

## MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies  
Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY24 Budget Public Hearing  
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, March 16, 2023

9:03 a.m.

### I. Call to Order

Kenneth Pritchett, 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 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  
Mr. Steven Neece, ***School Board***, Colonial Heights Public Schools  
Ms. Mary Benjamin, ***School Board***, Dinwiddie Public Schools  
Mr. Bob May, ***School Board***, Hanover County Public Schools  
Ms. Marcie Shea, ***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  
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. Mariah White, ***School Board***, Richmond Public Schools

Ms. Brianna Gunn for Dr. Merv Daugherty, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Dr. Joe Douglas for Dr. Joseph Cox, **Interim Superintendent**, Colonial Heights 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. Melanie Ficke for Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools  
Ms. Lynn Pleveich 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  
Mr. John Wright, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools  
Ms. Linda Hyslop, **School Board**, Hopewell Public Schools  
Dr. Daphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools  
Dr. Tamara Sterling, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools

**Also present:**

Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Lisa Williams – MLWGS Administration  
Wendy DeGroat and David Bortz – 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 board members participated from a remote location for this meeting, so no action was required.

**V.b Approval of Agenda**

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

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Cecil Smith, seconded by Martha Harris, the minutes of the regular meeting and budget work session of February 16, 2023, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

## VII. Recognitions

- **Girls Swim & Dive Team Win the 2023 Class 3 VHSL State Championship.** Team members were accompanied by coach Heather Kemmerly (*MLWGS Mathematics Teacher*) as they were recognized for their state title win.

The girls' team was victorious AGAIN and the boys' team was the runner-up with only seven swimmers!

On hand for this recognition were Colleen Blakeney ('23-Hanover), Christine Datovech ('24-Hanover) who was an individual state swim champion and an Academic All-American, Sarah Dougiewicz ('25-Chesterfield), Frances McKay ('26-Richmond), Elizabeth O'Shea ('25-Chesterfield), Emily Rucker ('24-Chesterfield), and Caroline Walton ('26-Henrico).

And lastly, to our seniors not in attendance who all swam so well in their last meet as Dragons: Devin Naoroz, Audrey Paulson, Susanna Kast, Ben Davis, Zach Carlson, and Ala Killen. We have loved having you as a part of our team and wish you the best of luck on your journey forward. We will celebrate all of our seniors, swimmers, and divers more at our team banquet in the upcoming weeks.

- **MLWGS Quiz Bowl Team Wins the Class 3 VHSL State Championship.** Team members were all in attendance for this meeting to be recognized for their state title win.

On February 25, the Maggie Walker Quiz Bowl team consisting of Timothy Porter ('24-Henrico), Yash Saxena ('24-Henrico), Risshi Naavaal ('24-Henrico), and team captain Sam McNamee ('24-Chesterfield) competed in Class 3 Virginia High School League state championship.

After beating Fort Defiance and York High School, they faced their toughest competition against Cave Spring High School in their final game and were down by 50 points at the end of round 1. But by the end of the game, they had pulled off a massive comeback to win the game by 10 points, resulting in a sweep of the tournament.

National competitions in Atlanta and Chicago are upcoming this spring and this team will participate.

Congratulations to the Quiz Bowl team on being Class 3 VHSL State Champions!

The Quiz Bowl team is coached by Adam Rotche and Drew Austen and assisted by Juanita Lasswell.

## 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.

*The following was submitted via email to the clerk:*

Dear Regional School Board -

Having reviewed the minutes from the January School Board meeting, we wanted to express our support for a few initiatives that are great strides towards a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable Maggie Walker.

First, we're excited to see the outreach program "Dare to be a Dragon" that will provide a half-day experience to 5th graders on April 22. We hope it is a great success and focuses on including students from districts that have historically low numbers of students at MLWGS. This early outreach will help more communities know that MLWGS can be a wonderful option for high school. We have many alumni with students in this age range, so we would be glad to help get the word out on these efforts!

Second, we applaud Dr. Williams and the counseling department for their ongoing, thoughtful, and meaningful work on cultural competency professional development. We are thrilled to support that learning by donating books and helping to identify potential speakers to help provide more representation of historically untold stories to teachers and students alike.

