

MINUTES

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

Thursday, June 16, 2022

9:04 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

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Executive School Board and visitors stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Mr. John Wright, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Ms. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools (*late arrival*)
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Jeremy Raley, *Superintendent*, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Robert Lowerre *Director*, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Ms. Barbara Marshall, *Clerk*, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Not Required to Attend:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Ms. Debbie Bailey, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Krishan Agrawal, *School Board*, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Mary Benjamin, *School Board*, Dinwiddie County Public Schools
Mr. John Axselle, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Linda Hyslop, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Cecil Smith, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Mariah White, *School Board*, Richmond Public Schools
Dr. Dalphine Joppy, *Superintendent*, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Merv Daugherty, *Superintendent*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. William Sroufe, *Superintendent*, Colonial Heights Public Schools

Dr. Kari Weston, *Superintendent*, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, *Superintendent*, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, *Superintendent*, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Julius Hamlin, *Acting Superintendent*, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, *Superintendent*, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, *Superintendent*, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, *Superintendent*, New Kent 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

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams and Dr. Max Smith – Administration
Wendy DeGroat, David Bortz, Harold Houghton, and Karl Zweerink – MLWGS Staff
Michael Larken, SAC Chair
Late arrivals: Jim Holdren (Track Coach), Kristen Macklin (Language Department teacher), Alan Watts (senior-Richmond), and Christian Walsh (junior-Chesterfield).

V.a Approval for Board Member(s) to participate in this Meeting Remotely

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

- A. The Regional School Board may conduct any meeting wherein the public business is discussed or transacted through electronic communication means if 1) on or before the day of a meeting, a member of the Regional School Board notifies the chair that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance or that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter; and **2) the Regional School Board approves the member's participation by a majority vote of the members present at the primary or central meeting location.**

No action was needed, and there were no requests for remote participation.

V.b Approval of Agenda

The director requested to amend the agenda by postponing item XI.d – Annual Student Wellness Report to the Board until the August meeting.

On a motion by Micky Ogburn to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Harwood Hall, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 19, 2022, were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- **Retirees Harold Houghton (Science) and Karl Zweerink (Counseling Department Chair) with a combined 51 years of service to MLWGS. Each retiree was presented with a Maggie Walker Governor's School medal.**

With great fondness and sincere gratitude for their many years of service, we say goodbye to the following two faculty members in June. Mr. Harold Houghton and Mr. Karl Zweerink are retiring after long and stellar careers at Maggie Walker Governor's School.

Harold Houghton taught Physics at Maggie Walker since it was the Governor's School (GSGIS), in August 1993. Back in those days, Governor's School occupied 1/2 of Richmond's Thomas Jefferson HS.

Karl Zweerink has been a valuable member of the MLWGS family for twenty-two years, first serving as a class counselor followed by the Counseling Department Chair in August 2005. Karl's work involved meeting and assisting every student that has come through this school during his tenure, that's approximately 4,000 of them! He has served as a caring mentor to all, extending to student and staff families, births and deaths, day/night, and even many years after graduation too. Everyone who has entered these halls has benefited from his guidance.

Mr. Houghton addressed the board expressing to them what a wonderful school, students, and colleagues this is to teach at with so much growth and joy to celebrate. Mr. Zweerink echoed what Harold said and thanked the board for their support through the years.

The chair congratulated Harold and Karl for the impact they both had on thousands of lives.

- **Jim Holdren – Milestone 60-Years Coaching. Mr. Holdren was presented with a Maggie Walker Governor's School medal.**

Sixty years of coaching. Five National Coach of the Year awards. Thirty-two years at the Governor's School. Sixty-two All-American. Forty-two team state titles. 115 state champions, and 11 national champs. By the fall of 2021, Jim Holdren had accumulated several lifetimes' worth of honors and achievements. So what kept him coming to work every day to coach state champs and novices alike? "I care about the kids a lot," he said. "That's the real joy to me: the relationship with the kids."

After running cross country and track at Thomas Jefferson H.S., the native Richmonder competed at William & Mary, where he also coached teammates and spent his senior year as interim coach of the cross-country team, leading the squad to state and conference titles and the national championship.

The math/chemistry double major pored over technical journals to grasp the science of running. "I was a student of the sport," he said. In 1964 he returned to TJ to teach chemistry and math and to coach the cross country and track squads, which merged with the Governor's School in 1991. In 2001, having declined offers to coach college teams, he moved to the new Maggie Walker. "I had a knack for teaching," he said, "and the real coaching is at the high school level."

