

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 18, 2024

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.

Present:

Ms. Lisa Hudgins, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Elaine Pearson, **School Board**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Ms. Meredith Moses, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. Bob May, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, **School Board**, Henrico County Public
Ms. Harwood Hall, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, **School Board**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, **School Board**, Petersburg Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. George Fohl for Dr. Merv Daughtery, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Travis Ridley for Ms. Haidee Napier, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Michael Cromartie, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. John Farrelly for Dr. Tamara Sterling, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Melanie Ficke for Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George 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
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

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

Absent:

TBD, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Mr. Steven Neece, **School Board**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Linda Hyslop, **School Board**, Hopewell Public Schools
TBD, **School Board**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Mariah White, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools

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

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.**

No requests were made for board members to participate remotely.

V.b Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Bob May, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VI. Election of Chair

Nomination: Kenneth Pritchett was nominated by Bob May who also made a motion to close the nomination. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by Bob May was seconded by Harwood Hall, resulting in Kenneth Pritchett being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2024 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 Bob May who also made a motion to close the nomination. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by Bob May was seconded by Lisa Hudgins resulting in Harwood Hall being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2024 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 Elaine Person who also made a motion to close the nomination. There being no other nominations; on a motion by Elaine Person, seconded by Jill Andrews; Barbara Marshall was unanimously elected to serve as the 2024 Clerk of the Maggie L Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Ms. Marshall.

Nomination: Lucas Veale was nominated for Deputy Board Clerk by Elaine Person who also made a motion to close the nomination. There being no other nominations; on a motion by Elaine Person, seconded by Jill Andrews; Lucas Veale was unanimously elected to serve as the 2024 Deputy Clerk of the Maggie L Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Mr. Veale.

IX. Election of Executive Board 2024

Stipulated in the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies Constitution and By-laws, Article IV, Section 3, Item 3:

An Executive Committee (the Executive Board), shall have the full authority of the Regional Board in all matters except the amendment of the constitution and bylaws, approval of policy, modifications to the approved budget, issues that would require a closed session, or employment of the Director. The Executive Board shall consist of five Regional Board members: the Chair or Vice-Chair and four other Regional Board members to be elected from its membership at the January reorganizational meeting for a term of one year.

After discussion, the following slate was offered:

2023 Membership	2024 Membership
John Wright, Goochland	Meredith Moses, Goochland
Michelle Ogburn, Henrico	Bob May, Hanover
Harwood Hall, King & Queen	Harwood Hall, King & Queen
Sarah Barber, New Kent	Elaine Pearson, Dinwiddie
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg	Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg

Alicia Atkins made a motion to approve the slate of Moses, May, Hall, Pearson, and Pritchett for the 2024 Executive Board, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, this slate was unanimously approved on a voice vote for the 2024 Executive Board.

X. Assignment of Director’s Designee 2024

The director recommended Dr. Michael Smith as the 2024 director’s designee.

On a motion by Jill Andrews, seconded by Bob May, Michael Smith was unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2024 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 2024 Steering Committee Leadership

Per agreement among the superintendents, Dr. Brian Nichols will serve as chair for one more month into 2024 as the committee attempts to realign the Superintendent’s Steering Committee chair with the board chair position in 2024. Dr. Sterling from Petersburg is not in attendance today.

XII. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Harwood Hall, minutes for the Executive Board meeting of November 9, 2023, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XIII. Recognitions

- **MLWGS students awarded with academic honors from College Board National Recognition Programs**

Students at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School earned academic honors from the [College Board National Recognition Programs](#). These programs celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance. The academic honors for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino students are an opportunity for students to share their strong academic achievements with colleges and scholarship programs that are seeking to recruit diverse talent.

Akira Aikens - '25, Chesterfield : NAARA
Bryce Davitt - '24, Chesterfield : NHRA
Elaina Shifflett - '24, Chesterfield : NAARA
Gabrielle Hines - '25, Chesterfield : NAARA
Martina Ribera - '25, Chesterfield : NHRA
Nate Winters - '24, Richmond : NIA

Sarah Douglewicz - '25, Chesterfield : NAARA
Olin Gunlicks - '25, Richmond : NHRA
Mercedes Luna - '25, Chesterfield : NHRA
Oghenerioke Obrimah - '25, Hanover : NAARA
Haley Taylor - '25, Hopewell : NAARA

Award Key:

National African American Recognition Award (NAARA)
National Hispanic Recognition Award (NHRA)
National Rural and Small Town Award (NRSTA)
National Indigenous Award (NIA)