Finally, we appreciate Dr. Lowerre's observation that situations raised by Mr. Jafari (i.e., related to concerns of different treatment in cell phone usage between BIPOC and White students), are exactly the sort of thing that cultural literacy and humility can help guard against. We are glad to hear that no student discipline was issued and hope it fostered greater understanding for all who were involved.

Thanks for your continued work in support of fostering an environment where all students belong and can receive the resources they need to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Savoy Caldwell (Class of 2006)  
Antiracist Alumni of MLWGS

The chair acknowledged on behalf of the board receipt of the comment submitted by Ms. Savoy Caldwell and appreciated the positive feedback from her.

## **IX. Consent Items**

On a motion by Martha Harris to approve consent items as a slate, seconded by Cecil Smith, the following items were unanimously approved on a voice vote: personnel actions, fiscal status reports of February 28, 2023, and the donations report of February 28, 2023.

The director presented an update on the outstanding MLWGS audits stating since the last regional school board meeting, we have seen significant progress and have signed the letters of agreement with the auditor. The goal is to be caught up through 2022 by the end of this school year and there is a sense of urgency on the part of the RPS finance department to get this done. Everything is rolling as well as can be expected right now because Mr. Kamras has done what he said he would do and got the ball rolling.

The chair thanked Ms. White for her leadership and for following through leading this process to make sure we get the outstanding audit reports.

## **X. Action Items**

### ***a. International Trip Proposal – Panama 2024 (Second Read)***

**Sponsor: David Barnes**

**March 30, 2024, through April 7, 2024**

Students will spend 9 days exploring the history, engineering, ecology, conservation, culture, and language of Panama. In Panama City, students will take a bike tour of the city and visit the historic sites of Panama Viejo and Casco Viejo, and they will take an in-depth look at the Panama Canal. Students will travel to the Chiriqui Region where they will visit a honey farm and a butterfly sanctuary and learn about wildlife and botany while enjoying hanging bridges and zip lines. Students next travel to Chitre to take part in a la junta de embarre, a traditional mud hut building ceremony. Students will learn more about Panama's flora and fauna at the Isla Iguana Wildlife Refuge. We will finish the adventure with a folklore evening filled with traditional food, song, and dance.

It is with great enthusiasm that we hope the Regional Board will approve the experiential learning opportunity for students.

Students: 18

Chaperones:

David Barnes

Ruth Bradner

Working with EF Tours

The projected cost per person of the trip: is \$3,739.00. Additional Costs: \$70.00 for tips (\$7/day)

Sources of Revenue for this trip, including the amount to be paid by the individual students, clubs, fund-raising, and/or other sources: each student will be responsible for his/her costs.

On a motion by Valarie Ayers, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Panama 2024 trip proposal from David Barnes was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

### ***b. Amended Regulation 4030-R-Student Club Approval Amended (Second Read)***

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following regulation for Regional School Board consideration, #4030-R which modifies the Student Club Approval process. The director detailed some of the proposed changes requested to streamline and tighten the creation of new clubs.

Mr. Smith had a few questions regarding the length of time an existing club was allowed in a dormant status before becoming defunct/deactivated and what is done with any remaining funds in that activity account. The director provided an example of a club launched as an aid group fundraising for natural disaster relief. If a deactivated club has any funds remaining in its student activity account they are rolled into the general student activity fund for use.

On a motion by Mariah White, seconded by Sarah Barber, Regulation 4030-R-Student Club Approval Amended was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

## **XI. Director's Report**

### ***A. Verbal Updates***

- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists:**

All fourteen semi-finalists presented to the board in October 2022 have advanced to the finalist phase of the National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are from the following home divisions: nine (9) from Henrico, three (3) from Chesterfield, and two (2) from Hanover.

