roster of parent nominees for SAC to vote on at the April meeting. Teacher and student representatives will be selected ahead of the May meeting. Officers for next year should also be voted on in the May meeting.

Policy and Curriculum – No report. Madison stated that the committee has not met since last month.

Cultural and Student Engagement – Sean reported that the committee met once since the last SAC meeting, with the main focus of finalizing Black History Month activities. They are documenting the activities and their recommendations for future school years.

Strategic Marketing/Engagement Plan – Virginia stated that many of the committee members have been meeting quite a bit. They plan to survey students to find out how they heard about Maggie Walker when they were considering high schools. The group is also interested in creating a promotional video. Michael suggested that the group storyboard the video and run the draft by the administration. The group has secured a number of photos from Mr. Albert and intends to create a slideshow-style montage.

Dr. Williams said that the administration created a video for incoming freshmen during the early COVID period. Michael White, as a subcommittee of admin leadership team, is working on outreach as well.

International Language Fair, chess competitions, and LEGO robotics were identified as events where a QR code could be shared to get prospective students to watch the video and begin considering Maggie Walker.

Dr. Williams suggested considering “The Walker Way” as a marketing opportunity and that its pillars could be worked into video production.

New Business

Rachel G. brought up the topic of the 2022/23 course catalog and asked whether upper-level course requirements have changed. She is concerned that high grades and/or prerequisites will prevent students from taking certain classes. Dr. Williams asked to learn about the specific courses of concern and consult with the relevant department heads before providing a response.

Ed Coleman asked if students and parents are aware that they can override the recommendations of the course catalog and teacher recommendations. The motivation for prerequisites is success for the student, but Ed suggested that struggle can be valuable too. Growth is the goal.

Rachel suggested that there may be a gap in how the policy is conveyed on paper versus the reality of the flexibility that students actually have in selecting upper-level courses. The Policy and Curriculum subcommittee will take on this discussion topic.

Announcements and Closure

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19th. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 a.m.