The criteria for eligible students include:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher.
 - PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state for each award program or earned a score of 3 or higher on 2 or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade.
 - Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.
- **MLWGS teacher named 2022-23 Virginia Girls Tennis Coach of the Year**

Maggie Walker's own Hillary Gawne, Science Department, has been chosen as the 2022-23 Virginia Girls Tennis Coach of the Year by the NFHS Coaches Association. Hillary was nominated by the Virginia High School League for this prestigious honor. The selection committee evaluated her coaching performance in the 2022-23 school year, as well as her lifetime contributions to the community and school, and her coaching philosophy. The NFHS Coaches Association recognizes coaches who excel in their sport, inspire their athletes, and have a positive impact on their community. The NFHS is proud to acknowledge Hillary Gawne as one of these coaches.

Ms. Gawne expressed her gratitude for this recognition and stated this was possible because of the efforts and support she received from many people at the school.

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.

No comments were received online or presented in person.

XV. Director's Report

A. Verbal Update

- **Japanese Exchange, March 2024**

Students from our partner school in Japan are visiting Maggie L. Walker next March. The planned dates for the visit are **March 2nd (Sat)– March 16th, 2024 (Sat)**.

Our partner school, Chiben Gakuen, is in Wakayama, Japan, about 2 hours and 30 minutes south of Kyoto via train. The exchange is supported by our school, and we are planning on having 12 high school students from Japan visit.

- **Review of Budget Calendar
Regulation 7003.1 (Updated requested on the board's January agenda)
Budget Calendar**

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

- At least one public forum will be held before December 30 to solicit public input.
 - The budget work-session date in January will be published as part of the Regional School Board's meeting schedule and will be informative for fiscal planning purposes only.
 - The proposed operating budget and capital improvement plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February.
 - After the February presentation of the operating budget and capital improvement plan, a brief public synopsis of the operating budget and capital improvement plan will be published at least seven days before the date set for the hearing, at which any citizen shall have the right to attend and state his or her views thereon.
 - A public hearing will be held before budget adoption in March.
 - The budget can be adopted at its earliest in March.
 - The Regional School Board shall annually publish the approved budget on the school's website or make the approved budget available in hard copy as needed to citizens for inspection.
- **Budget Development Public Input:** The Director will provide verbal feedback from the virtual town hall on December 12th.

Virtual Town Hall & Survey Announcement below:

Seeking your input on the 2024-2025 school budget development

Posted on [December 1, 2023](#) by [Barbara Marshall](#)

We are starting work on developing the operating budget for the academic year 2024-2025 at MLWGS, and we would like to know your priorities for this budget. Your feedback is crucial in helping us understand which initiatives we should continue, stop, or modify in the next academic year. We also welcome any suggestions on how we can improve our efficiency.

We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas to share. You can share your thoughts on successful practices you have seen at other institutions or businesses, or suggest any new programs or program expansions that can help improve instructional opportunities for our students.

We value all suggestions and will consider each one. Please take a moment to respond to this [survey](#) by Monday, December 11th, 2023, or participate in the director’s VIRTUAL town hall for public input on December 12th at 6 pm. Dr. Lowerre will send all stakeholders a link to this town hall the day before through the school’s communication system.

Thank you for your time and for sharing your ideas with us.

Responses received:

Your name:	What is your connection to MLVGS?	What do you think we are doing now that we should consider continuing?	My spending idea relates to...	What is a new or expanding program or other issue you would like us to consider?	My cost saving idea principally relates to...	What is your cost saving idea?
Ross Catrow				Expanded support for new RPS students now that the speciality school application process has changed.		
Chelsea Hagan	Student		Compensation/Benefits	Virginia law, SB 232, requires that all schools make available tampons or pads to students. Currently, this is coming out the PERIOD Club's personal finances. I believe that money should be added to the nurse's budget to accommodate for this expense so that a school club does not have to pay for this requirement.		
Max Keating	Student	Specialized social studies classes like civil rights and comp gov	Teaching and learning	International Relations needs to be a class at a school for government and international studies.	Technology	At a generally high income school computer carts don't need to be replaced often, and I don't think our teachers needed those tvs out in all the classrooms. Start spending money on education and less on demour.
Lesli Johnson	Parent and/or family member	The variety of sports and special interest groups that you have are great. There is truly something for everyone. I love the freedom and responsibility you allow the students.	Extracurricular Activities/Fundraising	The school truly may need to look at a way to increase the size of the facility, particularly the gym. Parents from other schools have referred to it as "cute". There is not enough space for both girls and boys teams, JV and Varsity to practice.		
Michael T. Jordan	Employee		The facility/parking lot	Facility security enhancements: Doors, windows, cameras, access control, alarms, parking lots (Paving and painting)	The facility/parking lot	Charge EVERYONE who uses parking lots rather than just students. Adds approximately \$7500.00 to security budget annually.
aiden hess	Student		The facility/parking lot	expand the wrestling room so it is not as tight as it is now	Teaching and learning	do not pay for Wiley plus or anymore of the math textbooks that don't really add nearly as much to learning as having teachers make their homework pages would do. Wiley plus also doesn't work half of the time
John Wilkes	Employee	Serving to be the best public education in the region	Teaching and learning	Staff and pay the TEACHING staff with closer concern to the load which a core group must carry. We are not staffing or paying full time "in the trenches" teaching sufficiently.	Teaching and learning	Evaluate part-time and non-essential staff. Weigh the value of each course, each function, each expenditure, each position for its merit in delivering top quality educational results.
Brian Rotter	Parent and/or family member	Appreciate the diverse offerings of classes, athletics and extracurricular activities which round out the student experience	Extracurricular Activities/Fundraising	Auction off 1-2 parking spaces for Juniors		
Julie Seitz	Parent and/or family member	Hiring and retaining faculty and staff	Compensation/Benefits	The school facilities needs improvement for daily learning conditions. Air conditioners break. Music room class and stage size don't accommodate all students. Have handicap ramps been installed for ADA usage for the stage?	The facility/parking lot	For small classes, could students enroll in colleges for dual enrollment credits? Or could Maggie Walker offer those courses to gifted students from our 14 districts virtually and charge tuition?

Dr. Lowerre was pleased with the community feedback received.

Additionally, the director stated that the work session today will be brief and is targeted more toward revenue, and in February he will formally present the proposed budget. Adding, he shared with the superintendents this morning that with anticipated increased funding from the State and the divisions, he will be able to produce a budget that is solid and balanced that will meet the needs of the school as well as begin the process of bringing our pay scales in-line with area pay scales.

Public comment on the proposed budget will open after the February presentation to the board.

- **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 2024 with no pricing increase.

- **Save the Date: Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, March 9th.**

Plans are shaping up in a wonderful way for the 22nd Annual Night of the Dragon, being held **March 9, 2024**, at Hardywood Craft Brewery Richmond in Scott's Addition. This year's theme is Denim & Dragons! Make your plans now to join us for this hallmark social event and the largest MLWGS fundraiser of the year. Tickets go on sale in late January.

- **Community Service Announcement**

All students and parents are encouraged to check your community service hours totals to make sure that you are on track to complete this requirement. Students can help their parents get onto their x2vol accounts to check to see how many hours have been earned. **Each student is striving to earn a total of 140 hours while at MLWGS, or 35 hours a year.** Each student should work diligently to earn these hours while learning how to be leaders in the community. If a student has questions about any of this process, please stop by Mr. Les Cook’s office.

- **Teacher-Generated Senior Seminar Proposals for 2024-2025:**

Instructor	Proposal Title
Michael White	Slavic Folklore
Kerry Sheppard	The Evolution of London—The Making of a Metropolis
Todd Raviotta	Digital Video
Nick Merillat	Music Composition and Recording
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
NaKita Lee	Black Legacy/Black Lives: African American History and Culture
Steven Ross	Classical Mythology and Ovid's Metamorphoses
Dr. Christine Anderson	The Age of Total War
Lindsey Lecroy-Whitworth	The Power of Story: Teaching Narrative through Travel Writing

- **Continued Cultural Competency Training**

The administrative team continues to provide professional development opportunities that are intended to cultivate a greater sense of community and belonging here at MLWG. After a two-year initiative focusing on cultural competency, this year we have shifted our focus to mindfulness and wellness.

Our next schoolwide training session will focus on socio-emotional wellness, and our workshops will address ways that we can continue to provide a safe and challenging learning environment for our students, a space in which collaboration, creativity, and self-motivation are paramount. To facilitate this exciting schoolwide PD, the administrative team is collaborating with Colin McConaghy and Jake McDonald, founders of the Peavey Project, our school social worker, Erin Ortiz, our school nurse, Alisa Shapiro, and our school librarian, Wendy DeGroat, as well as several department chairs and technology integrators.

- **The International Language Fair** is taking place on **Saturday, February 24th, 2024**, for any interested *middle school student* in the community designed and led by Maggie Walker students.

Each workshop will allow participating students an opportunity to engage in a series of fun student-led activities, learn about languages offered at Maggie Walker, and experience the life of an MLWGS student. We believe learning about global languages and cultures allows students to become more inclusive, inquisitive, and respectful citizens and learners who see the world with a broadened perspective.



