

## MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies  
Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY2025 Budget Adoption  
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

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

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

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

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

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

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

### **IV. Introductions**

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

#### **Present:**

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools  
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 (late arrival)  
Ms. Linda Hyslop, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools  
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  
Dr. James Taylor, *School Board*, Powhatan County Public Schools

Dr. George Fohl for Dr. Merv Daugherty, **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 Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools

Dr. Leslie Hughes for Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools

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

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

Dr. John Farrelly for Dr. Tamara Sterling, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools

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

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

Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School  
Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School  
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School

**Absent:**

Mr. Steven Neece, **School Board**, Colonial Heights Public Schools  
Ms. Alicia Atkins, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools  
Ms. Jill Andrews, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools  
Ms. Mariah White, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. Michael Cromartie, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

**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

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

- A. The Regional School Board may conduct any meeting wherein the public business is discussed or transacted through electronic communication means if 1) on or before the day of a meeting, a member of the Regional School Board notifies the chair that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance or that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter; and 2) **the Regional School Board approves the member’s participation by a majority vote of the members present at the primary or central meeting location.**

No board members participated from a remote location for this meeting, so no action was required.

**V.b Approval of Agenda**

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Elaine Pearson, the minutes of the regular meeting and budget public hearing of February 15, 2024, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

## VII. Recognitions

- **Class of 2024 Presidential Scholar Candidates.**

The candidates and their senior counselors, Dr. Rachel Loving and Ms. Kimberly Forquer, were in attendance for this recognition.



Congratulations and recognition were extended to the following students for their consistent academic accomplishments:

- ***Rohini Mudinur - Henrico***
- ***Alex Percey - Henrico***
- ***Sruthi Vegunta - Henrico***

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by the executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

- **MLWGS Quiz Bowl Team Wins the Class 3 VHSL State Championship.** Team members and their sponsors, Mr. Adam Rotche and Mr. Drew Austen were in attendance for this meeting to be recognized for their state title win.



*Pictured l-r: Juanita Lasswell, Drew Austen, Lex Smirnov, Rachel Dai, Sam McNamee, Timothy Porter, Risshi Naavaal, and Yash Saxena.*

On Saturday, February 24, Dragons Sam McNamee ('24-Chesterfield), Timothy Porter ('24-Henrico), Yash Saxena ('24-Henrico), and Risshi Naavaal ('24-Henrico), along with Rachel Dai ('24-Henrico) and Lex Smirnov (26-Richmond), participated in the Class 3 VHSL Scholastic Bowl state championship held at Jamestown High School. Maggie Walker's team competed against strong opponents from Rockbridge County High School in Lexington, Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, and Hidden Valley High School in Roanoke. However, our students emerged victorious with another undefeated record, securing the Class 3 state championship for the second year in a row. Congratulations to the team for their outstanding win!

These students will now be turning their attention to practicing for two Quiz Bowl national championships: the HSNCT's National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) in Atlanta, GA on May 24-26, and PACE's National Scholastic Championship (NSC) in Reston, VA on June 8-9.

Quiz Bowl is also sponsored by Ms. Juanita Lasswell (*not in attendance*).

- **MLWGS Orchestra Earns Multiple Superior Ratings.** Orchestra members were in attendance for this meeting to be recognized for their achievements.

Students on hand include Gabriel Harding ('24-Richmond), Katherine Streeter ('24-Richmond), and ... (*name inaudible*) from Chesterfield.



The MLWGS orchestra received straight superior ratings at their recent Assessment at Hanover High School on Thursday, March 7th from the VBODA (Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association). Not only did they receive superior ratings, but they also scored A's in almost every single subcategory. Additionally, they were the only orchestra in the entire district to play Grade 6 music (*highest level*), which is considered the most challenging level of music.

Our congratulations for this achievement go to Walker's orchestra students under the direction of Ms. Allison Barnes.

### **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 public comments were presented live or submitted online.*

### **IX. Consent Items**

The director called the board's attention to Personnel > Leave of Absence requested for two years as allowed by policy by teacher John Piersol, 1.0 FTE English Department.

While not on this agenda, the director wanted to advise the board that audit reports are completed for FY19, FY20, and FY21 and awaiting signatures and are expected to be presented at the board's April board meeting. FY22 letters of engagement have been signed and that report should be done shortly making us almost caught up. Board members should recall that at one point we were almost 7 years behind with no movement. The director

recognized the efforts by RPS and their finance department to get our reports current through coordinated efforts that have helped to move this process along quickly.