Congratulations to the following MLWGS seniors:

Chen, Jennifer	Henrico
Eisenhauer, Will	Henrico
Fang, Sean	Chesterfield
Heckel, Carleigh	Hanover
Johnson, Amelia	Henrico
Marks, Walter Sutton	Hanover
Mital, Anmol	Henrico
Muthusamy, Shreyas	Henrico
Nguyen, Vien	Henrico
Patel, Heer	Henrico
Pitchford, Hudson	Chesterfield
Sanjay, Nived	Chesterfield
Shah, Moksh	Henrico
Wang, Carson	Henrico

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program by taking preliminary SAT /National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests (PSAT/NMSQT®) – a test that serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

# *Leadership Voices*

MLWGS Celebrates Women's History Month by Hosting Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears!

The Lieutenant Governor will tour the building and visit classrooms during her visit.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

**Winsome Earle-Sears**

Coming  
in April



- **The Ed Coleman's Story (MLWGS Faculty)**

***From Henrico County Police, February 27, 2023:*** Our 911 Dispatchers take a lot of calls during an average shift, but they don't always get to know the end result. Today, a family came by to thank our dispatcher Devona for helping save a life.

Lisa called 911 when her husband, Ed, collapsed in their living room. "I remember looking down and thinking, he is so dead. I am a widow," Lisa said.

Ed's incident was later described by his doctor as sudden cardiac death. Devona walked Lisa through CPR on the phone to keep Ed's heart beating until the paramedics could get there and take him to the hospital.

Lisa and Ed shared that they are Jewish, and that in Judaism, the most important thing one can do is to save a life. Lisa told Devona, "It is considered the greatest mitzvah, good deed, reason to be alive... and you did that."

We are proud of all our 911 dispatchers who work hard each and every day. We are always One Team. One Community. Safer Together.





- [MLWGS Rankings from Niche.com](#) (2023)



## 2023 Best Public High Schools in America



### Maggie Walker Governor's School Rankings

Niche ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents.

Best Public High School  
Teachers in Virginia

#1 of 326

Best Public High Schools  
in Virginia

#2 of 328

Best College Prep Public  
High Schools in Virginia

#2 of 322



### 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 >](#)



## National



Best Magnet High Schools  
in America

#7 of 877



Best Public High Schools in  
America

#8 of 20,032



Best College Prep Public  
High Schools in America

#23 of 17,064



Best Public High School  
Teachers in America

#43 of 19,714



Best High Schools for STEM  
in America

#136 of 8,786

- **SOL's at Maggie Walker**

The writing SOL administration took place during the week of March 6<sup>th</sup> in sophomore English classes. Students took the multiple-choice portion of the exam during class on Monday and Tuesday. The writing portion of the exam was administered on Wednesday and Thursday.

- **Future Dragon Days March 20-23**

After a vigorous application process, rising freshmen students from our divisions who have been offered admission to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will 'shadow' the school Monday-Thursday, March 20-23.

Chesterfield – 3/20

Hanover and Henrico – 3/21

Charles City, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hopewell, King @ Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Prince George – 3/22

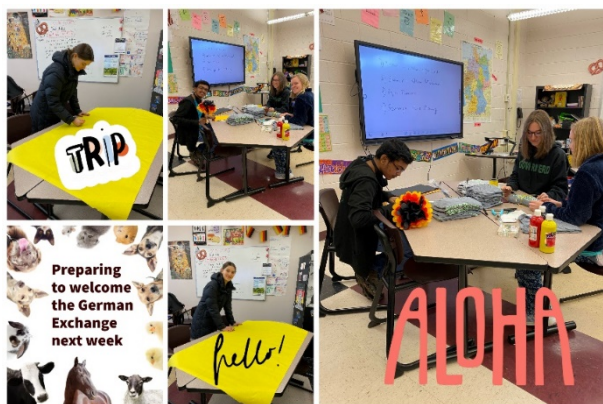
Richmond City – 3/23

- **German Exchange (Visiting MWGS March 20<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>)**

We are hosting 20 German exchange students and two teachers from Munich at our school as part of a two-week exchange from March 18th - April 1st. The German students will be living with Maggie Walker host families and participating in several field trips (State Capitol, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Charlottesville, Jamestown/Williamsburg, D.C.) as well as shadowing their host partners for 5 school days total. <https://mlwgs.com/welcome-to-our-special-visitors-from-germany-march-18-april-1/>

The first two days the German students are in school coincide with Future Dragon Days. These days are **Monday, March 20th**, and **Wednesday, March 22nd**. During the second week of the exchange visit, the shadow days are **Tuesday, March 28th**, **Thursday, March 30th**, and **Friday, March 31st**.

This exchange is possible in large part because of the efforts of Ms. Kristen Macklin.



- **Night of the Dragon Auction March 4 Results**

*2023 Night of the Dragon Auction Recap:* The tally is in and with 260 attendees at the Altria Theater Ballroom, the Night of the Dragon grossed just over \$80,000 this year! This figure is a bit lower than last year but still great news because all proceeds will help support our students and teachers through the Foundation, booster groups, and the PTSA.

- **RSB International Travel Around Spring Break 2023**

- London March 30 – April 6
- Ireland – March 30 – April 6
- Canada – April 1 – April 5

- **Future Event: ‘Dare to Be a Dragon Day for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders,’ Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

New Activity for Recruitment: Sign-ups are posted within our participating divisions. More information about this day coming to the board in April.

Ms. White asked if Future Dragon Days were including outreach to walking distance elementary schools. The director responded yes, the gifted coordinators targeted those areas and to the best of his knowledge those schools were included. He then deferred to Ms. Pleveich for an additional response. Ms. Pleveich said there is a cap on the number of students that can be sent, but the goal was to send two students from each elementary school totaling 52 students and we are trying to figure out an equitable way of choosing the students with buy-in from the entire school.

Regarding the upcoming visit of Lieutenant Governor Sears, Mr. May shared that Hanover had the recent privilege of having Lt. Governor Sears come and read a book to a fifth-grade class and she was quite impressive and genuinely interacted with the students. It was fascinating watching her with the students and faculty.

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

March 16, 2023, through April 20, 2023

Thursday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus</b>
Friday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Concert Band Assessment at Glen Allen HS
Friday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	GSMUN Conference Opening Ceremony, Auditorium
Saturday, March 18th	GSMUN Conference at MLWGS, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
	German Exchange Students arrive in Virginia
Monday, March 20th	German Exchange Students arrive on Campus at MLWGS. Welcome breakfast at 8:00 am, Room 153
	Dragon Day Visit for Chesterfield
Tuesday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dragon Day Visit for Hanover and Henrico
Wednesday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dragon Day Visit for Charles City, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hopewell, King & Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Prince George
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Thursday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dragon Day Visit for Richmond

Thursday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Music Department Spring Trip to Atlanta
Friday, March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Visit from UAE Educators, 9 am-noon, Affiliated with William & Mary
Friday, March 24 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Robotics District Competition at Deep Run HS
Saturday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Forensics State Tournament at Dominion HS
Wednesday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Rm 105
Thursday, March 30 <sup>th</sup>	International Assembly Evening Performance for Parents, 6:30 pm, Auditorium
Thursday, March 30 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	RSB Approved International Trip to Ireland
Thursday, March 30 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	RSB Approved International Trip to London
Friday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	International Assembly for Students, 12:35 pm, Auditorium
Saturday, April 1 <sup>st</sup> – April	RSB Approved International Trip to Canada
Monday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Thursday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Spring Break, School Closed for Students. Office hours = 10 hours each day</b>
Wednesday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Robotics District Championship at George Mason University
Friday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holiday – School Closed</b>
Tuesday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Committee Meeting, 10 am, Room 153
Wednesday, April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Cap and Gown Distribution to Seniors, 11:35 am
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Rm 105
	<b>New Student Registration at MLWGS, 6 pm, On Campus</b>
Thursday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Finance Committee Meeting, 8:30 am Virtual
Thursday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	MW Students Compete at the Japan Bowl at the University of Maryland
Friday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Art Exhibition, 6 pm, Off Campus
Wednesday, April 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	MW Students Compete at FIRST Robotics Championship, Houston, TX
Thursday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus</b>
	Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 5:30 pm, MLWGS Commons/Cafeteria

Ms. Harris made an inquiry on the upcoming shadow days asking if we match the visiting 8<sup>th</sup> graders to students from their home division. The director responded we do, and was affirmed in that statement by Dr. Max Smith, adding that if home division students are not available, we try to group them with at least students from the same geographic region who may have a similar travel experience. Ms. Harris followed with her report that Charles City had two students change their minds this year about attending Maggie Walker and returned to Charles City which resulted in a financial burden. She floated the idea of a contract with the student who elects to attend MLWGS and asked if any of the other divisions are doing this and also how others are addressing this matter. Dr. Lowerre assured her that from the financial side, we understand the burden, and maybe there needs to be something in place if the student is not replaced that should a student return, we can refund a portion of the tuition.