MLWGS INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE FAIR 2024

French
German
Italian
Mandarin
Japanese
Russian
Latin
ASL
Arabic
Spanish

FEB 24TH
9AM-12PM

REGISTER TODAY!

- Pay online at mwlanguagefair@gmail.com by 12/8
- \$5 per student
- lunch provided!
- Student led workshops

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MWLANGUAGEFAIR@GMAIL.COM

• **Teachers Returning to Employment January 8, 2024**



Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Welcome back Alecia Nichols



Spanish Teacher

Alecia rejoins our faculty on January 8, 2024...



...after completing a Fulbright grant in Peru these past 10 months

As an MLWGS alumna (Class of 2012), Alecia is so excited to rejoin the Green Dragon community! Her credentials include the study of Spanish and Mandarin Chinese at Furman University for her undergraduate degree and a master's degree in Linguistics from the University of South Carolina. While earning her graduate degree at USC, she had the opportunity to teach hybrid college Spanish courses, which led her to pursue a career in education.

Alecia received a Fulbright grant to teach English in Peru for the 2023 academic year, and plans to use that opportunity to launch a language exchange program to connect our Maggie Walker Spanish students with Peruvian English learners and strengthen our international connections for years to come!

- **Message to the school community on January 10, 2024**

From the Director: How do we determine whether to delay or close school due to inclement weather

As we begin to enter the time of year when weather events can impact school closures and delays, I thought it would be a good time to share the process that goes into how we make decisions regarding delays and closures to our school.

I would love to say that I simply shake my Magic 8 Ball and see what it says, but it is a little more complicated! First, we must remember that we serve a very large geographic footprint and that many weather events may impact one side of the region while leaving the other side untouched. Second, each of our 14 districts provides transportation to our school and will not transport students on a schedule different than their own. In other words, if a district is closed, they aren't going to operate the buses to MLWGS.

The decision process begins with a look at the weather forecasts. If we see the potential of a storm, we make sure that we have all the tools to make the decision as well as to communicate it at home. I communicate with several district superintendents and regional directors to get a feel for what they plan to do. As a general rule, we will follow the lead of our four biggest districts: Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico, and Hanover. If three of these districts close or delay, we will follow suit. These districts account for about 85% of our student population. In the event of a split between these districts, we generally will follow Richmond as we are physically located in the city.

Once we see what the "Big Four" are doing, we will make our decision. We try very hard to make the call before 9:00 PM, but sometimes we don't have all the information that we need until the following morning. When the decision is made, we will send out an email blast through our system, post it on our website, and notify the local TV channels.

In the event that we are open, but your local district is closed, you are advised to stay home. Your absence will be excused, and you can make up any missed work. If you decide to come to school anyway, that is fine, but I want to make sure that safety comes first as you make that decision. Don't drive on unsafe roads because you are worried about missing school. Your district made the decision to close for a reason.

I hope that this sheds some light on what goes on behind the curtain as we make school closure decisions. While academic time is critically important, the safety of our students, faculty and staff, and community partners always comes first.

- **February Black History Month Activities at MLWGS**



Park Ranger
Maggie L. Walker National
Historic Site
February 2nd
During lunch
Forum

Dr. Milondra Coleman
Author, *Black Owned*
Thursday, February 8th
During lunch
Forum

**Trip to the National Muesum of
African American History &
Clulture**
Friday, February 16th
See Ms. Cobb or Ms. Lee for
Permisson slips
(First come, First served)
9:00am - 4:00pm

**All DIS Puddin' and Black
Wall Street Presentation**
Friday, February 23rd
During lunch
Forum

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES & SPEAKER SERIES

"BLACK ENTERPRISE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP"


JOIN US!

- MLWGS Photography Teacher, Georgianne Stinnett, submits a photograph used by the New York Times

The New York Times

Spelling Bee Forum

Feeling stuck on today's puzzle? We can help.

 Share full article



 413



Courtesy of Georgianne Stinnett

By New York Times Games

Jan. 6, 2024

- **AP Scholar Awards for 2023:**

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 = 298, Average Score = 4.23 (up from 4.17 in 2022)

Scholar Summary (Total Students: 298; Average Score: 4.23)

	AP Scholar	AP Scholar with Honor	AP Scholar with Distinction	AP International Diploma
Number of Scholars	38	54	206	2
Average Score	3.40	3.92	4.37	4.47

AP Scholars = 38	Average Score = 3.40	AP Scholar – Awarded to students who score 3 or more on at least three AP exams.
AP Scholars with Honor = 54	Average Score = 3.92	AP Scholar with Honor – 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.
AP Scholars with Distinction = 206	Average Score = 4.37	AP Scholar with Distinction – 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.

