

MINUTES

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

Thursday, August 18, 2022

9:02 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Vice-Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. Martha Harris, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools

Ms. Debbie Bailey, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Mr. Bob May, *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. 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

Mr. Cecil Smith, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools

Ms. Dawn King 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

Ms. Holly Coy for Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools

Dr. Jay McClain for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools

Dr. Julius Hamlin, **Interim Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools

Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Dr. Krishan Agrawal, **School Board**, Colonial Heights Public Schools

Ms. Mary Benjamin, School Board, Dinwiddie Public Schools

Mr. John Wright, School Board, Goochland County Public Schools

Ms. Harwood Hall, **School Board**, King & Queen Public

Ms. Mariah White, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. William Sroufe, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools

Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools

Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams and Dr. Max Smith – MLWGS Administration

Wendy DeGroat, – MLWGS Staff

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

On a motion by Cecil Smith, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Cecil Smith, the minutes of the executive meeting of June 16, 2022, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

None.

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.

None.

IX. Consent Items

On a motion by Sarah Barber to approve consent items as a slate, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the following items were unanimously approved on a voice vote: personnel actions, fiscal status reports for June and July 2022, the donations report for June and July 2022, and disposal of obsolete equipment.

X. Action Items

a. Annual Authorization of DOE Signatures 2022-2023 – Second Read

The director recommended authorization for Dr. Michael Smith to be the necessary designee signature utilized in the absence of the Director for the Virginia Department of Education through August 31, 2023.

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Cecil Smith, VDOE signature authorization for Dr. Michael Smith in the absence of the Director was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

b. Certification of the 2022-2023 Crisis Manual – Second Read

On a motion by Cecil Smith, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Regional School Board unanimously approved updates to the adopted MLWGS Crisis Plan for certification to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) by August 31, 2022.

The director acknowledged the work of the Maggie Walker Safety Director who he cited as having done an amazing job of updating and enhancing school security.

c. 2022-2023 Student Handbook – Second Read

The director requested approval for updates to the following sections of the Student Handbook as listed below.

- Updates on School Board membership, transportation contacts, and planning committee membership (pp.6-8)
- Revisions to the calendar section to align to a pre-Labor Day start (pp.8-9)

- Stronger language regarding students leaving campus without authorization (p.72)

On a motion from Micky Ogburn, seconded by Linda Hyslop, the 2022-2023 Student Handbook was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

d. **Health and Dental Contracts 2022-2023**

Technical assistance was provided by Scott Eastman, Faison Group, a benefits consulting firm.

Maggie Walker currently offers the following fully-insured healthcare options from Anthem Insurance: one PPO (Keycare 30 1000/20%/4500) and two HMO's (HK POS OA 25/20%/4500, and HK POS OA 25 500/20%/4000) for employees and retirees*. Anthem **Vision and Dental are offered for employees and retirees.** * The health care renewal proposed by Anthem would incur an 8% increase. This is above budget projections but below market trends. Costs for health insurance are rising due to medical inflation and outpatient Covid care. The three products proposed remain the same for health care. Anthem Vision and Dental rates have **remained flat**. Staff is pleased with the health, vision, & dental plan so we plan to renew with Anthem Health, Vision & Dental.

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.

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by Martha Harris, health, vision, and dental rate renewals were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **2021-2022 Final academic recap from the MW website:**

OVERVIEW

- Public high school for high-ability students (768 in AY23).
- Pupil/teacher ratio is 13:1.
- Regional school serving 14 school districts and families in the Richmond, Virginia region.
- Ranked #4 of over 19,000 schools in the Best Public High Schools in America for 2022 by Niche.com.
- Ranked #59 by Newsweek of the Top 500 STEM Schools for 2020.
- Highly competitive admissions.
- Exemplary community involvement in PTSA, Foundation, School Advisory Council, and Booster Groups.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- A rigorous academic program prepares students for admission to first-choice colleges and universities.
- Ten international languages are offered, and students must study at least two.
- Twenty-four Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered **1,231 assessments administered in 2021-2022 to 471 students with 97.03% achieving scores of 3 or higher.**
- In 2021-2022, **415 enrollments in 7 dual enrollment classes** earned students **2,093 hours of college credit** from Virginia Commonwealth University staff members.
- Each senior completes a Mentorship/Seminar as a capstone course that adds relevance to their learning.
- Community service is valued, and 140 hours (minimum) is required for graduation.
- 100% SOL pass rate in every area.

THE CLASS OF 2022

- 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 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!

- **Summer Upgrades to the Track Paid by the Athletic Boosters**

Improvements to the MLWGS track were provided by the athletic boosters including a new sidewalk and the installation of five new sets of bleachers that contain backing and new fencing. The cost of this project that was provided and paid for by the boosters was \$20,000.

- **Activities for Opening**

- We will welcome 761 students out of 762 slots (*numbers from 8-8-22*), including 194 freshmen from 14 school districts.
- New Teacher Orientation 8-10
- All Teachers Return 8-11
- Freshmen Orientation 8-16
- Professional Development 8-12 and 8-17
- Instruction begins 8-22 in-person

- Back to School Night, Thursday 9-8

- **Change of Business Insurance Carrier August 1, 2022**

MLWGS has transitioned all non-medical insurance coverage to VACorp as of August 1. This includes liability, educators' legal, worker's compensation, cyber, vehicle, and umbrella insurance. The school had been with a variety of carriers over the last two decades through our broker, Gibrall Insurance Agency Inc. Although the school was satisfied with Gibrall's performance, rising premiums in the market were the drivers for exploring a shared risk model over stand-alone coverage. Currently, nine of our fourteen divisions are clients with VACorp. The move to VACorp will save the school over \$30K on 2022-2023 renewals.

- **Middle School Information Visits Begin Shortly.**

- Participating divisions are beginning to schedule information sessions for their students
- Virtual sessions are available to the divisions, but in-person is also an option
- Middle School Counselor Day coming in September or October

- **New: Walker Way Welcome Day for Freshmen, Monday, August 15**

Revisiting our school branding, **“The Walker Way.”** You may be wondering, what exactly does this mean, and how it is different? Well, it's not really different—it's just a heightened sense of awareness about how we, individually and collectively, are able to bring the vibrant and multi-faceted culture of MLWGS to life.

The four pillars of **The Walker Way** are **courage, compassion, community, and collaboration**—all alliterative “C” words. We are using these four pillars to welcome incoming freshmen and to introduce them to the uniqueness of the school's mission. The framework of The Walker Way is based on the life and legacy of our school's namesake, Maggie L. Walker, trailblazer and the first African American woman bank president, used her resources and influence to promote equality. She demonstrated **courage** and **compassion** to inspire **collaboration** that led to a stronger community. We are using the four pillars of The Walker Way to provide both information and encouragement to freshmen as they begin navigating their path and exploring myriad academic and social opportunities.

Courage “The Walker Way” means demonstrating fortitude, persistence, and integrity when confronting challenges.

Compassion “The Walker Way” means possessing a sense of empathy for the plight of others and a willingness to serve in order to improve the circumstances of others.

Community “The Walker Way” means understanding and accepting differences, but also acknowledging and celebrating the connectedness of the human experience.

Collaboration “The Walker Way” means harmoniously working together and using critical thinking skills to achieve a common goal.

- **MLWGS Ranked #4 Best Public High Schools in the US by Niche 2022**

Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology in Fairfax ranked #5!



Maggie Walker Governor's School Rankings

Niche rankings are based on rigorous analysis of data and reviews. [Read more about how we calculate our rankings >](#)

[f](#) [t](#)

National

 <p>Best Magnet High Schools in America #3 of 884</p>	 <p>Best Public High Schools in America #4 of 19,984</p>	 <p>Best College Prep Public High Schools in America #17 of 17,219</p>
 <p>Best Public High School Teachers in America #39 of 19,722</p>	 <p>Best High Schools for STEM in America #101 of 8,246</p>	

Virginia



Best Public High Schools in Virginia
#1 of 328



Best Public High School Teachers in Virginia
#1 of 326



Best Magnet High Schools in Virginia
#1 of 13



Best College Prep Public High Schools in Virginia
#2 of 320



Best High Schools for STEM in Virginia
#3 of 255



Best High Schools for Athletes in Virginia
#74 of 536

Richmond Area



Best College Prep Public High Schools in Richmond Area
#1 of 46



Best Public High Schools in Richmond Area
#1 of 46



Best Public High School Teachers in Richmond Area
#1 of 46



Best High Schools for STEM in Richmond Area
#1 of 29



Best High Schools for Athletes in Richmond Area
#13 of 78

B. Coming Events

August 18, 2022, through September 15, 2022

Thursday, August 18 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
Thursday, August 18 th – Friday, August 19 th	Teacher Workday
Monday, August 22 nd	First Day of School with Student Classes on Campus
Tuesday, August 23 rd – Wednesday, August 24 th	The Class of 2026 Parent Welcome Sponsored by the GS Foundation, 7 – 8:30 pm, Libbie Mill Clubhouse
Friday, September 2 nd	Holiday – School Closed
Monday, September 5 th	Holiday – School Closed
Thursday, September 9 th	Back-to-School Night, 6:30 pm
Monday, September 12 th	Underclasses and Staff Portraits with LifeTouch
Tuesday, September 13 th	Underclasses and Staff Portraits with LifeTouch
Thursday, September 15 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153

C. AY23 Operating Calendar Updates

The following changes have been made that did not impact operating days:

- Change in summer hours to align with the website calendar for the first week of August
- Change in information forums from 3 nights to 1 (11/9) per Dr. Lowerre, virtual format instead of in-person
- Change in new student registration per the director and athletic director from 4/18 to 4/19
- Change in SOL testing window per David Bortz, 4/24-4/27 & 5/15-5/18
- Change in graduation date from 6/2 to 5/26 per the graduation coordinator, alteration of exam schedule to match

D. Meet the Promoted and New Faculty Members at MLWGS

The board was presented with biographies of promoted staff that included: **Dan Brown**-Social Studies Chair, **Jennifer Todd**-Science Chair, **Joy Cobb**-Co-Coordinator of Counseling, and **Dr. Rachel Loving**-Co-Coordinator of Counseling.

Next, the board was presented with biographies of new faculty including **Drew Austen**-Science, **Brandon Gooss**-Science, **Davide D’Urbino**-Science, **Erin Ortiz**-School Social Worker, **Kelly Ndayizigiye**-Freshmen Counselor, **Kyle Rogers**-Social Studies, **Madeline Paturel**-French, and **Alecia Nichols**-Spanish.

XII. Unfinished Business

A. Audits

The director described a recent conference call with the auditors and the top financial staff at RPS where he expressed our displeasure with the process and that we couldn’t understand what the problem was for this lack of timely reporting. A week later we received the preliminary reports for FY17, FY18, and FY19 which we will be able to present to the board at

their September meeting for their review and approval in October. FY20 and FY21 are approximately 80% complete and we may be able to present them in October. However, it may behoove us to just wait for the presentation of all reports in October so the full board can review them instead of just the executive board. The director hopes that all reports through FY21 will be completed and prepared for board approval this calendar year with FY22 not too far behind. He suspects there will be timely reports going forward.

The director added it appears from his examination of the FY19 report the reserve balance is somewhere around \$1.3 million, which is about where we thought it would be.

While this may not change the board’s discussion on fiscal agency, he knew that should another division want to pick up that responsibility they would need current audited documents.

Mr. May asked if there are any significant findings the director observed in these preliminary reports, to which Dr. Lowerre responded no, but he had also sent them to the board chair, Mr. Wright, who by profession is trained in these matters.

B. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

The Strategic Plan implementation update is located at the end of these minutes. Dr. Lowerre stated he plans to present a comprehensive full presentation at the board’s October meeting. He added, that we have made tremendous progress; however, there will always be areas for ongoing improvement. Items in areas of finance and operations have definitive end-points. But most items are ongoing such as increasing outreach and increasing our welcoming school culture here.

The director thanked the school advisory committee for their work on many of the items within this plan.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Policy and Regulation (First Read)

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

RL	Final		New/Amended	Actions
		Foundations		
<u>0</u>		Nondiscrimination	Amended	Adds a new code reference that applies to Governor’s Schools, <u>Section 22.1-26.2</u> - Effective 7/1/2022 Academic year Governor's Schools; certain practices prohibited and required. Code is broad and requires participating divisions to collaborate with their middle school instruction giving each

				student equal opportunity for admittance to a GS
<u>0014</u>		Student Involvement in Decision Making	Amended	Grammatical change only
<u>0015</u>		Community Involvement in Decision Making	New	Not VSBA update but needed as a cross-reference in Pol 1022.
		Update to Travel Policy (Requested by Director)		
<u>1070</u>		<u>1070</u>- Procedures Related to International Travel		Review requested after 2022 travel experiences. The update is shown on page 20 and addresses what will happen when a student cannot return to the United States with the travel group.
		School Board Governance		
<u>1001</u>		Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interest	Amended	The definition of 'gift' is updated to NOT include admission fees given to board members for job-required duties. More of a clarification than a change. Also changes to gender-neutral language on page 6
<u>1015</u>		Calling and Certification of Closed Meeting	Amended	Updates cross reference policy title to match Pol 1013
<u>1018</u>		Agenda Preparation and Dissemination	Amended	Updates cross reference policy title to match Pol 1013
<u>1019</u>		Minutes	Amended	Policy language regarding posting minutes within 7 days of approval, Changes 'recorded' to 'taken.' Question: Posting minutes of board committees, aka public bodies of the board? SAC is already on the website, finance minutes are only in the board packets, and policy updates are only in the board packets when needed with no minutes.
<u>1020</u>		Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations	Amended	Substantial changes...Policy updated to reflect amended CoV Adds definitions for all-

				<p>virtual meetings and remote participation.</p> <p>Boards CAN (not required) also adopt a policy for their committees regarding all-virtual meetings.</p> <p>New: by policy, the board must fix the number of times each member can meet virtually for Personal reasons -MW=3), this was previously defined in the law. The maximum number to do so remains unchanged however the board may choose a lower number.</p> <p>Virtual participation for medical reasons is unlimited. Minutes must reflect why the board member is participating remotely for personal matters. If remote participation is not approved by the board, the minutes must contain specificity as to why.</p>
<u>1022</u>		Regular Regional School Board Meetings	Amended	Updated to reflect the current name of Pol 1013
		Administration		
<u>2020</u>		School Crisis, Emergency Management and Medical Emergency Response Plan	Amended	Updated to include local law enforcement chief in safety audits. Certified building floor plan to be included in safety audits. The report must now also be given to local law enforcement.
<u>2023</u>		Threat Assessment Teams	Amended	Updated to include an SRO on the threat assessment team
<u>2030</u>		Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse	Amended	Extensive changes, wording reorganized, due to updated VA Code. Updates what incidents a principal is required to report to law enforcement, including written threats. Exception: students with disabilities. Also, a principal can report an incident not required to be reported.
		Instruction		

<u>3000</u>		Moment of Silence	Amended	Updated to reflect requirements of legal reference.
<u>3000.3</u>		Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States	New	Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States
<u>3002</u>		Curriculum Development and Adoption	Amended	Policy updated
<u>3004</u>		School Year/School Day	Amended	Removes half-day kindergarten. Requires in-person instruction.
<u>3011.2</u>		College and Career Readiness	New	Content directed to K-8 has been deleted.
<u>3012</u>		Health Education/Physical Education	Amended	Requires 7 & 8 grade PE at least 1 hour of personal safety training in situational safety awareness and social media. The required personal safety training is to be developed and delivered in partnership with the local law enforcement agency. The personal safety training consists of situational safety awareness training and social media education.
<u>3013</u>		Driver Education	Amended	Parent/student driver training was previously required only in Planning District 8 is now required everywhere. Parent/student driver training is to be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 90 minutes • part of the classroom portion of drivers' ed Parent/student driver training emphasizes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parental responsibilities for juvenile driver behavior • legal restrictions on juvenile drivers Parent/student driver training emphasizes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the dangers of driving while intoxicated and underage drinking

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the dangers of distracted driving <p>In Planning District 8, the parent/student driver component must be administered in person. In other Planning Districts, it may be in-person or online.</p> <p>In Planning District 8, the parent/student driver component is mandatory for parents (unless the student is exempt). In other Planning Districts, it is optional.</p> <p>District 8 is NOVA area.</p>
<u>3014</u>		Family Life Education	Amended	Updated to reflect amended VA Code
<u>3020</u>		Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco	Amended	Instruction, as prescribed by BOE, regarding gambling and its potential for addiction, is required.
		Student Services		
<u>4005.1</u>		Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity	Amended	Removes one cross-reference
<u>4020</u>		Student Immunizations	Amended	Minor grammatical changes. Deleting code reference.
<u>4071</u>		School Service Providers' Use of Student Personal Information	Amended	Minor change made to reflect the content of legal reference
<u>4096</u>		Recommendation of Medication by School Personnel	New	VSBA update, but the policy is new to MW
		Human Resources		
<u>5002</u>		School Employee Conflict of Interest	Amended	Reviewed but not revised
		Community Relations		
<u>6000</u>		Requests for Public Records	Amended	Policy and cross-reference updated.
<u>6000.1</u>		Rights and Responsibilities	Amended	Updated to reflect VA Code.
<u>6000-R</u>		Request for Public Records	Amended	Regulation updated to reflect CoV. Legal references updated.

<u>6005</u>		Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities	Amended	Policy updated to reflect amendment of VA Code.
<u>6013</u>		Public Complaints about Learning Resources	Amended	Policy and legal references updated.
		Finance & Operations		
<u>7003</u>		Annual Budget	Amended	Not VSBA update. Removes advertising in a newspaper, changes to school's website and social media.
<u>7006</u>		Food Services	Amended	Changes per amendment update are effective 7-1-22. Prohibits denying a student participation in an extracurr for food debt. Applications for F&R food must be processed within six days. Do not adopt the section on populations that qualified for F&R meals at a minimum of 50%
<u>7007</u>		Annual School Report	Amended	Changes deadline timelines per amended CoV.
<u>7032</u>		Expense Reimbursement	Amended	Reviewed but not amended
<u>7040</u>		Special Use of School Buses	New	New to MW but also VSBA update to reflect amendment change. There is no definition in the Code of a third-party logistics company. Private companies can lease vehicles with the exception of food deliveries and people transportation for compensation. Requires user to provide insurance.
		Student Conduct		
<u>8010</u>		Student Absences		Set a maximum number of days for which it will excuse absences for participation in 4-H educational programs or activities. Students cannot receive credit if participation in a 4-H activity occurs

				<p>during SOL assessments or while the student is suspended or expelled.</p> <p>Principal may request documentation from the 4-H representative. Subject to guidelines from DOE, students must be granted one excused absence per SY to attend their nation’s tribal pow wow gathering.</p> <p>Va. Code § 22.1-254/HB 1022 DOE Guidelines for Granting Excused Absences for Civic Engagement</p> <p>https://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2021/2021-08-21.pdf</p>
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Policy and regulation updates will be presented for Regional School Board approval at their meeting in October 2022.

There was a discussion around Policy 1070 – International Travel. A question arose; what is to be done in a situation where for whatever reason a child cannot get on the plane to come home to the USA while on an international trip? At what point in time can the school expect a parent to assume responsibility for that child and how long do we keep a teacher overseas?