## **XII. Unfinished Business**

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

*The Strategic Plan was presented verbally. The matrix was not updated for this meeting.*

The director reported that not much has changed since the last report with the exception that we are actively now advertising for a part-time coordinator of strategic engagement position and already have some applicants.

Also, the upcoming outreach with the fifth graders [*Dare to be a Dragon Day*] ties to the strategic plan. Lastly, he stated we've made progress on the financial budget.

### **XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion**

#### ***A. FY24 Operating Budget Proposal Board Review and Public Hearing (First Read)***

The Chair opened this section of the meeting for a public hearing.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent's Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY24.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on February 16, 2023.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School presents this public hearing on its 2023-2024 budget. Instead of comments represented in the live forum, the Regional School Board will also accept online public comments until March 15, 2023.

The director noted this budget is balanced and allows for a 5% compensation increase and a 2.0 FTE to accommodate growth and shifting of student interests. From a hiring perspective, we are in the process of hiring a math teacher for a retiring teacher.

Areas we have been able to save some funding are textbooks and our insurance now with VACorp.

Note: DISCLAIMER: This proposal is pending the Governor's signature on the State budget. Dollar amounts could change, probably slightly higher, not lower

Below are comments received from the public online comment form and are topical to operations. One comment speaks to teacher training for students with ADHD and other disorders, and the other on building renovations and expansion construction. The capital issue is a legitimate problem that this budget cannot deal with as we are reaching capacity in this building so it is something we need to look at. Perhaps a capital campaign will be required.

*Comments Received Online:*

<b>AY24 MLWGS BUDGET PROPOSAL PUBLIC COMMENT</b>				
	Name (First and Last)	MLWGS Affiliation (Ex: parent, student, teacher)	The district you represent:	Comment
	Lindsey Gary-Ford	Parent	Chesterfield	It has become evident, as this is my child's first year at MLWGS, that the teachers desperately need training on working with students who need accommodations for ADHD and other disorders. Along those lines, they need specialized training on interacting with students in a supportive, encouraging manner. We have realized how well trained the Chesterfield teachers are in comparison with the teachers my child has interacted with this year. Being a licensed therapist, I do trainings like this and colleagues of mine do trainings like this to various organizations. The impact of teachers' words on students' mental health is significant and my child has become a different student after experiencing the critical approach of the MLWGS teachers. I believe trainings on this subject area could vastly improve the dynamic between students and teachers.
	Erica Angert	Parent	Henrico	If the student population is to grow, renovations and construction plans should be invested in immediately starting this coming year. The music room is already not big enough to hold either the band or the orchestra, even though those are already broken up into smaller classes. The auditorium doesn't come close to holding the entire student body, or to holding all of the families who want to come to music concerts and other events. I'm sure there are many other ways in which our school simply isn't spacious enough to hold more students comfortably. Decisions need to be made now about how the building is going to accommodate this growth, not just hiring new teachers and staff, which are certainly also needed.

*Public Speakers for this Live Hearing: None*

Approval for the FY24 operating budget will be requested on the April 20, 2023, meeting of the Regional School Board.

***B. Annual Authorization for Director to Issue Personnel Contracts (First Read)***

The Regional School Board grants the Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School the authority to issue faculty/staff contracts based upon salary scales, clubs/activities, and athletic stipend scales incorporated within the FY24 Operating Budget scheduled for approval on April 20, 2023.

Approval for this authorization, granting the director the authority to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for FY24 will be requested at the April 20, 2023, meeting of the Regional School Board.

***C. FY24 Student Fees (First Read)***

The proposed student fee schedule has been updated for FY24 with current projected costs for all subject areas.

The attached 2023-2024 student fee schedule is presented to the Regional School Board for the first read. Changes to highlight include the integration of additional technologies in English, and new courses in Science and Senior Seminars. Cost increases for individual workbooks and specific lab fees in Science, Fine Arts, and International Languages reflect recent trends in inflation on all educational resources. Overall reductions have been made in the lab fee and workbook

Approval for FY24 student fees will be requested at the April 20, 2023, meeting of the Regional School Board.

The chair inquired about the low dual-enrollment costs asking how we can keep them so low. The director responded we absorb it into our budget. He added, that has been what we have been able to do up until now, and while VCU had recently raised their fees, it wasn't as bad as anticipated. He noted there is a line item in the budget [#5462] that helps subsidize the dual enrollment program. If the full cost was passed along to the students, it could be cost-prohibitive for some and tax the Foundation hard too. We have about 1,200 classes with VCU with many of our students taking multiple of them. VCU only allows juniors and seniors to take these classes and it has worked very well so far, as we have a very good relationship with VCU.

***D. 2023-2024 School Operating Calendar (First Read)***

The 2023-2024 calendar is presented to the regional school board for the first read. Changes to highlight include a new format, ending the first semester before winter break, and the information forum moving to a Saturday. Election Day and Presidents Day will now be full holidays for both students and faculty/staff. Major holidays for our diverse student body continue to be observed. Our first day, winter break, spring break, and last day align with our major participating divisions on a two-week early start calendar.

Dr. Lowerre was asked to bring a question to the board for their thoughts or position on the idea of shifting spring break forward to match college breaks more closely. The question was noted.

Dr. Smith shared with the board this calendar was developed by a committee and presented with a newer look. He highlighted the annual information forum will be moving from the three-night event to a Saturday virtual event because we are losing parking next year as the James River lot has been sold for condo development and the Lombardy Street bridge will be under construction for one year.

Approval for the amended 2023-2024 School Operating Calendar will be requested at the April 20, 2023, meeting of the Regional School Board.

### ***E. Policy Updates (First Read)***

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

Policy #		Name	New/Amended	Actions
<b>Final</b>	<b>RL</b>	<b>Foundations</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>0000</u></a>	School Legal Status	Amended	Reviewed but not revised by VSBA
		<b>School Board Governance</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>1019</u></a>	Minutes	Amended	Legal and cross-references updated
		<b>Administration</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>2008</u></a>	Director's Contract, Compensation and Benefits	Amended	Reviewed but not revised by VSBA. One minor grammatic change
	<a href="#"><u>2009</u></a>	Evaluation of the Director	Amended	Updated to reflect the requirement of HB 1904/SB 1196. Legal references updated
	<a href="#"><u>2013.1</u></a>	Support Services	New	Simply states the school will provide a support system for operations
	<a href="#"><u>2065</u></a>	Acceptable Computer System Use	Amended	Policy, legal, and cross-references updated. The code requires every school board to review, amend if necessary, and approve every two years. David Bortz has reviewed the changes.
		<b>Instruction</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>3010</u></a>	School Libraries	Amended	Policy, legal, and cross-references updated.
	<a href="#"><u>3011.2</u></a>	College and Career Readiness	Amended	Legal references updated to reflect codification of HB



				1299/SB738 by the Code Commission
	<a href="#"><u>3045</u></a>	Acceptable Computer System Use	Amended	Policy, legal, and cross-references updated. The code requires every school board to review, amend if necessary, and approve every two years. David Bortz has reviewed the changes.
		<b>Student Services</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>4015</u></a>	Student Fees, Fines and Charges	Amended	Policy updated
		<b>Human Resources</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>5005</u></a>	Professional Staff Contracts	Amended	Reviewed but not revised by VSBA
	<a href="#"><u>5065-R9</u></a>	Military Leave	Amended	Policy updated to reflect amendment of VA Code §§ 44-93 by HB 231. Each school board must decide the amount of supplemental pay it provides.
	<a href="#"><u>5110</u></a>	Resignation of Staff Members	Amended	Policy updated to reflect content of legal reference
		<b>Community Relations</b>		
		<b>Finance &amp; Operations</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>7009</u></a>	Management of Funds	Amended	Policy updated
	<a href="#"><u>7011</u></a>	School Activity Funds	Amended	Policy updated to reflect content of legal reference. Cross-reference also updated.
	<a href="#"><u>7018</u></a>	Vendor Relations	Amended	Reviewed but not revised by VSBA
	<a href="#"><u>7034</u></a>	Supplementary Pay	Amended	Reviewed but not revised by VSBA
		<b>Student Conduct</b>		
	<a href="#"><u>8032</u></a>	Vandalism	Amended	Cross-references updated to remove reference to deleted regulation Standards of Student Conduct

The director recommends the Regional School Board review the policy and regulation proposals submitted that have been vetted by the Policy Steering Committee. Approval will be sought at the next full Regional School Board meeting, April 20, 2023.

#### **XIV. Information Items**

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes March 3, 2023
- MW students audition for All-Virginia Band
- MW students earn Summer Travel Awards
- MW Achieve Success on the National German Exam
- MW sophomore advances to the state competition at the Virginia History Day
- MW students take 1st and 2nd Places at Super Regional Forensics Tournament
- Scenes from Youth Art & Music Celebration at MLWGS, March 2
- MW students are successful at the Metro Richmond Science & Engineering Fair
- Henrico Superintendent Recognized as Region 1 Superintendent of the Year

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Cashwell as Superintendent of the Year.

#### **XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report**

The committee did not meet before this board meeting so no report was presented.

#### **XVI. New Business**

None.

#### **XVII. Closed Meeting**

None.

#### **XVIII. Certification of Closed Meeting**

None.

#### **XIX. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

Ms. Harris shared with the group that her Superintendent, Dr. Joppy, had recently lost her sister.

Ms. White asked a general question to the superintendents in the room about how their divisions address unacceptable student behaviors. Dr. Teigen was the first to respond stating they follow their student code of conduct. Ms. White acknowledged (RPS) having a student code of conduct but it doesn't seem to prohibit those unacceptable behaviors such as guns and illegal substances being brought into schools. Dr. Teigen said Powhatan's policy addresses those specific behaviors and their consequences and Powhatan adheres to it. Ms. Ayers added their board reviews the student code of conduct annually making sure during a school year cycle where there are particular challenges they analyze them and also offers them another opportunity for a deep dive to make sure consequences line up with what we are seeing work in our schools. Beyond that, as a system, we want to create a culture where problems are addressed before they get to that level, and of course, that doesn't always happen so that's when you must have clear consequences outlined and be able to take action on them.

Dr. Gill acknowledged from the superintendents' group perspective; everyone is seeing an escalation in these types of behaviors in the wake of the pandemic as well as in the age they are occurring. In the past, we would not see these behaviors typically until the secondary level...but now it's younger and younger. He added, that following the code of conduct must be fluid to address what we are seeing in the classroom, hallways, buses, etc. Dr. Gill didn't know if there was a magic solution to the issue, but his board is planning a special work session in April specifically to look at this issue and what we can do from a preventative standpoint.

Mr. Pritchett added he sits on the disciplinary board in Petersburg and one thing they are using is a SET Team [*Student Empowerment Team*] that makes sure upon the student's return to school from a suspension we provide ample support [*Wrap Around Services*] from a team including the school psychologist, the behavioral support person, student services personnel, etc, and the parent(s) all meet. The SET Team engages after a major infraction and is a requirement to meet before the student can return. Mr. Pritchett said they too are seeing more behavioral issues on the younger level; however, Petersburg does not have an in-school suspension/ISS program for elementary grades, so they try their best not to suspend the elementary students but to dig deeper into the cause of the infraction.

Dr. Cashwell added Henrico offers alternative programs that provide opportunities to engage students not only in academic learning but also in the social-emotional environment that may have contributed to what when wrong.

Dr. Lowerre reminded there are many public programs to offer resources [ex: Child Savers] along with the necessity for community engagement. He added while this topic was not specific to our agenda, it was powerful to be able to engage on issues at a regional level.

## **XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

On a motion to adjourn by Martha Harris, seconded by Mariah White by a unanimous voice vote, this meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

### **Next Meeting**

April 20, 2023, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

---

Kenneth Pritchett, Chair

---

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

---

Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk