

## MINUTES

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

**Thursday, January 19, 2023**

**9:02 a.m.**

### **I. Call to Order**

Robert Lowerre, Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, called the meeting to order.

### **II. Moment of Silence**

The Director called for a moment of silence.

### **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

The board and audience stood for the pledge of allegiance.

### **IV. Introductions**

Board members and superintendents are listed by locality in alphabetical order. New members were welcomed to the board: Dr. Tamara Sterling – Petersburg Superintendent and Mr. Steven Neece.

#### **Present:**

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

Mr. Steven Neece, *School Board*, Colonial Heights Public Schools

Ms. Mary Benjamin, *School Board*, Dinwiddie Public Schools

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

Mr. Bob May, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools

Ms. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools (**Remote Participation**)

Mr. Christopher Reber, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools

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

Ms. Sarah Grier Barber, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools

Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools

Ms. Valarie Ayers, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools

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

Ms. Brianne Gunn for Dr. Merv Daughtery, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Ms. Michelle Powell for Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools

Dr. Jeremy Raley, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools

Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools

Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools

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

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

Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Ms. Lynn Plevich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

**Absent:**

Ms. Debbie Bailey, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Ms. Mariah White, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. William Sroufe, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. Tamara Sterling, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

**Also present:**

Dr. Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Lisa Williams – MLWGS Administration  
Wendy DeGroat and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff  
Ginger O'Neil – GS Foundation

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

Policy No. 1020 – Electronic Participation in Meetings from a Remote Location

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.**

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Martha Harris, Micky Ogburn from Henrico was approved on a unanimous voice vote for electronic participation at this meeting.

**V.b Approval of Agenda**

The director requested to add an item under Action – XVIII.k – School Operating Calendar Change, February 21, 2023, from instruction to holiday and/or mental health day for the accommodation of the local special election as Maggie Walker Governor's School serves as a polling center.

On a motion to add XVIII.k to the agenda by Valarie Ayers, seconded by John Wright, the director's request to add this calendar change request was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

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

**VI. Election of Chair**

Nomination: Kenneth Pritchett was nominated by John Wright with Cecil Smith making a motion to close the nomination. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by John Wright was seconded by Christopher Reber resulting in this nomination being closed and Kenneth Pritchett being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2023 Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. After congratulations, the director turned the gavel over to Mr. Pritchett.

**VII. Election of Vice-Chair**

Nomination: Harwood Hall was nominated by Mary Benjamin with Cecil Smith making a motion to close the nomination. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by Mary Benjamin was seconded by John Wright resulting in this nomination being closed and Harwood Hall being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2023 Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The Chair thanked Ms. Hall.

**VIII. Election of Clerk and Deputy Clerk**

Nomination: Barbara Marshall was nominated for Board Clerk by John Wright with Cecil Smith making a motion to close the nomination. There was no nomination for the position of Deputy Clerk and that position will remain open at this time. There being no other nominations; on a motion by John Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers; Barbara Marshall was unanimously elected to serve as the 2023 Clerk of the Maggie L Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Ms. Marshall.

**IX. Election of Executive Board 2023**

Membership of the 2022 Executive Board was comprised of Sarah Barber, Micky Ogburn, Harwood Hall, Kenneth Pritchett, and John Wright. All 2022 members have agreed to continue to serve on the 2023 Executive School Board.

Valarie Ayers made a motion to retain the slate of Barber, Ogburn, Hall, Pritchett, and Wright for the 2023 Executive Board, seconded by Cecil Smith, the slate was unanimously approved on a voice vote for the 2023 Executive Board.

**X. Assignment of Director's Designee 2023**

The director recommended Michael Smith as the 2023 director's designee.

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Harwood Hall, Michael Smith was unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2023 director's designee to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Mr. Smith.

## **XI. The announcement of the Superintendent's 2023 Steering Committee Leadership**

Per agreement among the superintendents, Dr. Brian Nichols will serve in 2023 as the Superintendent Steering Committee Chair. For the February meeting, the committee expects to have an announcement for the vice chair.