We researched available policies on the web and after a review settled on seventy-two hours after parental notification. The addition to the policy in question was read aloud by the director:

“IN THE EVENT THAT THE STUDENT IS UNABLE TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES WITH THE GROUP DUE TO ANY CIRCUMSTANCE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MEDICAL CONDITION OR ILLNESS, IMMIGRATION STATUS, OR CRIMINAL REASONS, THE PARENT OF THE STUDENT MUST ARRANGE TO TAKE CUSTODY OF THE STUDENT WITHIN 72 HOURS OF NOTIFICATION AND RELEASES THE SCHOOL AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL FROM ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STUDENT. ALL EXPENSES INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE STUDENT BEING UNABLE TO TRAVEL BACK WITH THE GROUP WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT.”

The director stated we do not take international trips without insurance so getting a child returned is probably not an expense for families but would be for the parent who must get there and back.

Based on a question by Mr. May, the board conducted a lengthy conversation on this proposed change and considered options available to the school should a parent not comply. “We couldn’t leave a child behind,” and the director affirmed we wouldn’t. Possibly billing a parent on a per-diem is an option. Ms. Bailey noted that by having specific language in a contract that a parent would sign we would legally be giving the parents notification that could this happen given circumstances and be a valuable notice. Ms. Harris expressed concern about some parents’ ability to pay for these expenses and thinks the contract is more valid than the policy. The director suggested there may be ways to help those with a financial hardship situation through the foundation, but the parent needs to get on a plane for their child. Another important concern for the school is getting our teachers back.

The board requested the school attorney review this change before a final decision is made.

Ms. Kerry Sheppard later joined this meeting (near the superintendent’s report) and was able to address board questions regarding an unreturnable experience from her last international trip.

b. International Travel Proposal – London 2023 (*First Read*)

SPONSOR: KERRY SHEPPARD
LONDON, MARCH 30-APRIL 6, 2023 (8 days)

This will be a trip arranged for the Senior Seminar course entitled “The Evolution of London” that will experience London and Windsor.

Students will be able to augment their knowledge of the development of London over time. This will be accomplished via visiting key sites, museums, and guest lecturers.

A maximum number of students = 14.

The chaperones are Kerry Sheppard (English), and Celie Boswell (English).

Estimate per Student Cost: \$1,800 (approximately) with an additional subsidy for each student from the GS Foundation of \$1,000 (\$14,000 total).

London 2023 trip proposal will be presented for approval at the Board’s Executive Committee September 2022 meeting.

c. International Trip Proposal – Ireland 2023 (*First Read*)

SPONSOR: DAN BROWN
IRELAND, MARCH 30-APRIL 6, 2023 (8 days)

This will be a trip arranged for AP Comparative Government.

Purpose: A six-night trip to Dublin, Ireland and Belfast, Northern Ireland. The emphasis will be on key themes of AP Comparative Government including the functioning of Parliamentary Governments, Coordination between supranational organizations (European Union) with non-member Nations (United Kingdom), as well as the theme of Political Cleavages as represented in Northern Ireland’s “Troubles”. The trip will include not only visiting historic sites and government

buildings but will enable students to engage in Q and A with politicians as well as participants in critical political events.

A maximum number of students = 12-18.

Additional chaperone: David Bortz

Activities in Dublin:

Tour of Lord Mayors House, Tour of Irish Parliament, Kilmoanhoam Gaol, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Castle, and Christ Church Cathedral.

Activities in Belfast:

Day Tour, Titanic Museum, and Tour of Northern Ireland Assembly.

Estimate Per Student Cost: \$1,750 (approximately) with an additional subsidy for each student from the GS Foundation of \$1,000 (\$16,000 total maximum).

Ireland 2023 trip proposal will be presented for approval at the Board's Executive Committee September 2022 meeting.

d. International Trip Proposal – London, Paris, Madrid 2023 (*First Read*)

SPONSOR: NAKITA LEE

LONDON, PARIS, MADRID, JUNE-JULY 2023 (10 days) specific dates depend on the number of students participating

Purpose: To enhance students' understanding of, and engagement with, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, all of which align with the goals of our school's strategic plan. The various sites and cities coincide with both cycles of Global Studies and will provide students with experiential learning in addition to the depth of information learned in their classes. The trip is not limited to historic sites but will also include dialogue with tour guides and engagement with the community to gain deeper insight into the local culture and build a broader network.

A maximum number of students = 24-29

Additional chaperone: Joy Cobb

Activities in London:

Students will be able to experience an Afro-Caribbean cultural hub that embodies both change and continuity as well as visit Black Cultural Archives and the Sugar Slavery Tour.

Activities in Paris:

Students will participate in a Black Paris-themed walking tour with a visit to Little Africa, a neighborhood with African markets.

Activities in Madrid:

Students will be able to participate in activities and tours to understand the impact of Moorish, Muslim, Jewish, and Christian influences in Madrid and Toledo.

Estimate Per Student Cost: \$4,100 (approximately) with an additional subsidy for each student from the GS Foundation of \$800 (\$20,000 total GS Foundation maximum).

London, Paris, Madrid 2023 trip proposal will be presented for approval at the Board's Executive Committee September 2022 meeting.

XIV. Information Items

- MLWGS wins 21-22 VHSL Class 3 National Guard Cup
- MW Senior (Hanover) Travels to Finland for Juried Art Exhibition
- VCU News: Students (**including Max Smith**) Delivering Plan for Hopewell to Evaluate the 12-Month School Year

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Raley stated six school divisions were represented at their meeting this morning where Dr. Lowerre discussed many of the items on today's agenda including the financial audits update. One item discussed but not on the board's agenda is something that may impact the school, that being potential VHSL realignment/districting. No action is needed from the board at this time.

The committee also discussed the director's proposed goals for the upcoming year.

XVI. New Business

None.

XVII. Closed Meeting

The Vice-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 item:

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 Valarie Ayers, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the Regional School Board unanimously approved on a verbal vote moving into closed session. The recorder was paused, and the door closed.

At the conclusion of the closed session, the Clerk was invited back and asked to record a motion to reconvene in open session.

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Martha Ogburn, the Regional School Board unanimously approved on a verbal vote moving into open session.

XVIII. Certification of Closed Meeting

The Chair 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 Cecil Smith, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the Regional School Board approved on a roll-call vote closed session certification.

Ms. Martha Harris	Absent
Ms. Debbie Bailey	Aye
Mr. Robert May	Aye
Ms. Micky Ogburn	Aye
Ms. Linda Hyslop	Aye
Ms. Sarah Barber	Aye
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett	Aye
Ms. Valarie Ayers	Aye
Mr. Cecil Smith	Aye

The Chair announced there was nothing that requires RSB action for matters discussed in closed session.

XIX. Announcements/Additional Discussion

None.

XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am.

Next Meeting

Executive Board on September 15, 2022, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Kenneth Pritchett, Vice-Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

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

DATE: August 12, 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
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. A middle school counselor day is being planned for late September 2022.		
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	A Full-time School Social Worker has been hired.		
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.		
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. The Walker Way Welcome Day was implemented in August 2022.		
1.2.7	Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment	Administration, External Trainers	Year one of Cultural Competency PD has been completed.		
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. A focused effort has been made to recruit minority faculty and staff candidates.		
1.4.2	Strengthen professional development resources for faculty.	Dr. Williams, Dr. Lowerre, Mr. Smith	Comprehensive PD has begun with positive feedback from staff.		
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 districts and education graduate schools.	Dr. Lowerre	We have actively targeted HBCUs 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 including ones that target undertaught areas.		
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 has been established.		
2.1.7	Develop a reimagined FIRC course to equip freshmen to succeed at MLWGS	Dr. Lowerre and Culture Sub-Committee	A sub-committee has been 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	Following the COVID pandemic, a renewed effort to assess and implement student-centered learning strategies has been taking place.		
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	Departments have been reaching out to the community to bring in alumni and others to enhance instruction and learning.		
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			