On a motion by Bob May to approve consent items as a slate, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following items were unanimously approved on a voice vote: personnel actions, fiscal status reports of February 29, 2024, and the donations report of February 29, 2024.

**X. Action Items**

**a. Amended Procedure 1070-Proc. Related to International Travel (Second Read)**

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

Current Procedure Related to International Travel	Amended Digital Format	New Student International Travel Form
<a href="#"><u>Procedure 1070</u></a> , Last amended October 20, 2022	<a href="#"><u>Procedure 1070</u></a> – Procedures Related to International Travel	<a href="#"><u>Google Link</u></a>

Revisions were made for consistency, clarity, modernization, and style coherence. Substantively the procedure did not change. This is an overhaul of layout and design to make it more consistent and concise with a more modern look. Changes brought a 21-page document down to 14 pages.

On a motion by James Taylor, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the Amended Procedure 1070 Related to International Travel proposal was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**b. FY2025 Budget Adoption (Second Read)**

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent’s Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY2025.

The public had three opportunities to comment on the proposed operating budget before the requested approval; 1) public comments at the February meeting, 2) an online public comment form that was open between February and March, and 3) public comments at the March meeting before adoption.

*No public comments were presented live or submitted online regarding the FY2025 budget proposal.*

The director highlighted his expectations of replacing at least one (hopefully two) of the rooftop HVAC units within this budget, which meets our needs while accounting for the growth to around 797 students, This growth will necessitate additional staffing, which should have been added in the current year but the school didn't have the funds to do so, and that will put our class sizes back down to where they should be.

This is a solid, responsible budget that does not include any unnecessary expenditures. If this budget is approved, the school will be in good fiscal shape for FY25, and honestly, into the next fiscal year too. No additional growth regarding enrollment is anticipated.

On a motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Elaine Pearson, the FY2025 budget proposal was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

**c. *AY2025 Operating Calendar Adoption (Second Read)***

The 2024-2025 calendar is presented to the regional school board for the first read. Changes include pushing back the January P-T conferences so that they are after Q2/S1 report cards. Also, the alumni showcase and Fall Festival will be on the same day, which was a request from the Foundation with the alumni in mind. Further, the calendar ends the first semester before winter break, and the information forum is moved to a Saturday. Election Day and Presidents Day will now be full holidays for students and faculty/staff. Major holidays for our diverse student body continue to be observed. Our first day, winter break, spring break, and last day align with our major participating divisions on a two-week early start calendar.

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Marchelle Hampton, the FY2025 operating calendar was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

**d. *Reviewed Policy Updates (Waive First Read Requested)***

In February 2024, the VSBA reviewed but did not revise the policies listed in this table. The Policy Steering Committee requests board approval to update the school's policy manual.

The director is requesting waiving the first read for this group of policies as the full board does not meet again until the fall of 2024. This action will reduce the load of policies to be updated over the summer.

To view policies, use the link associated with its number.

<b>Policy Number</b>	<b>Name</b>
<a href="#"><u>3003.2</u></a>	Retaking SOL Assessments
<a href="#"><u>3003.5</u></a>	Alternatives to Animal Dissection
<a href="#"><u>4073</u></a>	Blood Borne Contagious or Infectious Diseases
<a href="#"><u>4074</u></a>	Guidelines for School Attendance for Students with Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<a href="#"><u>4075</u></a>	Student Wellness
<a href="#"><u>7002</u></a>	Insurance Management
<a href="#"><u>7017</u></a>	Cash in School Building
<a href="#"><u>7030</u></a>	Payroll Procedures
<a href="#"><u>7031</u></a>	Salary Deductions

On a motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Elaine Pearson, the reviewed but not revised policies were unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

*e. Amended Policies Updates Restricted to Cross or Legal References (Waive First Read Requested)*

In February 2024, the VSBA revised multiple policies. In the interest of time, the Policy Steering Committee requests board approval on the following policies that are limited to either legal or cross-reference updates; otherwise, these policies will be held until the fall of the next academic year, at their next scheduled full meeting.

The director is requesting waiving the first read for this group of policies as the full board does not meet again until the fall of 2024. This action will reduce the load of policies to be updated over the summer.

<b>Final</b>	<b>RL</b>		<b>New/Amended</b>	<b>Actions</b>
		<b>Foundations</b>		
		None		
		<b>School Board Governance</b>		
<u>2014</u>	<u>2014</u>	Buildings and Grounds Management and Maintenance	Amended	Cross-references updated.
<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>	Reporting of Hazards	Amended	Legal reference updated.
		<b>Administration</b>		
		None		
		<b>Instruction</b>		
<u>3003.3</u>	<u>3003.3</u>	Academic Freedom	Amended	Cross-references updated.
<u>3003.4</u>	<u>3003.4</u>	Religion in School	Amended	Cross-reference added.
		<b>Student Services</b>		
<u>4009</u>	<u>4009</u>	Drugs in School	Amended	Small policy update. Cross-reference update.
		<b>Human Resources</b>		
		None		
		<b>Community Relations</b>		
<u>6004</u>	<u>6004</u>	Relations with Parent Organizations	Amended	Legal reference updated.
<u>6014</u>	<u>6014</u>	Public Complaints	Amended	Cross-references updated.
		<b>Finance &amp; Operations</b>		
<u>7002.1</u>	<u>7002.1</u>	Inventory and Reporting of Loss or Damage	Amended	Cross-references updated.
		<b>Student Conduct</b>		
<u>8029</u>	<u>8029</u>	Search and Seizure	Amended	Cross-references updated.



On a motion by Heather Donbrosky, seconded by Linda Hyslop, the amended policy updates restricted to cross or legal references were unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

***f. AY2024 Operating Calendar Change Request (Waive First Read Requested)***

The MLWGS administration requests the Regional School Board consider its request to change Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from an instructional day to a student and staff holiday. The administration is making this request for the following reasons:

- Chesterfield, Henrico, and Richmond have made it a holiday and may or may not provide transportation. Henrico will not.
- Some of our other districts may also make a holiday after their March board meetings.
- Code RVA and ARGS have it as a holiday.
- We have three major international trips underway on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- There is nothing on the calendar that can't be rescheduled.
- We are good on time due to the lack of snow days.

Ms. Moses asked if parents are okay with this change to which Dr. Lowerre replied, yes. He has sent notices out weeks ago about this possible change marked 'pending school board approval,' so families are aware and supportive.

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Marchelle Hampton, the requested change to the AY2024 calendar making March 29, 2024, a holiday was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

**XI. Director's Report**

***A. Verbal Updates***

**• National Merit Scholarship Finalists:**

Sixteen (16) seniors from the following home divisions: twelve (12) from Henrico, one (1) from Chesterfield, one (1) from Richmond, and two (2) from Goochland have advanced to the finalist phase of the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Congratulations to the following MLWGS seniors:

Benjamin Ackerly	Richmond
Arjun Azhagappan	Chesterfield
Ethan Choe	Goochland
Sadie Hall	Goochland
Qingyuan Hu	Henrico
Shreesh Kalagi	Henrico
Isabella Kenney	Henrico
Devesh Kumar	Henrico
Michael Lusk	Henrico

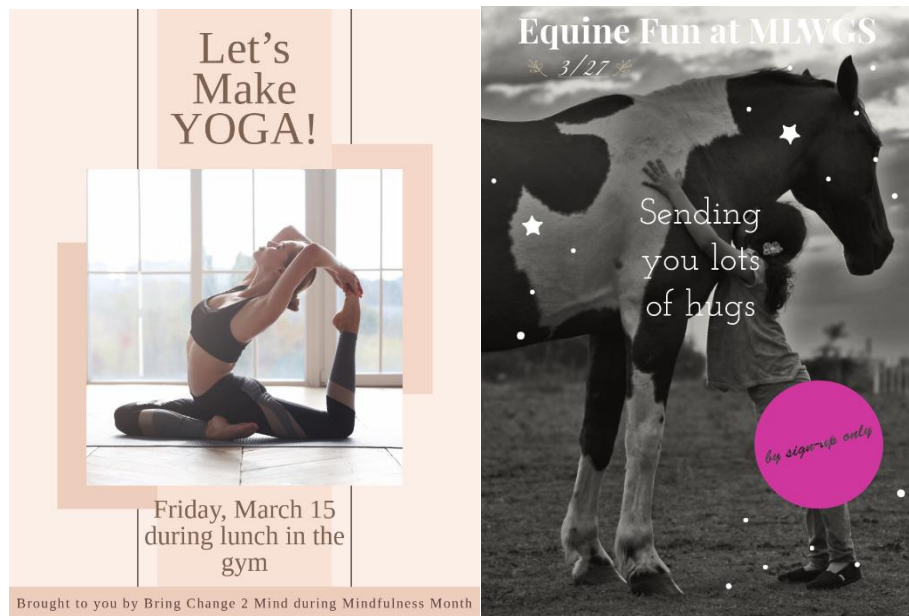
Shorya Malani	Henrico
Alex Percey	Henrico
Nihal Pothunoori	Henrico
Sandor Preda	Henrico
Imran Aly Rassiwalla	Henrico
Yash Saxena	Henrico
Sruthi Vegunta	Henrico

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

- **Mindfulness Activities at MLWGS in March 2024**

We’re thrilled to welcome this opportunity back to Maggie Walker and hope this remains an extension of Mindfulness Month tradition in which students participate in guided yoga, nature documentary screenings, workshops for breathing exercises, meditation, and the science of mindfulness, pajama day, and free tea at lunch during March. BC2M believes in the indirect relationship between practicing mindfulness, diminished stress levels, and acting with integrity, responsibility, and compassion. By facilitating a lunch session with therapy dogs, BC2M hopes students will feel a sense of joy and tranquility, as well as realize the vitality of taking a step back when life feels overwhelming.





- **SOL's at Maggie Walker March 5-8**

The writing SOL administration took place during the week of March 4<sup>th</sup> in sophomore English classes. SOL's are administered in two exams (1-multiple choice and 1-essay) taken over two class blocks.

- **Night of the Dragon Auction March 9 Results**

*2024 Night of the Dragon Auction Recap:* The tally is in and with 250 attendees at Hardywood Brewery, the Night of the Dragon grossed just over \$69,000 this year! This is great news because all proceeds will help support our students and teachers through the Foundation, booster groups, and the PTSA.

- **Future Dragon Days March 11-14**

After a vigorous application process, rising freshmen students from our divisions who have been offered admission to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will 'shadow' the school Monday-Thursday, March 11-14.

Chesterfield – 3/11

Hanover and Henrico – 3/12

Charles City, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hopewell, King @ Queen, New Kent, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Prince George – 3/13

Richmond City – 3/14



- **RSB Approved Civil Rights Class Field Trip to Atlanta, Georgia and Greensboro, North Carolina, March 14-16**
  - North Carolina and Georgia
- **Multicultural Assembly and Parent Performance, March 20 and 21**



The MLWGS Multicultural Assembly is almost here! Celebrating the various cultures and backgrounds of our diverse student body, this year's assembly will be one you don't want to miss! Parents can also enjoy the free event by attending the evening performance on March 20th at 6:30 PM in the auditorium.

In-school performances will be held on March 21st.

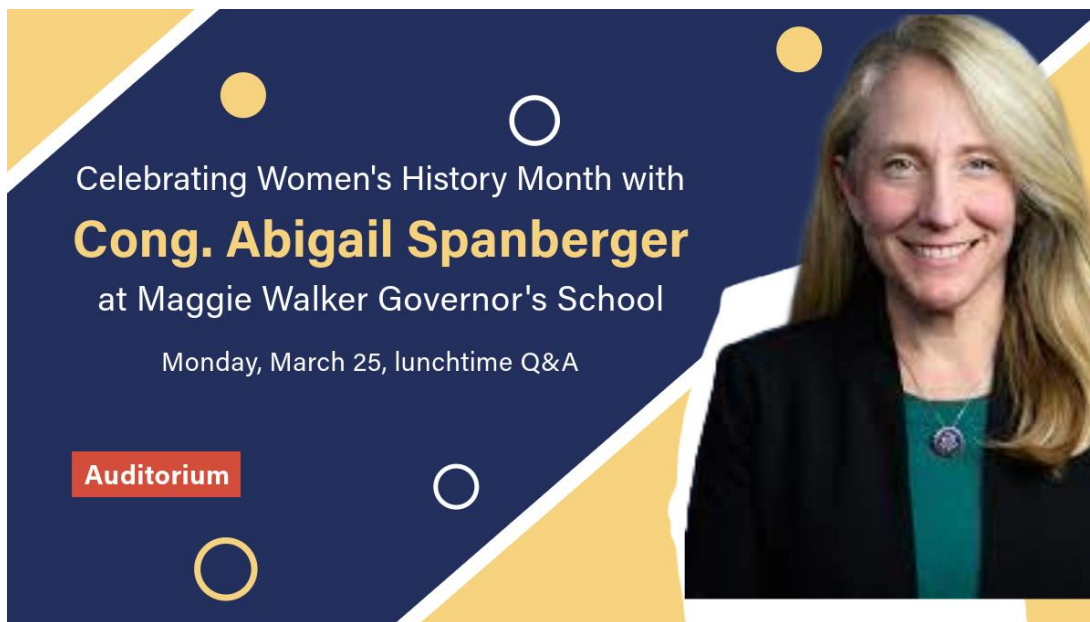
- **Professional Development on March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The focus is on **Mindfulness and Wellness** for our upcoming schoolwide PD on March 22<sup>nd</sup>!

For the morning sessions, we will learn and engage under the guidance of trained mindfulness consultants, Collin McConaghy and Ashley Williams, as well as our very own Wendy DeGroat

(Librarian), Alisa Shapiro (school nurse), and Erin Ortiz (School Social Worker). For the afternoon sessions, we will participate in discussions on equity and wellness, as inspired by our visit to TJ Science and Technology High School. We will also consider how wellness through the ethic of care can inform and influence daily decision-making.

- **RSB Approved International Travel with Students Around Spring Break 2024**
  - London
  - Ireland
  - Panama
  - Morocco
  - Costa Rica
  
- **Guest Speaker Q&A for Women’s History Month, Monday, March 25**



- **Future Event: ‘Dare to Be a Dragon Day for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders,’ Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

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

***B. Coming Events***

March 21, 2024, through April 18, 2024

Thursday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus</b>
	Multicultural Assembly for Students, 12:15-2:00 pm (2 sessions), Auditorium
Friday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>STUDENT HOLIDAY – Teacher Professional Development</b>
	GSMUN Conference Opening Ceremony, Auditorium
Saturday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	GSMUN Conference at MLWGS, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Equine Therapy for Mindfulness Month, 11:30 am, Athletic Field

	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
	<b>New Student Registration for the Class of 2028, 6:00 pm</b>
Wednesday, March 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	RSB Approved International Trip to Morocco
Thursday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Therapy Dogs visit MLWGS for Mindfulness Month, 11:30 am, Athletic Field
Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	RSB Requested Schedule Change from Instruction to Holiday
Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>	RSB Approved International Trip to Panama
Sunday, March 31 <sup>st</sup> – Friday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	RSB Approved International Trip to Costa Rica
Monday, April 1 <sup>st</sup> – Friday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SPRING BREAK. SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS</b>
Tuesday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	RSB Approved International Trip to Ireland
	RSB Approved International Trip to London
Tuesday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Committee Meeting, 10:00 am, Virtual
Wednesday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Finance Committee Meeting, 9:00 am, Virtual
Saturday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	PTSA Reflections Contest hosted by MLWGS, 1:00-3:00 pm, Auditorium
Monday, April 15 <sup>th</sup> – Monday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	MLWGS Robotics competes at FRC Nationals in Houston
Wednesday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus</b>

## **XII. 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.

The director proved a thorough update of the report and stated the school has addressed almost all of the items on the report; however, some will never be completed as they are ongoing process goals. In the next school year, we will develop the next 5-year plan.

Dr, Lowerre said we will be revamping the FIRC (Foundations of Independent Research and Communications) program for freshmen after a two-year review process. Changes will include a six-week intensive session of items all freshmen need at the beginning of the school year, and he used technology as an example of something they need along with honor council, school culture, etc.

The school is also looking to expand time for freshmen on Fridays by peeling a small amount of time away from each class that day and expanding their lunch where small groups of freshmen will work with mentors and work on mindfulness soft skills. This will be a true investment in our freshmen that should pay off in their sophomore year.

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

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

The Regional School Board grants the Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School the authority to issue faculty/staff contracts based upon salary scales, clubs/activities, and athletic stipend scales incorporated within the FY2025 Operating Budget.

Approval for this authorization, granting the director the authority to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for FY2025 will be requested at the April 18, 2024, meeting of the Executive School Board.

#### **B. FY2025 Student Fees (First Read)**

The proposed student fee schedule has been updated for FY2025 with current projected costs for all subject areas.

The attached 2024-2025 student fee schedule is presented to the regional school board for the first read. Changes to highlight include the integration of additional technologies in English and new courses in Science and Senior Seminars. Cost increases for individual workbooks and specific lab fees in Science, Fine Arts, and International Languages reflect recent trends in inflation on all educational resources. Increases in Dual-Enrollment course fees reflect an increase in the VCU tuition [*from \$20k to approximately \$60k*], with the school currently absorbing the vast amount of this increase. Overall reductions have been made in the lab fee and workbooks.

Approval for FY2025 student fees will be requested at the April 18, 2024, meeting of the Executive School Board.

#### **C. International Trip Proposal to Peru 2025 (First Read)**

**PERU – JUNE 5-16, 2025**  
**SPONSOR: CELIE BOSWELL**

##### **Brief Description:**

We will have a guided tour of Peru’s capital city, Lima. After a flight to Cuzco, the unofficial capital of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, we will tour the ancient site of Machu Picchu with a local guide. Students will deepen their connection to the land, people, and culture by working with locals on service projects with nonprofits and celebrating local customs, traditions, and cultural activities. Puno, Lake Titicaca, and the Uros floating islands will offer exposure to varied landscapes and to connect with local communities.

##### **Educational Value:**

- First-hand experience of the geography, landscape, history, culture, food, customs, dress, and language that will bring to life our regional study of Magical Realism in Latin and South America.
- Practice Spanish language skills

- Meet artists and learn traditional weaving, pottery, ceramic tile design techniques, and other crafts celebrating the triumph of cultural heritage over colonization.
- Investigate global issues, explore social justice, and build leadership skills through service-learning projects.

**Students: TBD**

**Chaperones:**

Lindsey LeCroy-Whitworth, Kerry Sheppard, and Kara Love  
Working with EF Tours

**Projected cost of trip per student <20 students: \$4,629.00 plus incidentals**

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

Approval for the Peru trip proposal in 2025 will be requested at the April 18, 2024, meeting of the Executive School Board.

A board member asked about these costs, are they school fees or student fees, and Dr. Lowerre replied they were student fees. However, no student is denied an opportunity because of funding, as the GS Foundation budget has a specific line item for direct student aid.

**XIV. Information Items**

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes March 7, 2024
- Walker Girls Track wins 2nd Place at the VHSL State Championship
- Walker Forensics Teams Wins 2nd Place at the VHSL Regional
- Intro to Engineering Students have their Work Recognized at the Richmond Popsicle Stick Competition
- TSA wins 6 awards at Regional Fair
- Future Problem Solvers to Compete as the Smallest Team at State Competition
- Math Modeling Students Compete at SABR Analytics Conference
- Dragons at the Metro Richmond Science and Engineering Fair
- The Embassy of Japan visits MLWGS
- Another Successful Language Fair at MLWGS
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week #6 - Elizabeth O’Shea, ’25-Chesterfield, Girls Swimming
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week #7 - William Blashfield, ’27-Powhatan, Boys Swimming

**XV. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report**

Dr. Nichols reported the committee did not meet prior to the regional school board meeting.

**XVI. New Business**

None.



**XVII. Closed Meeting**

None.

**XVIII. Certification of Closed Meeting**

None.

**XIX. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

Mr. May announced that Hanover had a teacher at Atlee High School win the very prestigious Milken Educator Award, a first for Hanover.

**XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

On a motion to adjourn by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Bob May by a unanimous voice vote, this meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.

**Next Meeting – Executive School Board**

April 18, 2024, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Pritchett, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

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

DATE: March 21, 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
OBJ 1.1	MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.			2020	
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 <sup>th</sup> grade students in April 2023. We have hired a Coordinator for Strategic Engagement who will assist in implementing strategies for increased community outreach. While this goal is ongoing, the framework has been completed.		
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	<b>Access to wraparound services (Identify and fill gaps in student mental health and wellness programs)</b>	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	<b>Review and reform policies and procedures that impede inclusion (e.g. mental health intake, bathroom policies, club and extra-curricular policies)</b>	Counseling, Administration, AD, School Board	Bathroom policies have been addressed.		
1.2.4	<b>Enhance communications to make sure students have knowledge of and are able to seek resources</b>	Counseling	The Counseling Department has sent out multiple messages regarding mental health resources as well as holding parent training sessions.		
1.2.5	<b>Facilitate student input and feedback</b>	Administration, Counseling	Surveys completed by SAC and VSCS. New Outreach Coordinator will facilitate new surveys.		
1.2.6	<b>Analyze and strengthen the student onboarding process to prepare accepted students for the MLWGS experience</b>	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	<b>Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment</b>	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.		
<b>OBJ 1.3</b>	<b>MLWGS will codevelop a plan with its districts to increase enrollment of historically underserved populations.</b>				
1.3.1	<b>In compliance with FY 2021 Budget Item 145, C-27,I, the school will work with the partner districts to collect application and admission data to be used to support a plan to increase the percentage of historically underserved populations at MLWGS.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	We have been working with districts to improve access for underserved minorities. Significant improvement has been made this year. RSB approved removal of Achievement Test as part of admissions process.		
<b>OBJ. 1.4</b>	<b>MLWGS will develop a strategy to increase the demographic diversity of our faculty and staff.</b>				
1.4.1	<b>Examine barriers to hiring and retaining diverse faculty.</b>	Dr. Lowerre, Dr. Williams,	Recruitment sub-committee has been created. A focused effort has been made to recruit a highly qualified and diverse faculty and staff that mirrors the diversity of our population.		
1.4.2	<b>Strengthen professional development resources for faculty.</b>	Dr. Williams, Dr. Lowerre, Mr. Smith	Comprehensive PD has begun with positive		

			feedback from staff.		
1.4.3	Develop hiring strategy.	Leadership Team	We have actively targeted HBCUs and other colleges with information about employment openings.		
1.4.4	Develop outreach program for recruiting teachers from multiple districts and education graduate schools.	Dr. Lowerre	We have actively targeted HBCUs and other colleges with information about employment openings.		
<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>MAGGIE L. WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL ENGAGE STUDENTS WITH INNOVATIVE CURRICULA AND RESPONSIVE INSTRUCTION THAT FOCUSES ON STUDENT-CENTERED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING. INSTRUCTION WILL BE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND ENRICHED BY LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS.</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Measurement</b>	<b>Year to begin Implementation</b>	<b>Cost to Budget</b>
				<b>2020-2021</b>	
<b>OBJ 2.1</b>	<b>Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.</b>				
2.1.1	Encourage a collaborative environment for ongoing innovation of all course offerings.	Admin, 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. FIRC is now MLWGS 101 and reflects the needs of the 21Century learner.		
<b>OBJ 2.2</b>	<b>Teachers will provide engaging, student-centered instruction.</b>				
2.2.1	Encourage teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Leadership Team, Tech Integrators	Following the COVID pandemic, a renewed effort to assess and implement student-centered learning strategies has been taking place.		
2.2.2	Provide opportunities for teachers to participate in training and collegial discussions about enhancing student engagement, embedding community engagement, and integrating instructional technology within their curricula.	Admin	Departments have been reaching out to the community to bring in alumni and others to enhance instruction and learning. 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
<b>OBJ 3.1</b>	<b>Create and fund a ten-year capital improvement plan.</b>			<b>2023</b>	
3.1.1	Conduct a needs assessment of future needs for the facility and technology.	Facilities and Technology	Project is underway		
3.1.2	Forecast ten-year costs.	Facilities and Technology			
<b>OBJ 3.2</b>	<b>Create a better experience for students, teachers, and parents through available software solutions.</b>			<b>2021</b>	
3.1.3	Implemental funding mechanism separate from the operating budget.	Mr. Smith	The issue has been discussed by the RSB.		
3.2.1	Purchase of on-line teacher receipting program.	Ms. Hoover; Ms. Charity	An web based fee payment program has been implemented.		
3.2.2	Implement field trip request and tracking software.	Mr. Smith	Online system has been put in place with appropriate policy changes.		
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.		
<b>OBJ 3.3</b>	<b>Enhance our safe school environment.</b>			<b>2020</b>	
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.		
<b>OBJ 3.4</b>	<b>Transition the fiscal expectations of MLWGS to a new fiscal agent.</b>			<b>2022</b>	

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			