## **XII. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Sarah Barber, minutes for the Executive Board meeting of November 10, 2022, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

## **XIII. Recognitions**

- **MLWGS senior named VHSL Volleyball All-State Player of the Year and Volleyball Coach of the Year**

The board extended congratulations to Christian Walsh ('23-Chesterfield) who was recognized as a member of the VHSL Volleyball First-Team All-State and its **Player of the Year**.

The MLWGS team played for the State title last week but finished 2nd to Patrick Henry HS in a close battle of skills.

Also recognized was Connor Dixon, VHSL Volleyball Coach of the Year.

- **Veteran Math Teacher John Walter Wins Teaching Award.**

Mr. John Walter received the *Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Teaching*.

The Edyth May Sliffe Awards for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching in Middle School and High School are given annually to middle and high school mathematics teachers who have done outstanding work to motivate students in mathematics by participating in one of the MAA American Mathematics Competitions ([AMC](#)) competitions.

**What is the award?** More than 20 competition managers receive recognition from the MAA AMC program and a \$500 stipend including recognition on the MAA website and social media. Award recipients will also receive free registration, housing, and travel expenses to MAA MathFest in 2023. This is an annual conference for mathematics education and research that draws mathematicians and math enthusiasts from across the country.

## **XIV. 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.

*In-person comments. The following is not transcribed verbatim.*

Mr. Emmett Jafari, his spouse Mariam Jafari-Nassali (both alumni of Maggie Walker High School), along with their grandchild who is a current MLWGS student addressed the Regional

School Board about their deep concern regarding a situation he described happening in an MLWGS classroom in which a teacher took their grandchild's phone and possibly other students of color phones while permitting European American students to keep their phones. Mr. Jafari commended his grandchild for their handling of the situation.

During remarks, Mr. Jafari referenced correspondence he submitted to the school about these concerns. He shared his disagreement with the administration's findings in this matter and said that MLWGS needs an administration that can see things like this before they happen and that our teachers need training and stated there is no diversity at MLWGS among the students or staff.

Mr. Jafari expressed his disappointment that Richmond Public Schools doesn't have more say in what goes on at MLWGS and that such a small percentage of RPS students are admitted here.

Holding aloft the school's previously adopted public resolution against racism Mr. Jafari stated it is nice to read; however, it's meaningless without a procedure behind it.

In conclusion, Mr. Jafari thanked the board for listening today saying he looks forward to his grandchild's graduation and continuing to work with MLWGS for improvement in these areas.

The chair thanked Mr. Jafari for bringing this matter to the board.

## **XV. Director's Report**

### **A. Verbal Update**

- **Review of Budget Calendar Regulation 7003.1 Budget Calendar**

The following guidelines will be used in establishing the annual budget calendar:

**A.** At least one public forum will be held before December 30 to solicit public input.

*(Substituted an online form to submit public input shown below)*

**B.** The budget work-session date(s) will be published as part of the Regional School Board's Meeting Schedule. *(Proposed for February 16, 2023)*

**C.** The proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February.

**D.** The budget shall be adopted in accordance with applicable statutes.

**E.** At least one public hearing will be held before budget adoption. *(Proposed for March 16, 2023)*

- **Budget Development Public Input Form via Online Comments:** Director's verbal feedback.

[Survey Announcement Here](#)

[Virtual Town Hall Announcement Here](#)

- **Legal Representation:**

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will continue to utilize the firm of Haney Phinyowattanachip PLLC for future services as needed. The firm is headed by Stacey Haney

and Pakapon Phinyowattanachip who are both well-versed in Virginia education issues and law.

- **VSBA Policy Services Agreement**

MLWGS originally entered into an agreement with the VSBA effective January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2016, at a contract fee of \$1,000 per year. This agreement was renewed with the VSBA on January 1, 2017, with four additional one-year terms and no change in contract pricing.

This agreement was renewed for one-year through 2023 with no pricing increase.

- **Save the Date: Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Mark your calendar for the 20th annual Night of the Dragon –March 4, 2022. This special event is a whole lot of fun and provides invaluable support to our amazing Dragons. You don't want to miss it.

- **Teacher-Generated Senior Seminar Proposals for 2023-2024:**

Teacher	Title
Michael White	Slavic Folklore
Ed Coleman	Black Literature, Black Lives: African American Literature and Culture
Kerry Sheppard	The Evolution of London--The Making of a Metropolis
Todd Raviotta	Digital Video
Nick Merillat	Music Composition and Recording Seminar
Lynn Foshee Reed	Polarpalooza: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of the Polar Regions
Dickson Benesh	"Moneyball": The History and Sabermetrics of Baseball
Georgianne Stinnett	Photojournalism in the Digital Age
Georgianne Stinnett	Fashion and Style: Implications of the Clothes on Our Backs
Adam Rotche	Wilderness and the American Mind
Robinette Cross	Gender and Culture in the Middle East and North Africa
Celie Boswell	Magical Realism: Words at Work
Jeff Hall and Ed Coleman	"Seduction of the Innocent": A Modern History of the American Comic Book

- **Continued Cultural Competency Training**

As part of a two-year initiative, the administrative team has compiled an online repository, a plethora of resources, and activities, that focus on the culture of Native Americans, Desi Americans, and Arab Americans. During Native American Heritage Month in November, Dr.

Minich, curator from the VMFA, shared visuals and offered commentary on Native American exhibits at the museum.

Drs. Williams and Smith are currently working with Mr. Edwin Cowell, Assistant Head of School for Community Engagement at St. Christopher’s, to facilitate a school-wide training session in April.

- **The International Language Fair** is taking place on **Saturday, March 4th, 2023**, for any interested *middle school student* in the community. Registration information can be found here: <https://mlwgsshowcase.weebly.com/> Registration Deadline – January 31, 2023.
- **AP Scholar Awards for 2022:**  
An AP Scholar is a student who receives an award from the College Board for outstanding performance on several AP exams. There are different award levels. Being an AP Scholar offers many advantages for students. AP classes offer another big perk: the opportunity to earn college credit.

When a student receives an AP award, they are notified by email, and the award is added to the student’s online score report. Students can log in to the College Board website to view their AP scores and awards.

### SCHOLAR SUMMARY

**Total Scholars = 300, Average Score = 4.17**

<b>AP Scholars = 67</b>	<b>Average Score = 3.49</b>	<b>AP Scholar</b> – Awarded to students who score 3 or more on at least three AP exams.
<b>AP Scholars with Honor = 48</b>	<b>Average Score = 3.79</b>	<b>AP Scholar with Honor</b> – Awarded to students who have averaged a minimum of 3.25 on the AP exams they take and score 3 or more on at least four of those exams.
<b>AP Scholars with Distinction = 185</b>	<b>Average Score = 4.38</b>	<b>AP Scholar with Distinction</b> – Awarded to students who average a minimum of 3.5 on all their AP exams and score 3 or more on at least five of these exams.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total AP Students	481	457	465	485	471
Number of Exams	1,207	1,116	1,254	1,289	1,233
AP Students with Scores 3+	472	450	447	466	457
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	98.13	98.47	96.13	96.08	97.03

**Total MLWGS Students Tested = 471 on 1,233 exams**  
**97.03% of MLWGS Students Scored 3 or Higher**

Student Registrations		Exam Registrations		
Students	Enrollments	Taking	Not Taking	Undecided
<b>521</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>11</b>

### ***B. Coming Events***

January 19, 2023, through February 16, 2023

Thursday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reorganization Meeting for the Regional School Board, 9:00 am</b>
Saturday, January 21 <sup>st</sup>	STEM Day at MLWGS for Middle School Students, 9:00 am
Tuesday, January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Faculty Cultural Competency Meeting, 3:30 pm
Wednesday, January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Thursday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Teacher Conference, 4:00 pm
Saturday, January 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>New Student Evaluation Day, 2-Sessions, morning and afternoon, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, MLWGS</b>
Wednesday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	College Kick-Off, Day 1, 9:20 am – 11:35 am, Auditorium
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Thursday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	College Kick-Off, Day 2, 10:15 am – 3:30 pm, Auditorium
<b>Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Snow Day for New Student Evaluations, 8:00 am</b>
Tuesday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm, Forum



Wednesday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Friday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	DOE VACEG Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
Tuesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Make-up Evaluation Session with Gifted Coordinator Approval, 8:30 am, Room 153
	Math Contest, 12:15 pm, Auditorium
Wednesday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Committee Regional Evaluation Day, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Thursday, February 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regular Meeting of the Regional School Board, 9:00 am, followed by Budget Work Session.</b>

***C. GS Foundation 2022 Impact Report by Ms. Ginger O’Neil, Executive Director***

Ms. O’Neil introduced herself as the Executive Director of the GS Foundation.

The mission of the GS Foundation cultivates resources to enhance the educational experience for all students at MLWGS.

The vision of the GS Foundation is for all MLWGS students to have access to the educational resources and experiences to reach their full potential.

The Foundation realized revenues of \$360,000 and provided more than 125 grants to MLWGS.

Support to the school is detailed as follows: 53 grants for students/instructional enrichment, 45 grants for direct student aid, 20 grants for teacher professional development, 7 grants for domestic class/club trips underwritten, 3 grants for international trips underwritten, and 2 Taylor Teaching Awards for International Travel.

Upcoming foundation events include the Night of the Dragon Gala on March 4th, and the Grandparents and Special Friends Day on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of the board, the chair thanked Ms. O’Neil for this presentation and the valuable work of the GS Foundation.

**XVI. Unfinished Business**

***A. Strategic Plan Implementation Report***

The Strategic Plan report is located at the end of these minutes. Dr. Lowerre briefly discussed a new upcoming outreach project we are calling ‘Dare to be a Dragon’ day for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, which will be a half-day experience at MLWGS on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**XVII. Consent Items**

On a motion by Cecil Smith, seconded by John Wright, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a block on a voice vote: personnel actions for January 2023 that includes a teacher leave of absence request, fiscal status reports of November 30, 2022, and December 31, 2022, the donations reports of November 30, 2022, and December 31, 2022, and the Anthem Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) Rebate to MLWGS.

**XVIII. Action Items**

**a. 2023 Code of Conduct for Board Members (*Second Read*)**

The Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members is grounded in the model code of the Virginia School Board Association. The Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Sarah Barber, the 2023 Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**b. 2023 Code of Conduct for Clerks (*Second Read*)**

The Code of Conduct for Clerks is grounded in the model code of the Virginia School Board Association. The Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from Valarie Ayers, seconded by Martha Harris, the 2023 Code of Conduct for Clerks was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**c. 2023 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (*Second Read*)**

The board had a brief discussion about if the third Thursday of the month was sacred for this board or if there was any scheduling flexibility. In conclusion, due to those being aligned with meetings for Code RVA, it seemed prudent to maintain the same schedule.

On a motion by John Wright, seconded by Valarie Ayers, the 2023 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**d. Policy Committee Membership 2023 (*Waive First Read Requested*)**

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

**2023 Policy Committee Members**

- John Wright, Regional School Board
- Valarie Ayers, Regional School Board
- Robert Lowerre, Director
- Lisa Williams, Assistant Director
- Max Smith, Assistant Director
- Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
- Open, Faculty
- Open, Parent (TBD)

The Chair called for a motion to waive the first read and approve the 2023 policy committee members. On a motion from Mary Benjamin, seconded by Sarah Barber, waiving the first read for this action and the 2023 policy committee members were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**e. Wellness Committee Membership (*First Read*)**

The director requested to table this item for February because membership has not yet been determined for 2023.

**f. Finance Committee Membership 2023 (*Waive First Read Requested*)**

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

**2023 Finance Committee Members**

- Robert Lowerre, Director
- Max Smith, Assistant Director
- Lisa Williams, Assistant Director
- David Bortz, Technology Officer
- Karen Hoover, MLWGS Business Manager
- Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
- Financial Officer, Richmond Public Schools
- Financial Officer, Henrico Public Schools
- Financial Officer, Chesterfield Public Schools
- Financial Officer, Hanover Public Schools
- And
- Financial Officer, Powhatan Public Schools

The Chair called for a motion to waive the first read and approve the 2023 finance committee members. On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Sarah Barber, waiving the first read for this action and the 2023 finance committee members were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**g. School Advisory Committee Membership 2022-2023 (*Second Read-First Read was Submitted in October 2022 as ‘Notice’ under the Director’s Report. This is the only committee of the board that runs the academic year instead of the calendar year*)**

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

Per Policy 1050-SAC By-Laws: ARTICLE 1, Membership Section 1. Composition Membership of the SAC may consist of parents, staff, and students of MLWGS, corporate and community members, alumni, higher education representatives, school administrators, and gifted program specialists. Membership should reflect the diversity of the community in terms of school district size and underrepresented minority groups. The Regional School Board (RSB) shall be notified annually of the SAC membership.

**2022-2023 SAC Members**

Dr. Rachel Gable, Chair	PTSA	Richmond	2023
Dr. Rachel Loving, Vice-Chair	Faculty	n/a	2023
Leigh Anne Ratliff, Secretary	PTSA	Richmond	2023
Dr. Lisa Williams, Historian	Administration	n/a	2024
Jill Bowman	PTSA	Chesterfield	2024
Julie Solomon	PTSA	Chesterfield	2024
Bethany Brady	PTSA		2025
Afrikka Ennis	PTSA	Chesterfield	2025
Laura McCoy	PTSA	Henrico	2025
Sam Ulmschneider	Faculty	n/a	2025
Christine Anderson	Faculty	n/a	2025
Joy Cob	Faculty	n/a	2024
Ed Coleman	Faculty	n/a	2024
Sean Fang	Student – Senior	Chesterfield	2023
Audrey Paulsen	Student – Senior	Richmond	2023
Isabella Kenney	Student – Junior	Henrico	2024
Imran Aly Rassiwalla	Student – Junior	Henrico	2024
Karen Smith-Will	Director’s Appointee	Hanover	2023
Open	Director’s Appointee		
Matthew Carter	Director’s Appointee – Alumni		2023
Lynn Pleveich	Planning Committee	Richmond	2023

On a motion from John Wright, seconded by Cecil Smith, membership for the 2022-2023 School Advisory Committee as listed was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**h. New Policy Proposal for Explicit Instructional Materials (*Second Read*)**

The following new policy is submitted for Regional School Board consideration.

#3003.7-Explicit Instructional Materials

On a motion by Cecil Smith, seconded by Sarah Barber, Policy 3003.7-Explicit Instructional Materials was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**i. Additional New Course Proposal AY24 (*Second Read*)**

The following proposals are submitted for approval to be included in the AY24 course offerings:

**Department, if applicable: Science**

- COURSE TITLE: Becoming a Naturalist

Course Description:

Becoming a Naturalist will teach students the skills necessary for observing and understanding the natural history of local ecosystems including the plants, animals, fungi, landscapes, ecological relationships, and conservation concerns of the habitats in and around Richmond.

**Department, if applicable: Science Elective**

- COURSE TITLE: Organic Chemistry

Course Description:

Organic chemistry is the chemistry of carbon compounds. It is a vast subject that deals with natural and synthetic compounds. Organic chemistry is an essential part of our technological culture, as well as the basics of life.

**Department: Science**

- COURSE TITLE: Biochemistry

Course Description:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the chemistry of living organisms. The course will examine the structure and function of the four classes of biological macromolecules: proteins, DNA, lipids, and carbohydrates.

**Department: Science**

- COURSE TITLE: Automotive Concepts and Engineering (ACE)

Course Description:

The Automotive Concepts and Engineering course (ACE) will extend the content discussed in many Physics courses and provide students with an additional STEM-related course to better prepare them for a degree in Physics, Engineering, or a similar track. The ACE course provides learners with an application of topics discussed in Physics classes including Kinematics, Inertia, Energy, Power, Thermodynamics, Friction, and Fluid Dynamics.

On a motion by Cecil Smith, seconded by John Wright, the four new course proposals for AY24 were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**j. New Trip Proposal to Montgomery, AL and Atlanta, GA February 2023**

The Civil Rights Movement Class (led by Robinette D. Cross) and the Black Literature Class (led by Ed Coleman) are planning an experiential learning trip to Montgomery, AL, and Atlanta, GA. The trip is intended to help students make deep connections to critical moments concerning race, religion, gender, and equity in the United States. The classes are deeply rooted in the mission and vision of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and are two of this year's highlights to help students understand diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

February 23 through 26, 2023

Students: 22                      Chaperones: Ed Coleman, Robinette Cross, Nakita Lee

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Bob May, the new trip proposal to Montgomery and Atlanta in February 2023 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**k. Added Agenda Item: Calendar Change-Designating February 21, 2023, as a Holiday for Students and Staff**

Due to the upcoming special election for our congressional district and Maggie Walker Governor's School serving as a polling center, the director respectfully requests this operating change to best accommodate students, staff, and the public.

On a motion from Bob May, seconded by Martha Harris, changing February 21, 2023, from an instructional day to a holiday for students and staff was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**XIX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

**a. FY17 and FY18 Audit Reports Members (*First Read*)**

Cherry, Bekaert CPA presents the FY17 and FY18 audit reports to the Regional School Board that contained the auditor's responsibilities and opinions.

From the Management's Discussion and Analysis report of June 30, 2018; "As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Governor's School's General Fund reported an ending fund balance of \$1,201,780, an increase of \$135,349 or 12.69 percent."

Approval of FY17 and FY18 audit reports will be requested at the board's February meeting.

**XX. Information Items**

- Finance Committee Minutes January 2023 (*Minutes not Taken*)
- The US Ambassador Nominee to Cyprus Visits Maggie Walker on December 9th
- Orchestra Students Play for Governor and First Lady at VA Mansion
- We the People Regional Competition on December 14th
- Winter Concert at MLWGS on December 15th
- MLWGS Earns a Spot on the VHSL 2022-23 Fall Sportsmanship Honor Roll
- Seven MLWGS freshmen earn seats in the Central Regional Orchestra
- 2022 MLWGS Yearbook Wins First Place with Special Merit Award from the American Scholastic Press Association

**XXI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report**

Dr. Nichols reported a group of superintendents participated this morning in person with their major business being the election of their 2023 chair. The committee also discussed items on today's agenda.

**XXII. Closed Meeting**

- *None.*

**XXIII. Certification of Closed Meeting**

- *None.*

#### **XXIV. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

Ms. Harris asked if board members could get further information about the situation Mr. Jafari described. Mr. May also requested more information stating this situation sounds like an egregious error on the part of the teacher that distracted from the most important thing, i.e., student learning. Continuing, Mr. May stated the board needs to know what actions are being taken so we set the right tone for the school. We owe it to our students that they are safe and secure while in this building.

Dr. Lowerre said he would provide all board members with a copy of the letter that Mr. Jafari sent along with any notes taken and make himself available to any board member who has questions.

The director added he has worked with the family since the incident and that the situation has already been addressed with the teacher and that there was no student disciplinary action involved. He added that strengthening cultural competency remains a focus of professional development and that MLWGS is not averse to improving in this area and other aspects of school culture.

#### **XXV. Adjournment**

On a motion by John Wright, the meeting was unanimously adjourned on a voice vote at 10:20 am.

#### **Next Meeting and Budget Work Session**

February 16, 2023, at 9:00 am.

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Kenneth Pritchett, Chair

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Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

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

DATE: January 20, 2023

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	Measure-ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	Cost to Budget
				2020	
<b>OBJ 1.1</b>	<b>MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.</b>				
1.1.2	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.		
<b>OBJ 1.2</b>	<b>MLWGS will create an environment that provides a sense of belonging and fosters student and family engagement.</b>				
1.2.1	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	<b>Facilitate student input and feedback</b>	Administration, Counseling	Surveys completed by SAC and VSCS		
1.2.6	<b>Analyze and strengthen the student onboarding process to prepare accepted students for the MLWGS experience</b>	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	<b>Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment</b>	Administration, External Trainers	Year one of Cultural Competency PD has been completed.		
<b>OBJ 1.3</b>	<b>MLWGS will codevelop a plan with its districts to increase enrollment of historically underserved populations.</b>				
1.3.1	<b>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.</b>	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.		
<b>OBJ. 1.4</b>	<b>MLWGS will develop a strategy to increase the demographic diversity of our faculty and staff.</b>				
1.4.1	<b>Examine barriers to hiring and retaining diverse faculty.</b>	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	<b>Strengthen professional development resources for faculty.</b>	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.		
<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>MAGGIE L. WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL ENGAGE STUDENTS WITH INNOVATIVE CURRICULA AND RESPONSIVE INSTRUCTION THAT FOCUSES ON STUDENT-CENTERED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING. INSTRUCTION WILL BE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND ENRICHED BY LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS.</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Year to begin Implementation</b>	<b>Cost to Budget</b>
				<b>2020-2021</b>	
<b>OBJ 2.1</b>	<b>Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.</b>				
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. Several new courses have been added to the Course Catalog.		
2.1.5	Expand student enrollment in SGC's and teacher-developed courses.	Dr. Lowerre	New Courses have been 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.		
<b>OBJ 2.2</b>	<b>Teachers will provide engaging, student-centered instruction.</b>				
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			
<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>MAGGIE L. WALER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL BE A SAFE SCHOOL WITH EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES.</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Measure-Ment</b>	<b>Year to begin Implemen-tation</b>	<b>Cost to Budget</b>
<b>OBJ 3.1</b>	<b>Create and fund a ten-year capital improvement plan.</b>			<b>2023</b>	
3.1.1	Conduct a needs assessment of future needs for the facility and technology.	Facilities and Technology	Project is underway		
3.1.2	Forecast ten-year costs.	Facilities and Technology			
<b>OBJ 3.2</b>	<b>Create a better experience for students, teachers, and parents through available software solutions.</b>			<b>2021</b>	
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	<b>Integrate field trip software with student information system.</b>	Mr. Bortz			
3.2.4	<b>Reduce student fees.</b>	Leadership Team	We have reduced fees where we could, but many of the fees are simply pass-through accounts.		
3.2.5	<b>Incentivize the use of current on-line payment systems.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	Budgeted and Completed.		
<b>OBJ 3.3</b>	<b>Enhance our safe school environment.</b>			<b>2020</b>	
3.3.1	<b>Implement an annual climate survey.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	Participation in the Virginia School Climate Survey. Jan 2022		
3.3.2	<b>Complete a full revision of the safety/crisis plan.</b>	Mr. Smith	Completed Fall 2021		
3.3.3	<b>Further develop relations with local fire, police, and EMS in order to incorporate best practices and facilitate external audits.</b>	Mr. Jordan	Completed Fall 2021		
3.3.4	<b>Train faculty on cyber security and teaching digital literacy.</b>	Library and Technology			
<b>OBJ 3.4</b>	<b>Transition the fiscal expectations of MLWGS to a new fiscal agent.</b>			<b>2022</b>	
3.4.1	<b>Research options for future fiscal processing.</b>	Mr. Smith	Discussions have taken place with the superintendents.		
3.4.2	<b>Secure board approval for a new fiscal agent.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	Discussions have begun		
3.4.3	<b>Create a transition plan.</b>	Ms. Hoover			