**Total MLWGS Students Tested = 486 on 1,354 exams
93.83% of MLWGS Students Scored 3+ or Higher**

 **SCHOOL SUMMARY**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total AP Students	457	465	485	471	486
Number of Exams	1,116	1,254	1,289	1,233	1,354
AP Students with Scores 3+	450	447	466	457	456
% of Total AP Students with Scores 3+	98.47	96.13	96.08	97.03	93.83

2024 AP TESTING REGISTRATION

2023 was a record-breaking year for the number of testers and the number of exams given and 2024 is slated to be even larger than that. Below is a screenshot of the number of registrations so far. Those not testing are almost exclusively seniors who have already earned the maximum number of credits in a particular subject that are transferable to their prospective college(s).

Student Registrations		Exam Registrations		
Students	Enrollments	Taking	Not Taking	Undecided
535	1,631	1,542	89	0

B. Coming Events

January 18, 2024, through February 15, 2024

Thursday, January 18 th	Reorganization Meeting for the Regional School Board and Budget Work Session, starting at 9:00 am, Room 153
	Evolution of London Seminar Class Field Trip to The Blue Willow Tea Room in Petersburg, 11:30 am
	Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-7 pm
Friday, January 19 th	MLWGS Class of 2023 Hall of Fame Induction (Athletics), 6:00 pm, Gymnasium
Saturday, January 20 th	Quiz Bowl VHSL Regional Tournament at MLWGS, 9 am
Monday, January 22 nd	Course Registration Information Assembly, 11:15 am, Auditorium
Tuesday, January 23 rd	Course Registration Information Assembly, 11:15 am, Auditorium
Wednesday, January 24 th	Course Registration Information Assembly, 11:15 am, Auditorium
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Saturday, January 27 th	New Student Evaluation Day, 2-Sessions, morning and afternoon, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, MLWGS
	We the People State Championship
Wednesday, January 31 st	College Kick-Off for Sophomores & Juniors, Day 1, 9:20 am – 11:35 am, Auditorium
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
	TJ History Honor Society Induction, 5 pm, Auditorium
Thursday, February 1 st	College Kick-Off for Parents, Day 2, 10:15 am – 3:30 pm, Auditorium
Friday, February 2 nd	History Jeopardy Sponsored by the TJ History Honor Society, 11:00 am – 12:20 pm, auditorium
Saturday, February 3rd	Snow Day for New Student Evaluations, 8:00 am
Tuesday, February 6 th	Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm, Location TBD
Wednesday, February 7 th	Q3 Interims Issued
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Saturday, February 10 th	FIRST Lego League Scrimmage, 9 am, Cafeteria & Commons
Tuesday, February 13 th	Make-up Evaluation Session with Gifted Coordinator Approval, 8:30 am, Room 153

	VA Math League Contest, 11:40 am, Auditorium
Wednesday, February 14 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 105
Thursday, February 15 th	Regular Meeting of the Regional School Board and Budget Public Hearing, starting at 9:00 am, Room 153
	Regional Evaluation Day of New Students

Dr. Lowerre highlighted two events: new student assessments on Saturday, January 27, and College kick-off on January 1 and February 2.

XVI. Unfinished Business

a. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

The minutes shall contain a report on the Strategic Plan, which can be found at the end of this document. Dr. Lowerre informed the members that this is a regular item on the agenda, intended to inform all members and that the plan document is the latest update. He briefly outlined that they have been working to close gaps in areas of need.

Dr. Lowerre highlighted an important issue, which was that we had been many years behind on school audits with the City of Richmond. Last year, they presented the FY17 and FY18 reports to the board from Cherry Bekaert LLP, the auditing firm. He mentioned that during a phone conference held this week, CB LLP indicated that they would have the FY19, FY20, and FY21 reports done by the end of January. Once the letter of agreement between CB LLP and the City of Richmond is completed, they expect to have the FY22 and FY23 reports done by the end of the school year, which will help us catch up. The director commended everyone who helped to facilitate the completion of these reports. To conclude, there were no surprises in any of the audit reports, and the balances were about where we had expected them to be.

The development of the next strategic plan will begin later this year as the current plan runs through June 2025.

XVII. Consent Items

On a motion by Heather Donbrosky, seconded by Elaine Pearson, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a block on a voice vote: personnel actions for January 2024, fiscal status reports of November 30, 2023, and December 31, 2023, and the donations reports of November 30, 2023, and December 31, 2023.

XVIII. Action Items

a. 2024 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 Elaine Pearson, seconded by Harwood Hall, the 2024 Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

b. 2024 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 Bob May, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the 2024 Code of Conduct for Clerks was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

c. 2024 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (*Second Read*)

The director discussed proposed changes to the board’s schedule which resulted in (5) Regional School Board meetings and (5) Executive Board meetings in 2024. This change allows for an earlier approval of the subsequent fiscal year budget plus an earlier approval of fall policies and reduces the full board’s load of meetings by one.

This change is an effort for MLWGS to align closer to our divisions whose annual budget approval process currently starts much earlier than MLWGS does.

**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS
JANUARY 2024-JANUARY 2025**

January 4, 2024	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
January 16, 2024	Board Orientation for New Members if Needed	
January 18, 2024	Reorganization Regional Board Meeting & Budget Work Session	CHANGE
February 1, 2024	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
February 15, 2024	Regional Board Meeting & Public Hearing for Input on Budget Proposal	CHANGE
March 7, 2024	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
March 21, 2024	Regional Board Meeting & Budget Adoption	CHANGE
April 11, 2024	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
April 18, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	CHANGE
	<i>No May Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
May 16, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	
June 6, 2024	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
June 20, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	
	<i>No July Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
July 2024	No Regional or Executive Board Meeting	
	<i>No August Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
August 15, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	CHANGE
	<i>No September Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
September 19, 2024	Regional Board Meeting	CHANGE
October 3, 2024	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
October 17, 2024	Regional Board Meeting	
November 7, 2024	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
November 14, 2024	Executive Board Meeting	
<i>November TBD, 2024</i>	<i>VSBA Annual Conference - Williamsburg, VA</i>	

<i>December 10, 2024</i>	FY26 Budget Development Public Town Hall (6:00pm)
December 2024	<i>No December Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
January 9, 2025	No December Regional or Executive Board Meeting
January 14, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
January 16, 2025	Board Orientation for New Members if Needed
	Reorganization Regional Board Meeting

On a motion by Alicia Atkins, seconded by Meredith Moses, the 2024 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

d. Policy Committee Membership 2024 (Second Read)

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

On a motion by Harwood Hall, seconded by Heather Donbrosky the 2024 policy committee membership was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

e. Wellness Committee Membership (Second Read)

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 Membership	2024 Membership
Paige Hawkins, Activities Director	Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse
Open, Staff	Amanda Lemco
Open, Faculty	Wendy DeGroat
Open, Faculty	Erin Ortiz
Open, Food Service Provider	Pam Jones, Food Service
Open, Student	TBD
Open, Student	TBD
Open, Parent	TBD
Open, Parent	TBD

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the 2024 wellness committee membership was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

f. Finance Committee Membership 2023 (*Second 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. Robert Lowerre, MLWGS Director
Dr. Max Smith, MLWGS Asst. Director	Dr. Max Smith, MLWGS Asst. Director
Dr. Lisa Williams, MLWGS Asst. Director	Dr. Lisa Williams, MLWGS Asst. Director
Ms. Karen Hoover, MLWGS Bus. Mgr.	Ms. Karen Hoover, MLWGS Bus. Mgr.
Barbara Marshall, MLWGS Exec. Asst.	Barbara Marshall, MLWGS Exec. Asst.
Ms. Lynn Bragg, RPS	Ms. Lynn Bragg, RPS
Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover	Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover
Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield	Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield
Mr. John Wack, Henrico	Mr. John Wack, Henrico
Ms. Debbie Halloway, Powhatan	<i>Superintendent’s Steering Committee Selection here</i>

On a motion from Lisa Hudgins, seconded by Bob May, the 2024 finance committee members were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Dr. Lowerre commended members of this committee who helped us develop and run a very fiscally responsible budget.

g. School Advisory Committee Membership 2023-2024 (*Second Read*)

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.

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

On a motion from Elaine Pearson, seconded by Alicia Atkins, membership for the 2023-2024 School Advisory Committee as listed was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

h. Domestic Trip Proposal to Georgia and North Carolina, March 14-17, 2024 (Waive First Read Requested)

The Civil Rights Movement Class (led by Robinette D. Cross) and the Black Literature Class (led by NaKita Lee) are planning an experiential learning trip to Atlanta, GA, and Greensboro, NC. 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.

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

Transportation:

James River Transportation will pick the group up and return them to MLWGS.

Chaperones:

Robinette Cross
Nakita Lee

Price Breakdown of trip cost (funded by the MLWGS Foundation):

Academy Bus Company:	\$11,696.00
Driver's Tip:	\$300.00
Atlanta Marriot Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center: 11 rooms (32 people) approximately	\$3,650.19
O. Henry Hotel (NC): Hotel: 11 rooms (32 people) approximately	\$3,945.35
Honorarium for Dr. Bozeman	\$500
Entry fee for Museums (approximately) (we may not have to pay but some have not confirmed if there is a cost)	\$400.00

Items not being requested:

Student contribution (\$200)	-\$5800.00
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Total Requested Support: \$14,691.54

The Chair called for a motion to waive the first read and approve the 2024 student domestic travel proposal to Georgia and North Carolina in March 2024. On a motion from Lisa Hudgins to waive first read and approve this trip request, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, waiving the first read for this action and approval of requested travel proposal for students in March 2024 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

i. International Trip Proposal to Morocco, March 27, - April 5, 2024 (Waive First Read Requested)

Sponsors: Robinette Cross and Kelly Ndayzigiye

The "Gender and Culture in the Middle East and North Africa" (MENA) Senior Seminar explores the elements and evolution of cultures in the MENA region in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Morocco provides an excellent cultural pivot point by joining east and west; traditional and non-traditional; and allows students to explore a cultural amalgamation that is unique and shaped by geography, religion, and colonial experience. The seminar made MLWGS history in the 2016 – 2017 Academic Year with a successful trip to Morocco marking the school's first trip to both the continent of Africa and the MENA region in general. It successfully ran for three years.

It is with overwhelming anticipation and excitement of both the students and the instructor that a trip to Morocco will be approved.

Cities and Activities:

- Pick up and drop off at the airport (Mohammed V) in Casablanca
- Marrakesh
- Merzouga
- Fez
- Chefchaouen
- Meknes
- Rabat
- Casablanca

Chaperones:

Robinette Cross
Kelly Ndayzigiyie

Price Breakdown of trip cost - All meals, ground transportation, hotels, and excursions are included.

Financial Breakdown:

Fez Sahara Tours costs (to include the aforementioned breakdown):

\$1570.83/ per student
(\$18,850)

Royal Air Maroc (14 passengers)

**\$1,166.70/ per student
(\$14,000)

Trip Cancellation Insurance through Allianz Global Assistance \$125/ per traveler
(\$1750)

(Basic Trip coverage: Trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency medical and dental, and emergency evacuation)

Richmond Limousine

Approximately \$2000

Total:

***\$36,600 or \$3050/student

Fundraising Efforts:

Students of the MENA seminar and Mrs. Cross met in August to discuss fundraising activities. There are allocated MLWGS Foundation funds of up to \$20,000 to offset the cost of the trip. There were also “carry over” funds from previous seminars taught by Ms. Cross (funds raised that could not be used due to COVID-19) that Terry Cook will transfer to the MENA account. These combined funds leave only 50% out-of-pocket costs for families.

As such, it is the expectation that students will not incur a cost of more than \$1400 (4 installments) paid per family, which is reasonable. If a student exhibits great need, the funds that have been allocated from the MLWGS Foundation will be used to offset those costs.

The Chair called for a motion to waive the first read and approve the 2024 student international travel proposal to Morocco in March 2024. On a motion from Elaine Pearson to waive first read and approve this trip request, seconded by Alicia Atkins, waiving the first read for this action and approval of requested an international travel proposal for students in March 2024 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XIX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Amended Regulation 7003.1-Annual Budget Calendar and Guidelines (*First Read*)

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following for Regional School Board consideration. This proposal intends to move the annual budget approval from April to March.

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

- At least one public forum will be held before December 30 to solicit public input.
- The budget work-session date in January will be published as part of the Regional School Board's meeting schedule and will be informative for fiscal planning purposes only.
- The proposed operating budget and capital improvement plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February.
- After the February presentation of the operating budget and capital improvement plan, a brief public synopsis of the operating budget and capital improvement plan will be published at least seven days before the date set for the hearing, at which any citizen shall have the right to attend and state his or her views thereon.
- A public hearing will be held before budget adoption in March.
- The budget can be adopted at its earliest in March.
- The Regional School Board shall annually publish the approved budget on the school's website or make the approved budget available in hard copy as needed to citizens for inspection.

Approval of amended regulation 7003.1 will be requested at the board's February meeting.

XX. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes January 2024
- MLWGS Model UN results at MWHSMUN 2023
- MLWGS Results from the Latin Convention in Richmond
- MLWGS 'We the People' team wins Regionals
- Quiz Bowl teams are successful at VCU Winter Tournament
- Art Students Create 'Star' for the Inaugural Tree Lighting at the American Civil War Museum
- (25) Students Admitted to District Band...a new record!
- January 8, 2024, Scholar-Athlete of the Week is a wrestling freshman from Henrico

XXI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Nichols reported a group of superintendents participated this morning in person with their major business focused on the budget and the current legislative agenda.

XXII. Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXIII. Certification of Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXIV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

- *None.*

XXV. Adjournment

On a motion by Bob May, seconded by Meredith Moses, the meeting was unanimously adjourned on a voice vote at 9:59 am.

Next Meeting and Budget Public Hearing

February 15, 2024, at 9:00 am.

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: January 18, 2024

Blue Text = Updates

Green = Completed

GOAL 1	MAGGIE L. WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL CREATE A WELCOMING AND RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT CELEBRATES AND REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WE SERVE AND FOSTERS A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR ALL.	Responsible Party	Measurement	Year to begin Implementation	Cost to Budget
				2020	
OBJ 1.1	MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.				
1.1.2	Develop and enhance relationships with districts, schools, administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and potential students.	Administration, Counseling, Faculty	We are establishing relationships with local administrators through outreach. 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
				2020-2021	
OBJ 2.1	Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.				
2.1.1	Encourage a collaborative environment for ongoing innovation of all course offerings.	Admin, 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. A new model will be presented to the RSB in the Spring of 2024.		
OBJ 2.2	Teachers will provide engaging, student-centered instruction.				
2.2.1	Encourage teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Leadership Team, Tech Integrators	Following the COVID pandemic, a renewed effort to assess and implement student-centered learning strategies has been taking place.		
2.2.2	Provide opportunities for teachers to participate in training and collegial discussions about enhancing student engagement, embedding community engagement, and integrating instructional technology within their curricula.	Admin	Departments have been reaching out to the community to bring in alumni and others to enhance instruction and learning. A trip to TJ SciTech was completed in November 2023.		
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			2021	

	through available software solutions.				
3.1.3	Implemental funding mechanism separate from the operating budget.	Mr. Smith	The issue has been discussed by the RSB.		
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			

**FY25 BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

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

Thursday, January 18, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Present:

Ms. Lisa Hudgins, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Elaine Pearson, *School Board*, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Ms. Meredith Moses, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. Bob May, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, *School Board*, Henrico County Public
Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, *School Board*, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. George Fohl for Dr. Merv Daughtery, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Travis Ridley for Ms. Haidee Napier, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Michael Cromartie, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. John Farrelly for Dr. Tamara Sterling, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Melanie Ficke for Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George 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
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Dr. Lowerre did not provide any documents regarding the proposed FY25 budget. Instead, he presented a verbal overview of State revenues as reported in the Governor's proposed budget. He mentioned that the funding for Governor's Schools has increased. The current proposal includes a 1% bonus in July 2024 and a 2% raise on July 1, 2025, if passed without any changes. According to the director, the General Assembly may modify this proposal, but historically, the Governor's proposed numbers have never decreased.

We need to balance State revenues with tuition commitments to fulfill the needs of the school and update the salary scales for our teachers. During the fall meeting, the director reminded the present board members of Dr. Max Smith's presentation that highlighted the discrepancy in salary scales between MLWGS and other partner divisions. Dr. Lowerre has promised to share a copy of that

presentation with new members. We aim to align our scales with partners over three years and our new proposal will cover one-third of the way towards our goal.

There will be sufficient funding available to commence the gradual process of replacing the key components of the school infrastructure. This includes addressing the leaky roof over the main commons area and the failing HVAC units on the rooftop. The plan is to initiate the work on one unit at present, possibly two units concurrently, and then replace the other units with the highest requirements. We will save all the parts that we can because it is no longer feasible to obtain the required components, and given that we have thirteen units, this is of utmost importance.

Dr. Lowerre is preparing a budget proposal for the board that is both responsible and conservative while also meeting the school's needs. He plans to include a small cushion for maintenance costs. The school is expecting an increase in the number of students on campus next year which will require the hiring of at least one additional full-time staff member. The school has the necessary funds to make this hire. There are also expected to be a few retirements that will result in some cost savings. However, finding space for offices will be a challenge.

The director also mentioned changes to parking in the area due to the construction of a high-rise apartment building on the old James River Bus Lines location. The school has now partnered with the Bons Secures Training Center down the street to use as overflow parking, but a shuttle will now be necessary.

The chair thanked the director for his informative report.

The work session was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Kenneth Pritchett, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk