

MINUTES

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

Thursday, November 9, 2023

9:01 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 Executive School Board and visitors stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member present is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Ms. Michelle 'Micky' Ogburn, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools

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

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

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

Dr. Michael Cromartie, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools

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

Dr. Michael 'Max' Smith – **MLWGS Assistant Director**

Not in Attendance:

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

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

Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams – MLWGS Assistant Director

Wendy DeGroat and Aparna Harger – MLWGS Staff

Not Required to be in Attendance:

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

Ms. Debbie Bailey, *School Board*, Chesterfield County 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. Linda Hyslop, **School Board**, Hopewell 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
Dr. Daphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Merv Daugherty, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Ms. Haidee Napier, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Tamara Sterling, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

V.a Approval for Board Member to Participate in this Meeting Remotely

No requests were made for board members to participate remotely.

V.b Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Sarah Barber, the Regional School Board meeting minutes of October 19, 2023, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- **MLWGS Junior Will Knutson from Goochland** and teacher Michael White were on hand for this recognition. (*Note: the student had a late arrival requiring moving recognition to just after the Director's verbal report and just before coming events*).

Every year, the **American Council of Teachers of Russian** accepts nominations for the Russian Scholar Laureate Award. Of the thousands of high school students taking Russian across the country, only a handful (about 30) earn this distinction annually.

Please join us in congratulating Will Knutson, a junior from Goochland, who has been named a 2023 Russian Scholar Laureate!

“This is a big deal,” said his teacher, Michael White. “Will certainly deserved it. In two years of Russian study, he was a model of diligence and enthusiasm for the language and culture, blending innate linguistic talent with persistent hard work. Please join me in congratulating Will on this high honor.”

Will thanked his teacher stating Mr. White is one of best teachers he's ever had.

After Will left the room, Ms. Ogburn shared that every time we recognize an MLWGS student she is so impressed with their knowledge.

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.

No comments were submitted.

IX. Consent Items

The assistant director provided a brief review of each consent item presented.

On a motion by Sarah Barber, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate on a voice vote: November 2023 Personnel Actions, the fiscal status reports of October 31, 2023, and the donations report of October 31, 2023.

X. Action Items

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

INTERDISCIPLINARY TRIP PROPOSAL

SPONSOR: MADELINE PATUREL

FRANCE, DATES TBD: Mid-June 2024

Students will travel to Nice, France for a unique learning opportunity. Students will stay with host families in pairs, attend language classes each morning customized to their levels and engage in a cultural exploration of the area in the evenings.

Day 2 and 3 – Nice, France.

Day 4 – Monaco

Day 5 – Eze

Day 6 – Cannes

Day 7 – Antibes

Day 8 – Saint Paul De Vence

Day 9 – France, USA

Cost - \$3,577 per person with 14+ participants.

Additional chaperones: TBD

On a motion by Micky Ogburn, seconded by Sarah Barber, the France 2024 trip proposal from Ms. Paturel was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

b. New Course Proposals AY25 (*Second Read*)

• **DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH**

The title is changed from American and British Literature to Contemporary Voices I and II.

“Contemporary Voices”

Rationale:

1. As the AP Literature and Composition course evolves away from being only a British Literature course, it makes sense for the alternate senior English course to also provide different voices and different perspectives.
2. An American Literature course that contains a heavy emphasis on pre-20th century literature may be of less interest to students who are not motivated to push themselves to take a more challenging course like AP English Language and Composition.
3. Students who are not interested in taking an advanced course in English, like AP Literature or AP Language, can be understood to have less intrinsic motivation in English and would benefit from higher-interest texts – while still maintaining a level of academic rigor that is appropriate for Maggie Walker students. Studying contemporary literature could provide that high interest and greater engagement.
3. AP Language and Composition courses are drawing most juniors, while AP Literature and Composition classes pull most of the seniors, leaving small sections of American Literature and British Literature, respectively. Creating a mixed-level (juniors and seniors) course would consolidate students and free up additional sections for other English teachers, reducing class sizes in the department as a whole.

Course Description

Contemporary Voices I and II

The most innovative writers of our time may not yet have been included in current classes and anthologies. This two-year cycle, a literature course for eleventh and twelfth graders, explores major forms of writing such as poetry, drama, the novel, the short story, and nonfiction prose from a thematic perspective. Students examine both established contemporary authors and emerging poets and writers who rarely make it to school reading lists, but whose work is challenging, important, and beautiful. Some readings may deal with controversial material and mature themes. Students will analyze the techniques used by the authors they study in formal literary analysis papers, formal and informal presentations, and in seminar discussions. A sampling of prospective themes would include “A Found Generation: Age, Identity and the Post-Millennial Writer”; “From Margins to Center: Marginalized Authors and the Readers Who Love Them”; “Make It New: Experimental Narrative Techniques in Fiction”; and “War of the Words: Literature from Global Combat Zones.”

Note: Students may take the course either as a junior or senior or take both levels of the course, one in junior year and one in senior year.

Books - from 1st and 2nd-floor book rooms that are underutilized.

“War of the Words”

Catch-22

The Catcher in the Rye

The Things They Carried

Slaughterhouse-Five

“From Margins to Center”

Fences

The Color Purple

The Bluest Eye

Wit

The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry

“Make It New”

The Handmaid’s Tale

Ficciones

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

Other:

The Color of Water

An American Childhood

The Writing Life

Need: a book of short stories

Kate Baer (contemporary poet: *What Kind of Woman*)

- **DEPARTMENT: SCIENCE**

COURSE TITLE: AP Physics 2

Prerequisite(s): AP Physics 1

Credit: 1 credit

Is this course: New Course

Rationale:

a. Describe how the proposed course augments the school’s curriculum:

This course will provide an opportunity for more students to take a second course in physics.

b. What credits and/or requirements does the course fill?

Lab Science Elective

c. What is the target population of students?

The target population would be those students planning to pursue a biology or science-related major. This course will also help students in meeting pre-med requirements. Some medical programs accept AP Physics 2 with a high score on the test.

Course Description:

AP Physics 2 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: mechanical waves and sound; thermodynamics; electric force, field, and potential; electric circuits; magnetism and electromagnetic induction; geometric and physical optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics.

The principles of scientific inquiry will be used to promote an engaging and rigorous experience for students. Twenty-five percent of instructional time will be devoted to hands-on laboratory work with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations. Investigations will require students to ask questions, make observations and predictions, design experiments, analyze data, and construct arguments in a collaborative environment.

Estimated Cost: No additional costs for equipment/materials. Student lab fee will be the same as for AP Physics 1.

On a motion by Harwood Hall, seconded by Micky Ogburn, the new course proposals listed for AY25 were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

a. Verbal Updates

- **Recycling Efforts at MLWGS by the SECSEE CLUB**

Did you know that only 1.8% of plastic bags and films are recycled? Team SECSEE is collecting these materials to win a new bench for the school. You will find new recycling bins in the bluestone lobby and student parking lot entrance, with clear instructions on what can be placed in them.

- **Winter Sports start November 8, 2023.**

- **MLWGS Drama Presents Snow Angel, by David Lindsay-Abaire, November 16-18, 2023.**

When the quiet town of Deerpoint, Vermont is hit by the biggest blizzard in 107 years, a mysterious girl named Eva steps out of a snowbank and into the lives of 15 confused teenagers who are asked to help her in her search. What Eva's searching for -- and who she truly is -- becomes a mystery that baffles, divides, and energizes the teens of Deerpoint. Told through journal entries and interactions among the students over a single snow day, *Snow Angel* is a funny and eerie tale of teen angst, discovery, and the power of believing.

- **Visit to Thomas Jefferson High School (Alexandria) and opportunities for other local school visits**

The leadership team is organizing a visit to TJHSS&T in Northern VA for November 30th. The two-hour visit would include a tour and panel discussion on the topics that we identified as important: freshman experience program, freshman academic support, course offerings, cross-curricular studies, inclusivity, and cultural responsiveness. A letter will be sent to staff soon regarding additional opportunities for observation and school visits.

Below are the goals and objectives for the visit to TJ:

- Learn more about the school’s freshman experience program, including courses, clubs, and programs that promote academic readiness and success
- Learn more about the school’s course offerings across subject areas (or in a particular content area)
- Learn more about the school’s efforts related to cross-curricular studies for students and curricular collaboration for teachers
- Learn more about the school’s professional learning communities (schoolwide professional development, teacher training opportunities, and the structure and goals of department meetings and departmental collaboration)
- Learn more about the school’s emphasis on belonging, inclusivity, and ways to promote diversity and culturally responsive learning

We plan to extend the opportunity to the entire faculty to visit other schools in the Richmond area and to come back and share information, perspectives, and perceptions.

Ms. Ogburn noted she sees this as a bold initiative to learn from one’s biggest competitor.

- **Virtual FY25 Budget Development Town Hall, December 12, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.**

Results will be shared with the RSB.

- **Professional Development**

For the second and third nine weeks, the Professional Development Subcommittee will provide opportunities for faculty to explore important aspects of INSTRUCTION and METHODOLOGY. Highlighting this topic will underscore the idea that targeted and motivational practices can be effective across all content areas and will also offer us a productive space for cross-curricular engagement and team-building.

b. Coming Events: November 9, 2023, through January 18, 2024

Thursday, November 9 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, MLWGS Campus, Rm 153
Sunday, November 12 th	First Lego Tournament sponsored by MW Robotics, 7 am, Gymnasium
Tuesday, November 14 th	Planning Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Room 153
Wednesday, November 15 th	Science National Honor Society Guest Speaker, 11:35 am, Forum
	VA Math League Contest, 11:40 am, Rooms 200, 201 and 202
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Room 104
Thursday, November 16 th – Saturday, November 18 th	Drama Presents Snow Angel, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
Friday, November 17 th	Q2 Interims Issued Online
Wednesday, November 22 nd – Friday, November 24 th	Thanksgiving Holiday – Building is Closed
Monday, November 27 th	Mu Alpha Theta Guest Speaker Dr. Craig Larson, VCU Professor, 3:30 pm, Forum

Wednesday, November 29 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Room 104
Thursday, November 30 th	Selected Faculty Visit Thomas Jefferson HS for Science & Technology in Northern Virginia
Friday, December 1 st	Fine Arts Department Student Field Trip to Washington, DC
Saturday, December 2 nd	We the People Regional Competition, 8:00 am
Tuesday, December 5 th	Planning Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Room 153
Wednesday, December 6 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Room 104
Saturday, December 9 th	VA Band and Orchestra Director's Association Central Regional Orchestra Auditions, 8:00 am, Auditorium, Gym and Classrooms
Wednesday, December 12 th	VA Math League Contest, 11:40 am, Auditorium
	VIRTUAL FY25 Budget Town Hall, 6:00 pm, Zoom
Friday, December 15 th	Winter Dance at MLWGS Sponsored by the Class of 2027, 8:00 pm, Commons and Cafeteria
	Freshmen Lock-In, 10:30 pm – 6:00 am
Monday, December 18 th	PTSA Provided Holiday Staff Luncheon, 11:30 am, Room 153
	Winter Concert, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
Wednesday, December 20 th	Winter Concert Assembly, 12:40 pm, Auditorium
	End of Q2
Thursday, Thursday, December 21 st	Student Holiday – Teacher Workday
Friday, December 22 nd – Friday, January 5 th	Winter Holiday – Building is Closed
Monday, January 8 th	Instruction Resumes
Tuesday, January 9 th	Planning Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Room 153
Wednesday, January 10 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Room 104
Thursday, January 11 th	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 8:30 am
Monday, January 15 th	Holiday – Building is Closed
Tuesday, January 16 th	Orientation for New Board Members, 10:00 am
	Math League Contest, 11:30 am, Auditorium
Wednesday, January 17 th	End of Q2
Thursday, January 18 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 pm

c. ***Reminder: 2024-2025 Division Enrollment Due to MLWGS December 1, 2023***

As MLWGS begins the planning process for the next school term as directed by Policy 1029 adopted May 18, 2000, amended December 18, 2014, December 17, 2015, and October 15, 2020, it annually seeks this slot commitment statement from participating divisions.

Letters have been provided to participating school divisions for their 2024-2025 student enrollment commitment. Note that each letter should be executed by the division superintendent and school board member and returned to MLWGS by December 1, 2023.

XII. Unfinished Business

a. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

The matrix report is located at the end of these minutes.

Dr. Smith reported our update. He stated professional development is focusing this year on instruction and methodology as well as mindfulness and wellness in our efforts to recruit and retain teachers. We are continuing to absorb fees associated with the online payment system to incentivize its use and we have been doing vigorous outreach going to 28/29 different events (middle school visits). The open house at the end of October was a huge success and the first time we conducted it on a Saturday. Over the day we guessed to have had about 700-750 guests and was a great first run in the new format.

Drs. Williams and Smith along with Todd Raviotta (faculty) have been working on a new admissions video that will be going up on the website shortly that will be beneficial to families that were unable to attend the open house.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion (First Read)

a. January Reorganization Meeting including the election of the School Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the chair and vice-chair at the January 18, 2024, meeting.

2023	2024
Kenneth Pritchett – Chair	
Harwood Hall – Vice-Chair	

b. Election of a Clerk and Deputy Clerk (First Read)

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the board clerk(s) at the January 18, 2024, meeting.

2023	2024
Barbara Marshall – Clerk	
Lucas Veale – Deputy Clerk	

c. Election of Executive Committee Members (First Read)

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, Article IV, Section 3, the election of the annual Executive Committee members shall be held during the January 18, 2024, reorganization meeting.

2023 Membership	2024 Membership
John Wright, Goochland	
Michelle Ogburn, Henrico	
Harwood Hall, King & Queen	
Sarah Barber, New Kent	

d. Election of the School Advisory Council Membership (*First Read*)

The membership roster was provided an incomplete roster at the board's September 2023 meeting for information only. This is the only board committee that coincides with the academic year and not the calendar year.

POLICY 1050***ARTICLE 1******Membership*****Section 1. Composition**

Membership of the School Advisory Council may consist of parents, staff, and students of MLWGS, corporate and community members, higher education representatives, school administrators, and gifted program specialists. Membership shall be presented annually to the Regional School Board.

2023-2024 SAC MEMBERS

- Julie Solomon, Chesterfield, Chair
- Bethany Brady Spalding, PTSA, Vice-Chair
- Dr. Christine Anderson, faculty, Secretary
- Sam Ulmschneider faculty, Historian
- Jill Bowman, Chesterfield, PTSA
- Afrikka Ennis, Chesterfield, PTSA
- Allison Dunaway, PTSA
- Asima Chakravorty, PTSA
- Laura McCoy, Henrico, PTSA
- Ed Coleman, faculty liason
- Joy Cobb, faculty
- Hillary Gawne, faculty
- Sonia Chornodolsky, Junior Representative
- Sophia Watson, Junior Representative
- Isabella Kenney, Senior Rep
- Imran Aly Rassiwalla, Senior Rep
- Karen Smith-Will, director's appointee (Hanover)
- Dr. Lisa Williams, administration, director's appointee
- Matthew Carter, alumni, director's appointee
- Lynn Pleveich, Richmond, Planning Committee

e. Election of the Policy Committee Membership (*First Read*)

Policy 1012.b The committee includes the MLWGS Director and up to two members of the Regional School Board. Other members may include the assistant director(s), faculty member(s), staff member, and a PTSA representative. The committee will review, amend, and make recommendations to the Regional School Board for policy approval or updates as initiated by the VSBA.

2023 Membership	2024 Membership
Mr. John Wright, Regional School Board	
Ms. Valarie Ayers, Regional School Board	
Dr. Robert Lowerre, Director	
Dr. Lisa Williams, Associate Director	
Dr. Max Smith, Assistant Director	
Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk	
Open - Faculty	
Open - Parent	

f. Election of the Wellness Committee Membership (*First Read*)

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 Membership	2024 Membership
Paige Hawkins, Activities Director	Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse
Open, Staff	
Open, Faculty	
Open, Faculty	
Open, Food Service Provider	
Open, Student	
Open, Student	
Open, Parent	
Open, Parent	

g. 2024 Assignment of the Director’s Designee (*First Read*)

Stipulated in Policy 1022.1 and the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies Constitution and By-laws,

- a designee of the director to attend meetings of the Regional School Board in case of the director’s absence or inability to attend.

2023 Designee	2024 Designee
Dr. Max Smith – Assistant Director	

h. Announcement of Superintendent’s Steering Committee Leadership 2024 (*First Read*)

The Superintendent’s Steering Committee will announce their Chair and Vice-Chair selections for 2024.

2023 Leadership	2024 Leadership
Dr. Brian Nichols, New Kent, Chair	
Open, Vice-Chair	

i. 2024 Election of the Finance Committee Members (*First Read*)

Policy 1012.c The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Finance Committee, as created by the Regional School Board, includes the MLWGS Director and the budget directors from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, the City of Richmond, and a representative from at least one other division to be determined by the recommendation of the Superintendent’s Steering Committee.

2023 Membership	2024 Membership
Dr. Robert Lowerre, MLWGS Director	
Dr. Max Smith, MLWGS Asst. Director	
Dr. Lisa Williams, MLWGS Asst. Director	
Ms. Karen Hoover, MLWGS Bus. Mgr.	
Barbara Marshall, MLWGS Exec. Asst.	
Ms. Lynn Bragg, RPS	
Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover	
Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield	
Mr. John Wack, Henrico	
Ms. Debbie Halloway, Powhatan	

j. Code of Conduct for School Board Members (*First Read*)

Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 18, 2024, meeting.

k. Code of Conduct for Clerks (*First Read*)

Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 18, 2024, meeting.

l. 2024 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (*First Read*)

The director recommended a review of the proposed 2024 calendar of meetings and consultation with the member’s local calendar for conflicts and/or modifications. Approval will be requested at the January 18, 2024, meeting of the Regional School Board.

This proposal presented reflects proposed changes to the board’s typical meeting schedule as noted:

- 1) **April** will be changed from RSB to ESB (*changed after this meeting from March to April*)
- 2) August will be changed from RSB to ESB
- 3) September will be changed from ESB to RSB (this will allow an earlier approval of policy)
- 4) November can be changed from ESB to RSB to keep the same allotment of RSB meetings (6), or if the board prefers it can remain an ESB-scheduled meeting and reduce the total number of RSB meetings each year to (5). The November agenda is typically undemanding.

The rationale is to close gaps for budget adoption in the spring and fall policy approval.

Ms. Ogburn suggested it would be beneficial to make the last meeting of the year (November) as RSB so this body doesn't go three months before their next meeting.

Ms. Barber advised the board that she would be rolling off at the end of December not having won re-election. Dr. Smith noted that Dr. Lowerre asked that we recognize Ms. Barber's long-term commitment to Maggie Walker, both as a board member and parent.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting, November 2, 2023
- MLWGS '23 Yearbook Wins VHSL First Class Honors
- MLWGS 'Introduction to Engineering Class Visits NASA Langley for Open House
- Mech Tech Dragons compete at Rumble in the Roads in Newport News
- Two MLWGS Juniors Assist Lakeside ES Robotics Program
- Walker Quiz Bowl Sends Four Teams to VCU Tournament
- Girls XC Regional Champions + Boys XC Regional Champions

XV. New Business

- None.

XVI. Announcements/Additional Discussion

- Dr. Smith advised that the state-adopted 2% raise has been executed for staff effective December 1, 2023.

Before adjournment, Ms. Ogburn was presented with a token MW print in recognition of her service with Dr. Williams stating she was moved by the way Ms. Ogburn affirms this school. She added, "When you leave something better than you found it, that is the biggest compliment."

XVII. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On a motion from Sarah Barber, seconded by Micky Ogburn, on a unanimous voice vote this meeting ended at 9:38 am.

Next Meeting of the Regional School Board

January 18, 2024, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Richmond, VA 23220.
804-354-6800 x 2190.

Kenneth Pritchett, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

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

DATE: November 9, 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	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 took place in September of 2022. Dare to be a Dragon Day took place for 5 th grade students in April 2023. We have hired a Coordinator for Strategic Engagement who will assist in implementing strategies for increased community outreach.		
OBJ 1.2	MLWGS will create an environment that provides a sense of belonging and fosters student and family engagement.				
1.2.1	Examine and eliminate structural barriers that prevent students from availing themselves of all the opportunities at MLWGS.	Planning Committee, Administration, Foundation	Fall Festival begins before the end of the school day to eliminate the barrier of transportation. Also, SAC conducted a student survey during Fall Festival to determine ways to eliminate barriers related to accessing and		

			participating in activities		
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. Professional Development efforts for 2023 will focus on wellness and mindfulness.		
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	The Counseling Department 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. New Outreach Coordinator will facilitate new surveys.		
1.2.6	Analyze and strengthen the student onboarding process to prepare accepted students for the MLWGS experience	Counseling	Freshman 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 and will happen again in 2023. A visit to TJST is taking place in November of 2023 to observe their freshman onboarding program.		
1.2.7	Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment	Administration, External Trainers	Year one of Cultural Competency PD has been completed. Year two has also been completed culminating in a full-day of PD on belonging led by a DEI expert. Year Three will include resources		

			and activities on equity and inclusion.		
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
OBJ 2.1	Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.			2020-2021	
2.1.1	Encourage a collaborative environment for ongoing innovation of all course offerings.	Admin, School Counseling	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 and we have established a strong dual enrollment program.		
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. We have also entered into an exchange program with a school in Germany.		
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	Leadership Team, Tech Integrators	Following the COVID		

	community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.		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	New training regarding AI and ChatGBT has been offered.		
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	Discussions have taken place with the superintendents.		
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			