Amidst the trophies and honors, Coach Holdren thrived most on relationships, and his runners seemed to agree. “The moments where Coach pulled me aside to say ‘Good job!’ meant the most to me,” said Avery Crumlish, Senior. “He never said anything he didn’t mean, so I knew the sentiment was genuine.”

Said Coach Holdren, “The medium is track and field, but the job is knowing kids and caring about them. The key to being a good coach is loving your kids for who they are, and not how fast they can run.”

Credit: 2022 MLWGS Yearbook

Coach Holdren thanked the board for this recognition stating he hopes to keep going for many more years. He also spoke about the student-athletes under his tutelage who discover they can do much more than they realized they could do. He also recognized the support of his wife over his career.

- **2022 VHSL Girls Tennis State Champions – MLWGS (recognized in absentia due to final exams).** The team is coached by faculty member Hillary Gawne.
 - Ava Blasch
 - Kirby Westerfield
 - Katie Hollister
 - Naadia Rashid
 - Sowmya Narra
 - Anna Newell
 - Sivani Nemani
 - Aashka Shah
 - Waverly Tang
 - Sruthi Vegunta
 - Anusha Algappan
 - Anna Kim
 - Akshaya Ramasamy
 - Martina Ribera

- **2022 VHSL Boys Tennis State Champions – MLWGS.** Alan Watts ('22-Richmond) and Christian Walsh ('23-Chesterfield) were on hand for recognition on behalf of the team.

The boys’ team won their match against Wilson Memorial HS this morning at Virginia Tech to take the 2022 VHSL State Championship.

The team is coached by faculty member Jennifer Todd.

- Ronit Jain
- Alan Watts
- Michael Kish
- Andrew Park
- Akshay Pappu
- Carson Wang

- Christian Walsh
- Ryan Marks
- Alex Percey
- Ethan Choe
- Rowan Mueller
- Davis Voelzke

The players spoke of the team's collaboration and growth this year, and about their appreciation and gratitude to coaches Todd and TQ (Tom Quesenberry).

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.

Submitted online by Rachel Savoy Caldwell

To the Regional School Board,

We noticed from the approved budget that there were no funds allotted to establish a faculty position focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion at Maggie Walker. We understand, of course, that the Regional School Board had to prioritize its spending, especially in an environment where the Department of Education has taken a clear stance against DEI learning.

At the same time, we encourage you to consider other ways to continue your DEI work and develop potential leadership at Maggie Walker for the future. For example, you could incentivize a teacher with an interest in DEI to lead in this area by offering them some release time or a stipend. If students are interested in forming a club focused on DEI or antiracist issues, perhaps there is a teacher who could serve as a club advisor and receive compensation for this extra role. In the same way that teachers are compensated for additional tasks such as coaching, this could present a great opportunity for a teacher who is an emerging leader. A simple and affordable idea like this would also build off of Dr. Williams's work to focus faculty professional development on cultural competency, which has been so well received by faculty, and her work to teach students the values essential to DEI through the Walker Way speaker series, which has been popular for students.

We hope next year to also see a return to recorded meetings so that we can continue to support your important work. In the meantime, we hope you have a restful summer break.

Best regards, Rachel Savoy Caldwell, Class of 2006

The director spoke to Ms. Caldwell's requests stating he is exploring both suggestions and believes upon finalization of the State budget we may be able to boost our employment with a DEI professional. He added, that after observing the set-up at CodeRVA for broadcasting he will collaborate with our technology director to see if it could be done here too allowing for broadcasts from this room.

IX. Consent Items

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following consent agenda items were unanimously approved as a slate on a voice vote: June personnel actions, fiscal status reports for May 31, 2022, and the donation report of May 31, 2022.

X. Action Items

a. *FY22 Assignment of Reserve Funds (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 FY2011.

Under GASB 54, *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 the 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 are available for any purpose.

It is estimated that on June 30, 2022, the General Fund balance will be \$1,802,141.10 and the Capital Improvement Fund balance will be \$0.00. I propose that by June 30, 2022, we move \$200,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund which will bring the Capital Improvement Fund to \$200,000.00, leaving \$1,602,141.10 in the General Fund, \$754,000.00 of which will be assigned to benefit reserve. That will leave a balance of \$848,141.10 in unassigned reserve in the General Fund.

The director shared aspects of his conversation with Cherry Bekeart LLP (Auditors) which they reported that three audits are ready (from his recollection they are FY17, FY18, and FY19) but also state they have received nothing from the City regarding FY20 and FY21 to audit.

At this point in the meeting, the board went into a lengthy discussion regarding the school's fiscal agent. Ms. Ogburn noted that when there are this many audits out-of-date, it is time to explore other options. She asked, 'should we form an exploratory committee to investigate which county is willing to take this over as fiscal agent?' Do we start by going to our boards and superintendents to ask if they would consider this responsibility? The director questioned if it was possible to be our own fiscal agent. The chair agreed and also noted the number of years without an audit but is there a measurement of the cost of taking this on versus handing the work off to a division. We are not a priority for the City and we are not getting anywhere.

Ms. Ogburn stated at the end of the day, the board has a fiduciary responsibility to do this right, and that's not what's happening. She requested to be provided options to consider at the board's August meeting. Ms. Ogburn offered her help to develop a plan going forward.

In conclusion of this matter, the chair stated his belief that the numbers presented today are as accurate as we can get them at this time without audits.

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by Micky Ogburn, FY22 assignment of reserve funds was unanimously approved.

XI. Director's Report

a. Verbal Update

- **The Class of 2022 had 181 Graduates**

As a class, they have performed a total of **29,677.75** community service hours. This is an average of approximately **164 hours per student**.

One student, Abhay Duggirala (Henrico), co-founder of the school's Consolidated Community Club (CCC), reported 562.5 hours of community service.

As a class, they earned a minimum of **\$15,284,770** (\$15.3 million) in scholarship offers as of June 2nd, and that number continues to grow.

The average **Grade Point Average was 4.266** (preliminary numbers).

The average **SAT score was 1401*** and **ACT is 35*** (preliminary numbers).

They are going to 63 different colleges, 115 are staying in-state, 59 are going out of state, 3 are attending college outside the United States, and one will study in Moldova for one year on a NSLI-Y Scholarship. 3 students are planning to take a gap year.

15 were National Merit Finalists and 47 more received Commendations in the National Merit Program. 3 were offered National Merit Scholarships.

2 were Presidential Scholar candidates.

In total, the Class of 2022 was recognized with 407 different honors, awards, and scholarships!

- **Nine MW seniors sign a National Letter of Intent**

The **National Letter of Intent (NLI)** is a document used to indicate a student athlete's commitment to participating in [National Collegiate Athletic Association](#) (NCAA) colleges and universities in the United States. The NCAA Eligibility Center manages the daily operations of the NLI program while the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) provides governance oversight of the program. Starting in 1964 with seven conferences and eight independent institutions, the program now includes 676 [Division I](#) and [II](#) participating institutions.

Congratulations to the following seniors who are signing their NLI with the following great colleges and universities on June 9th in the forum at 5 pm. MLWGS Athletic Director, Paige Hawkins, was on-hand for the ceremony and celebration.

- **Ross Bazzichi** (Chesterfield), William and Mary, Track and Field
 - **Reed Bonkovsky** (Richmond), Springfield College, Men's Volleyball
 - **Matteo Deluca** (Henrico), Randolph Macon College, Men's Volleyball
 - **Catherine Garrison** (Hanover), William and Mary, Cross Country
 - **Callie Karjane** (Chesterfield), MIT, Women's Crew
 - **R.J. May** (Powhatan), University of Virginia, Wrestling
 - **Bryce Mortimer** (Richmond), Old Dominion University, Swimming
 - **Keelly Thomas** (Chesterfield), Longwood University, Women's Soccer
 - **Dominant Turner** (Henrico), St. Mary's College of Maryland, Baseball
- **MWHS alumnus Bob Dandridge - NBA Hall of Fame Inductee Celebration at MLWGS on June 11th**

On Saturday, June 11th @ 5 pm, a ceremony was held at MLWGS to recognize basketball legend and *Maggie Walker High School alumnus*, Bob Dandridge. During Mr. Dandridge's professional basketball career, he played for the Milwaukee Bucks and the Washington Wizards, was a four-time NBA All-Star, a two-time NBA champion, and was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021.

June 11th has also been designated Bob Dandridge Day in Richmond. Mr. Dandridge is also a 2022 honoree of the "Strong Men and Women in Virginia History" program, sponsored by Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia.

From Basketball-Reference.com:

"Nicknamed the "Greyhound", Dandridge was a four-time NBA All-Star and two-time NBA champion, who scored 15,530 points in his career. He was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021."

- **Summer Building Activities and Projects.** Cleaning projects will have a quick turnaround due to the shortened summer (and with a new vendor). Department Chairs will return on August 3rd and teachers on August 11th.
- **College Boot Camp for seniors will be held August 8-10.**
- **Freshmen Booster Camp:** The Freshman Booster Camp is now called the "**Walker Way Welcome Day**" and has been organized by Dr. Williams, Ed Coleman, and Joy Cobb. It will occur on Monday, August 15th, the day before the official freshman orientation, and will be open to all freshmen. Some of the activities will include an intro to the Walker Way pillars with skits, scavenger hunts, icebreakers, card games, and other opportunities for incoming freshmen to engage and interact.

b. Coming Events May 16th – August 18th, 2022

Thursday, June 16 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
	PTSA Sponsored Baccalaureate (Location: Temple Beth El)
Friday, June 17 th	Graduation for the Class of 2022 at the Altria Theatre, 3 pm
Monday, June 20 th	Holiday – Closed
Tuesday, June 21 st	Last Day for Teachers
Monday, June 27 th	Last Day for Department Chairs
Monday, June 27 th – Thursday, August 5 th	Summer Operating Schedule Begins, 7:30 am – 5: 30 pm, M-Thur., Closed each Friday
Monday, July 4 th	Holiday – Closed
Monday, July 11 th – Thursday, July 21 st	Cadence Theater Summer Camp, 8:00 am – 3:15 pm, Black Box, Commons, + 2 classrooms
Wednesday, July 13 th	New Resident Testing, 9:00 am, Room 153
Wednesday, August 3 rd	First Day for Department Chairs
Sunday, August 7 th	Cultural Indian Dance Recital, 4:00 pm, Auditorium
Monday, August 8 th	Normal Operating Schedule Resumes
Monday, August 8 th – Wednesday, August 10 th	College Boot Camp for Rising Seniors, two sessions daily, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
Wednesday, August 10 th	New Teacher Orientation, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Room 153
Thursday, August 11 th	First Day for Teachers
Tuesday, August 16 th	Freshmen Orientation, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Thursday, August 18 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Location TBD

c. Annual Field Trip Report to the Board for AY22

Presented for board information required by policy 4006.

Field Trip Report 2021-2022

Date:	Organization:	Sponsor:	Location:	Purpose:	~Student Cost
9/30/2021	American Dream Seminar	J. Piersol	Va Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA)	To study visual arts	None
10/2/2021	Quiz Bowl Team	A. Rotche	Charlottesville, VA	Competition	None
10/3/2021	Photography class	G.Stinnett	Humpback Rock, Blue Ridge VA	To photograph on location	\$25
11/4/2021	We The People	S. Ulmschneider	Montpelier, VA	Viewing the birthplace of the Constitution	\$50
11/12-11/13/2021	Orchestra	A. Barnes	E.C. Glass HS, Lynchburg, VA	Senior Regional Orchestra Audition	None
10/4/21 - 4/29/22	Spanish Conversation Class	B. Jenkins	AJCooper Episcopal School	Teach Spanish to 8th graders every Wednesday	None
10/28/2021	American Dream Seminar	J. Piersol	VMFA	To study visual arts	None
11/30/2021	American Dream Seminar	J. Piersol	VMFA	To study visual arts	None
12/3/2021	Fine Arts Dept.	J. Hall; G. Stinnett,	Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC	To study arts and architecture of DC	\$31
12/3/2021	Polarpalooza Seminar	L. Reed	Museum of Natural History, DC	To study history & science artifacts	\$31
12/16/2021	American Dream Seminar	J. Piersol	VMFA	to study visual arts	None
12/17/2021	We The People	S. Ulmschneider	Randolph Macon	Competition	None
2/5/2022	We The People	S. Ulmschneider	UVA Darden School	Competition	None
2/24/2022	Photography class	G.Stinnett	Westover Plantation & Va Beach	To photograph landscaping & gardens	\$40
3/4/2022	Orchestra	A. Barnes	Glen Allen HS	District orchestra Assessment	None
3/19/2022	Band classes	N. Merilatt	Glen Allen HS	District band assessment	None
3/22/2022	Seminar Age of Total War	C. Anderson	Washington, DC Museums	To study WWI&II and Holocaust	\$30
3/25/2022	Art classes	D. Utterback	VMFA	To study visual arts	None
4/23-4/25/22	We The People	S. Ulmschneider	MLWGS	Virtual	None

Note: Field trips in the 2021-2022 academic year were somewhat curtailed due to guidance from the state and the DOE. Risk of community spread remained high at times, making in-person experiences difficult to facilitate. A number of our trips this year were conducted virtually to adapt to the evolving health circumstances in the state and country.

d. *Annual Student Wellness Report to the Board for AY22 (Policy 4075) – postponed until the August meeting per board vote during Agenda Approval, Item V.b.*

e. *GS Foundation FY23 Enhancement Grant Information*

Presented for board information annually.

FY 23 Foundation Enhancement Grant Request (Approved 6/8/22)	
TEACHERS	
GRADUATE COURSEWORK	\$ 10,000.00
CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS	\$ 15,000.00
STUDENTS	
INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT	\$ 25,000.00
ACADEMIC CLUBS AND TEAMS	\$ 25,000.00
STUDENT AID	\$ 25,000.00
WE THE PEOPLE	\$ 20,000.00
EVOLUTION OF LONDON SEMINAR	\$ 5,000.00
BASEBALL SEMINAR	\$ 6,000.00
MATH MODELING (SABR Analytics)	\$ 17,900.00
THE BLACK EXPERIENCE (LONDON, PARIS, MADRID)	\$15,000.00
AP COMP GOV TRAVEL	\$ 16,000.00
TOTALS	\$ 179,900.00

f. *School Advisory Council (SAC) Year-End Report to the RSB with Michael Larkin, Chair*

It is my pleasure to provide this report on the activities of the Maggie Walker Governor’s School for Government & International Studies (MLWGS) School Advisory Council (SAC) for the 2021 – 2022 school year. My name is Michael Larkin, and I am the Chairperson of the SAC. I am the parent of a 2021 graduate of Maggie Walker and am completing a three-year appointment to the School Advisory Council. It has been an honor to serve on the SAC and as a contributing member of the Strategic Plan Committee in 2019-2020. I am here today to provide a summary of SAC’s work during this past school year.

16 representatives served on SAC this past year, as follows:

- 6- Parents (representing various school districts)
- 4- Students
- 3- Faculty and Staff
- 1- Director’s appointee
- 1- Gifted Coordinator
- 1- Administrative Representative

This year continued many of the themes from last year: A focus on the school culture and student engagement with recognition that we are still working within a period of unprecedented change. We have remained cognizant of this in providing flexibility for SAC members for time commitments and access to participation. Despite many distractions, the work of the SAC continues to provide momentum to achieve components of the Strategic Plan.

The work of the SAC falls into three categories

- Ad-hoc advisory services
- Standing committees
- Special committees

Ad-Hoc Advisory Services:

SAC did not receive any requests for Ad-hoc advisory services this year. The SAC remains available to the Regional School Board for the development of insights or recommendations in the future.

Standing Committees:

Nomination & By-Laws Committee

The Nominations and Bylaws Committee accepted applications, conducted interviews, and held elections to replace the various outgoing SAC members according to guidelines set forth in the Bylaws. The committee was co-chaired by Karen Townsend and Ed Coleman, with additional support from Rachel Gable and Leigh Anne Ratliff. Interest in serving on SAC remains high among students and parents at the school, with many more qualified candidates applying than openings available. Interviews were conducted with six students and seven parent finalists, leading to the eventual selection of two students and three parents to join SAC in 2022-2023. Two teachers will also be joining in 2022-2023 as new members of the SAC.

I recommend that this committee review the Bylaws of the School Advisory Council in the next year to propose “housekeeping”- type updates to committee scope and membership recommendations.

Policy & Handbook Review and Revisions

This standing committee spent this year gathering information to inform potential recommendations for GPA weighting of honors classes. This team conducted surveys to assess both student impressions and college admissions professionals’ impressions of how Maggie Walker’s GPA weighting policy may impact student demand for these courses and college admissions. Survey results were not available at the time this report was created, and the work of this committee will continue in the fall.

Special Committees:

The SAC started out with several Special Committees. However, there was enough overlap in scope to combine them into a single special committee.

Student Culture and Engagement:

This year, the Student Culture and Engagement Subcommittee had the goals of eliminating barriers to student participation at the school as well as working to create an even more accepting and inclusive environment at Maggie Walker by organizing and facilitating more accessible activities and events. One of the most significant accomplishments that this subcommittee drove

was the creation of a more encompassing recognition of Black History Month at Maggie Walker, which included many events hosted by a wide variety of clubs and organizations. Activities this committee helped facilitate included art and writing contests and a newly-introduced scavenger hunt that took place throughout the month of February.

Additionally, the committee worked to promote guest speakers at Maggie Walker and assisted in promoting an open dialogue day for students of Maggie Walker with the goal of facilitating cultural understanding. Alumni from the prior Maggie Walker High School were also invited to share their experiences as students of the-then segregated school, providing current students a better understanding of the heritage and history of this building and the students who walked the halls before them.

In the coming year, this committee would like to address student feedback related to the desire for an anonymous feedback process for students to escalate opportunities or issues without fear of negative consequences. Additionally, promoting more student engagement by reducing or eliminating barriers of participation, such as transportation, fees, and scheduling remains an objective for further investigation and recommendations.

Black History Month events will also be revised to increase student engagement and interaction. Other cultural recognitions will take place next year, including Arab American, Desi American, and Native American cultures, as well as Women's History Month. Finally, a revision of standard student club policies to promote inclusion and access will be considered next year. The Student Culture and Engagement Subcommittee has made significant progress in improving student life at MLWGS for the past two years, and this primarily student-lead committee continues to be a beacon for positive change at Maggie Walker.

Looking forward and in conclusion, I'm very excited to introduce our Executive Board for 2022-2023, which was elected by the School Advisory Council last Tuesday. Rachel Gable, a parent from Richmond will serve as Chair and was the Historian on the Executive Board last year; Rachel Loving, faculty member will be Vice-Chair; Lee Anne Ratliff, a parent representative from Richmond will serve as Secretary; and Dr. Lisa Williams is our newly elected Historian and will engage student members of the SAC to drive the outreach capabilities for the Council. The incoming board has a wealth of experience both with Maggie Walker and the functioning of the School Advisory Council. I believe that there could not be a better-qualified team to lead the SAC as we move forward in a less disruptive status quo. We have developed a culture of collaboration, inclusion, and respect over the last several years, and I look forward to seeing an even greater impact of the School Advisory Council in the future.

I'd also like to express my gratitude for the work of the outgoing members of the School Advisory Council and the Executive Board, particularly Karen Townsend who served as Secretary for the past two years and was a catalyst for efficiency on the SAC. I'd also like to acknowledge Ed Coleman, who served as Vice-Chairperson on this year's Executive Board and will be continuing as a Director's Appointee in the upcoming year. Ed has been an invaluable asset for SAC and for the Executive Board, serving as a liaison between the SAC, the Regional School Board, and the Strategic Planning Implementation Team. Lastly, I want to recognize the outgoing student representatives, Virginia Warren and Madison Kang. These two outstanding individuals went beyond simple participation, leading committees, and taking ownership of the objectives of student culture and engagement for the past two years. After three years on the School Advisory

Council, I'm still amazed and humbled by the capabilities and contributions of the students who step up to serve on SAC.

I would also like to close by encouraging this board to increasingly leverage the School Advisory Council for input and recommendations. Its power comes from the diversity of experiences of the SAC members and the ownership those members feel about Maggie Walker Governor's School's Mission and Vision.

On behalf of the entire SAC membership, thank you for the opportunity to serve MLWGS and its constituents.

The chair thanked Mr. Larkin for his thorough report and his service to MLWGS.

Ms. Barber asked how the board could better leverage the work of SAC. The director provided a past example being the survey work they conduct on school climate. The director added he anticipates sending a project to them this year on the issue of weighting credits between AP, dual enrollments, university-level courses, and credits for teacher-created classes that are every bit as rigorous as others. The students tend to shy away from creative courses because of this issue. He would be seeking SAC to make a recommendation down the road.

Ms. Barber asked if we should consider giving SAC a standing agenda item so the board could have more direct contact with them. The director responded that probably quarterly or semi-annual contact would be better as there may be months they won't have much to report.

Mr. Larkin stated the committee does have a representative to serve as a liaison to the board and it might be good for them to be more visible and provide reports of what is going on. He recommends whenever there is an issue where we would seek feedback from stakeholders, given the smallness of this committee and its representation from the divisions it is a good starting point and minimizes any blind spots.

The chair agreed the board would benefit from being closer to the work of SAC with increased interaction.

Mr. Pritchett thanked Mr. Larkin for putting the sub-committee together that worked on student culture engagement and how it helped the students of Petersburg that did not feel they were being recognized as students of color at that time. So, to have the recognition activities of black history month this year was appreciated. Mr. Larkin commended the student leaders and their parents who worked on this committee. He added, as with the work of other committees, their work was impressive; they didn't just show up to check boxes but pushed back to make changes.

NEXT, the board accepted an out-of-agenda order request to allow Ms. Macklin, the German teacher, to return to class:

XIII.e International Travel Proposal for Germany, June 2023 (*First Read*)

**SPONSOR: KRISTEN MACKLIN
GERMANY, JUNE 11-JUNE 28, 2023 (17 days)**

Brief description/overview of this trip:

The exchange trip is sponsored by the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), which is part of Germany's foreign cultural and education policy. The program is mainly funded by the German Foreign Ministry but also receives funding from the U.S. Department of State. The program is administered jointly by the Goethe-Institut (New York), GAPP, and PAD (Bonn). GAPP exchanges are set up as school-to-school exchanges with the following goals (source: GAPP Guidelines for Implementation):

- The establishment of a long-lasting interest in the partner country and deepening of the relations between Germany and the USA
- Promotion of German language studies at high schools in the USA
- Expanding students' and teachers' knowledge of the partner country
- Intercultural encounters of participants
- Acquisition and improvement of proficiency in the target language
- Continuing education for exchange coordinators

The maximum number of students = 20.

The number of chaperones TBD.

Estimate per Student Cost: \$2,000 (approximately)

During the follow-up discussion, Ms. Barber granted there is a benefit to the student to be able to stay with a host family on an international trip.

Dr. Raley added he understood there were some challenges this past spring with international travel (*school board-approved group trips*) where individuals became stuck overseas for several days. He offered to work with Dr. Lowerre on revisions to the school's travel policy that will speak to this issue for future trips. Dr. Lowerre suggested we work to propose a protocol for how long we expect a chaperone to stay overseas with a child that cannot get back into the country. However, he acknowledged any changes we make now would probably not impact this proposal, but we need to protect our teachers to shift responsibility back to the parent at some point on these trips.

Ms. Macklin left the meeting.

Ms. Ogburn asked if we could waive the first read and approve this trip proposal request. The chair noted Ms. Macklin remarked during her presentation that airline tickets would not be available for purchase until the end of July and the board would not be able to approve her request until August meaning she may lose the opportunity to obtain the best pricing possible given escalating ticket costs.

On a motion to waive the first read of this trip proposal to Germany 2023 by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Sarah Barber, this motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

On a motion to approve this trip proposal to Germany 2023 by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Harwood Hall, the trip proposal was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Ms. Barber left the meeting.

XII. Unfinished Business

b. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

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

The director stated his update report is minimal but the August update will be comprehensive and will be presented to the full board.

He noted the vast number of items on the plan are underway.

XIII. Items for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Annual Authorization of DOE Signatures 2021-2022 (*First Read*)

The Director advises 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 2022

Authorization for this annual action will be requested at the board's August 2022 meeting.

b. Annual Certification of the MLWGS Crisis Manual 2022-2023 (*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 the 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 2021 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 2022 meeting.

c. 2022-2023 Student Handbook (*First Read*)

Updates to the student handbook will be proved in August and changes highlighted in the document. The handbook is currently under construction for AY23.

Approval will be sought at the Board's August 2022 meeting.

d. Health and Dental Benefit Rates 2022-2023 (*First Read*)

Renewal rates are typically updated in August. The Regional School Board will be asked to review and approve new rates at their August meeting.

Open enrollment for employees is scheduled for September. Detailed information, as well as group meetings describing the benefit plans, will be available to our employees to assist them in making an informed decision.

The new plan year begins October 1, 2022.

*No school-paid subsidy is provided for retirees who contribute 100% premium.

Approval for new health and dental premium rates will be sought at the Board's August 2022 meeting.

XIV. Information

- Finance Committee Minutes June 2, 2022 - *no written report available (road closures that day prevented members from attending this meeting as all participated from their cell phones in cars)*
- MW Junior Wins 2nd Place in the 7th District Congressional Art Contest
- Prom 2022
- Making College Lead to a Career Senior Assembly
- Walker Way Forum May 18
- Polarpalooza Seminar Travel to Ohio State University
- Baseball Seminar Travels to Cooperstown, NY
- RTD Article: MLWGS Success at the American Baseball Research Diamond Dollar Case Conference
- MW Junior Qualifies to Compete in the USA Physics Competition
- MW Robotics (Mech Tech Team) Judged Trophy Class by VHSL
- MW Quiz Bowl Team Results at High School National Championship, Senior Wins Rising Star Award
- MW Film Club Takes 2nd Place in VHSL Film Festival Competition
- Walker Boys & Girls Tennis VHSL Region 3B Champions
- Girls Track - Regional Champion/State Runner-up
- Boys Track - Regional Champions/State Runner-up

XV. New Business

None.

XVI. Announcements

None.

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Micky Ogburn, this meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 10:23 am.

The next scheduled meeting is the Regional School Board, on August 18, 2022.

John Wright, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

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

DATE: June 16, 2022

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	
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	We are establishing relationships with local administrators through outreach.		
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	SAC is working on this.		
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	Bathroom policies have been addressed. The school psychologist position is being increased to full-time.		
1.2.4	Enhance communications to make sure students have knowledge of and are able to seek resources	Counseling	School Psychologist has sent out multiple messages regarding mental health resources as well as holding parent training sessions		

1.2.5	Facilitate student input and feedback	Administration, Counseling	Surveys completed by SAC and VSCS		
1.2.6	Analyze and strengthen the student onboarding process to prepare accepted students for the MLWGS experience	Counseling	Freshmen Orientation is being studied as well as the process for registering for classes. Piloting Dragon Dialogues.		
1.2.7	Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment	Administration, External Trainers	Cultural Competency PD has been introduced.		
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	We have been working with districts to improve access for underserved minorities. Significant improvement has been made this year. RSB approved removal of Achievement Test as part of admissions process.		
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,	Recruitment sub-committee has been created.		
1.4.2	Strengthen professional development resources for faculty.	Dr. Williams, Dr. Lowerre, Mr. Smith	Currently reviewing PD proposals for 21-22 including outside support.		
1.4.3	Develop hiring strategy.	Leadership Team	We have actively targeted HBCUs and other colleges with information about employment openings.		
1.4.4	Develop outreach program for recruiting teachers from multiple	Dr. Lowerre	We have actively targeted HBCUs		

	districts and education graduate schools.		and other colleges with information about employment openings.		
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	New classes have been offered and recommended for future years		
2.1.2	Expand dual enrollment course offerings and include courses through additional university partners.	Dr. Lowerre	Meetings with VCU are ongoing		
2.1.3	Investigate offering courses with comparatively smaller student enrollment.	Admin and School counseling	We allowed classes to "make" this year with lower enrollments.		
2.1.4	Expand the menu of teacher-created courses that center on experiential learning, interdisciplinary and global awareness.	Admin and Department Chairs	New Seminar courses are being offered		
2.1.5	Expand student enrollment in SGC's and teacher-developed courses.	Dr. Lowerre	New Courses are being taken to the Planning Committee and the RSB.		
2.1.6	Augment opportunities for student travel and beyond-the-classroom experiences.	Leadership Team	A partnership with a French school is being discussed.		
2.1.7	Develop a reimagined FIRC course to equip freshmen to succeed at MLWGS	Dr. Lowerre and Culture Sub-Committee	A sub-committee is being formed to review FIRC and re-imagine the freshman experience.		
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.	Admin			
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	Measure-ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	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	Project is underway		
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 from the operating budget.	Mr. Smith			
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	Working to automate forms		
3.2.3	Integrate field trip software with student information system.	Mr. Bortz			
3.2.4	Reduce student fees.	Leadership Team	We have reduced fees where we could, but many of the fees are simply pass-through accounts.		
3.2.5	Incentivize the use of current on-line payment systems.	Dr. Lowerre	Budgeted and Completed.		
OBJ 3.3	Enhance our safe school environment.			2020	
3.3.1	Implement an annual climate survey.	Dr. Lowerre	Participation in the Virginia School Climate Survey. Jan 2022		

3.3.2	Complete a full revision of the safety/crisis plan.	Mr. Smith	Completed Fall 2021		
3.3.3	Further develop relations with local fire, police, and EMS in order to incorporate best practices and facilitate external audits.	Mr. Jordan	Completed Fall 2021		
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	Discussions have begun		
3.4.3	Create a transition plan.	Ms. Hoover			