

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 16, 2024

9:01 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Dr. Elaine Pearson, *School Board*, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Ms. Meredith Moses, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public (Remote Participation)
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg 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. Bob May, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Max Smith and Dr. Lisa Williams – MLWGS Administration
Ginger O'Neil – MLWGS Foundation
Aparna Harger and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Gloria Keating and Lou Costetter – RPS Office of Enrollment and Planning

Not Required to be in Attendance:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Ms. Lisa Hudgins, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Steven Neece, *School Board*, Colonial Heights Public Schools

Ms. Alicia Atkins, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Linda Hyslop, *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. James Taylor, *School Board*, Powhatan 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. Merv Daugherty, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
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. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. John Farrelly, **Acting Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

V.a Approval for Board Member(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.**

Ms. Harwood Hall requested remote meeting participation due to a travel conflict. With a quorum present, on a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Elaine Pearson, members unanimously approved Ms. Hall's request to participate remotely in this meeting on a voice vote.

V.b Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Elaine Pearson, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2024, were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- **Seniors Kenney and Mudinur were recognized as change agents for MLWGS**

Dr. Rachel Loving, Senior Counselor, and National Honor Society sponsor, was on hand for this recognition and to describe their efforts to revise Walker’s freshman research year.

We recognize Isabella Kenney (Henrico) and Rohini Mudinur (Henrico), two seniors who have created Bonsai Balance Seminars. Their program aims to help incoming freshmen adjust to the environment at Maggie Walker and achieve a positive work-life balance.

Isabella and Rohini spent years developing this curriculum of six seminars with a mentoring component and launched the program this year as a part of the National Honor Society. Next year, Maggie Walker will implement a “Dragon Advisory” period for freshmen, which will be a 30-minute block of time dedicated to delivering the Bonsai curriculum and a few other topics during our 8-period Fridays. Lessons will include community-building activities and cover topics such as the honor code, study skills, effective homework habits, tips for balancing academics with sports and clubs, peer-to-peer tutoring assistance, digital citizenship, and key well-being practices, such as healthy sleep habits. Similar to this year, the lessons will be student-led by 72 junior and senior members of NHS. Student leaders will be supervised by a team of 12 faculty advisors.

Dr. Lowerre added his remarks and praise regarding what these two students designed for future incoming freshmen and how the faculty bought into their vision.

Dr. Loving presented Isabella and Rohini each with a Bonsai tree.

- **Mech Tech Dragon advocacy results in a joint resolution designating every March 31st as FIRST Robotics Day in Virginia**

Sponsor Mark Sailer, along with senior members of the Mech Tech Dragons, was present to explain to the regional school board how the team was able to obtain this resolution. The team members present were Sania Jain ('24-Henrico), Lydia Woodall ('24-New Kent), Aiden Vick ('24-Richmond), Pooshan Chaudhuri ('24-Henrico), and Imran Aly Rassiwalla ('24, Henrico).

The Legislative Action Plan, developed over the past year, strategically exposed the impact of *FIRST* to Virginia Legislators. By conducting Legislative Open Houses and meeting with members of the General Assembly, we forged connections and promoted the impact of *FIRST*. This led to Virginia Senator Bill Stanley and Del. Betsy Carr sponsoring the resolution that we drafted, recognizing March 31st as *FIRST* Robotics Day in Virginia annually. The resolution gained traction as it moved through the State Capitol, garnering bipartisan support. It passed unanimously through the House and the Senate, promoting the mission of *FIRST*, the program that is redefining STEM culture.

On Monday, April 22, Del. Carr visited Maggie L. Walker Governor's School to present the Mech Tech Dragons with an original copy of the joint resolution which designates March 31st each year as *FIRST* Robotics Day in Virginia.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

Designating March 31, in 2024 and in each succeeding year, as FIRST Robotics Day in Virginia.

Congratulations to the students and team managers who made this achievement possible!

- **Fine Arts Department Chair Jeff Hall in America's Favorite Teacher Contest**

Jeff Hall was recognized for his standing in the running of a nationwide America's Favorite Teacher contest, where supporters of a teacher do the voting. The competition started with 80,000 teacher entries and saw Mr. Hall advancing to the top 1% of that group. With each round of voting in the contest, the vote totals reset, so Coach Jeff Hall said he is hopeful his former students, parents, and the greater Richmond community will continue to show support. Voting for the contest continues through the end of May.

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.

None.

IX. Consent Items

After Dr. Lowerre reviewed the financials, Ms. Meredith asked him if the planned tuition increase for FY25 was still going ahead. He replied that the approved increase for that year would proceed, but he believed that the school might be in a better financial position than expected and that the proposed increases for the following two years (FY26 and FY27) would be lower.

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Elaine Pearson, the following consent agenda items were unanimously approved as a slate on a voice vote: May personnel actions, fiscal status reports for April 30, 2024, and the donation report of April 30, 2024.

X. Action Items

a. *Approval of the 2024-2025 Governor's School Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors (Second Read)*

Section 1.3 Election. Candidates for Director of THE FOUNDATION shall be nominated by members of the Board of Directors or by the Governance and Nominations Committee. The names of the nominees shall then be submitted to the Regional School Board for review. Subject to the approval of such candidates by the Regional School Board, candidates for Director shall be elected by the Board of Directors. No individual shall be named or elected as a Director without his or her prior consent.

Section 1.5 Term of Office. Each Director shall serve a term of three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, except that (i) each person who serves as an ex officio Director shall serve for as long as such person holds the office entitling him or her to be an ex officio Director unless a different term is provided therefore by the Board of Directors at

the time of such person's election; and (ii) any Director filling a vacancy as a result of an increase in the number of Directors shall be designated to serve a term of one (1), two (2) or three (3) years as necessary to most closely achieve a result that one-third (1/3) of the members of the Board of Directors will be elected each year. At the expiration of the term of a Director, such Director shall be eligible for election to another term as a Director, except that no Director may serve more than six (6) years in succession without a break in service.

The Governance and Nominations Committee of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Foundation is pleased to recommend to the MLWGS Regional School Board the following individual for Director of the Foundation for a term of 3 years, beginning on July 1, 2024.

Officer Nominations

- **Anikka Moore (Parent, Dinwiddie)**

Anikka Moore is a supervisor of environmental regulations in the Environmental and Sustainability Department at Dominion Energy, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia.

Having worked for the company for 14 years, Anikka spent many years working in various roles within the environmental field, including waste compliance supporting Dominion's Electric and Gas Operations, project lead for the implementation of a new environmental system, and most recently managing a team of environmental professionals within the Environmental Department's Waste Operations Team. She also spent time in the Energy Conservation group facilitating the implementation of energy conservation programs for Dominion Energy Virginia.

Anikka currently serves as Planning Team Sponsor for the 2nd Annual Dominion Energy Women's Conference scheduled for June 2024. She previously served as the Programming Committee Co-Chair for Dominion Energy's first Women's Conference held in 2023. From 2021 – 2023, she served as Co-Chair of the Dominion Energy Services Diversity Council and in years prior, she served as a member of the Council.

Possessing a tenacious drive and a strategic outlook combined with exceptional communication and collaboration skills, Anikka is willing to take on any challenge. She is known for her ability to build consensus while moving a group toward excellence.

In addition to her responsibilities at Dominion Energy, Anikka is Co-Chair of the Dragon's Lair and leads the PTSA Landscaping Committee at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. She also served on the Board of Directors for the Lake Jordan Homeowners Association from 2020-2022.

Anikka is a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she most recently served on the Technology Committee for the Petersburg Alumnae Chapter in Petersburg, VA.

Anikka is married to her husband, Eugene. They have three children, Christopher (16), who currently attends Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Kyler (13), and Kennedy (11). They reside in Dinwiddie County, VA, with their dog, Charlie.

- **Julie Seitz (Parent, Chesterfield)**

In her professional life, Julie Seitz worked for Accenture as a Managing Director in the public sector for over 23 years. She most notably managed statewide multi-year projects for the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Ohio, and the State of Connecticut. Julie has deep experience in financials, human capital management (HCM), and business intelligence. She is currently working part-time as an advisor to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for their financials and HCM implementation.

On the personal side, Julie has a 16-year-old son, Jake Nelson, a sophomore at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, and a loving husband, Ben Pearson-Nelson. At MLWGS, Julie is on the:

- Foundation NOTD Committee - serving as the fundraising co-chair and PTSA liaison
- Foundation Development Committee - helped to organize the 2023 Giving Tuesday text-a-thon
- PTSA Fall Festival Coordinator - organized the full production and even in a monsoon, still made \$16,000 to support the student clubs and PTSA
- Class of 2026 Parent - support the activities for the class of 2026
- Music Boosters - serving as the fundraising co-chair and Disney trip coordinator

She brings multiple skills and acumen, including:

- Managing the overall contract and responsible for budget, scope, schedule, and project reporting.
- Managing overall project teams (125+ resources) across implementation and production support activities.
- Facilitating client steering committee meetings and providing liaison services to executive leadership and project sponsors. Presenting monthly project status and risks and special topics to inform the steering committee of project procedures and scope.
- Managing project milestones and deliverable submissions/approvals.
- Coordinating weekly project manager meetings to discuss status, issues, risks, and phase progress of planned vs. actual work accomplished.
- Managing the change request process to account for changes in budget, scope, and schedule.
- Identifying, managing, and resolving risks and issues across the program. Creating templates and procedures for issue and risk management and escalation across teams.
- Coordinating meetings across project management, tower leads (application, development, technical, change leadership), and PMO. Facilitating project standards for conducting meetings, recording minutes, and agenda templates.
- Managing relationships with third-party vendors and subcontractors.
- Creating, managing, and coordinating updates to the MS Project Plan across all work streams (i.e., application, change management, technical, PMO) of the project for planned work. Managing estimated time to complete project resources to determine if additional resources, overtime, or schedule changes were required.
- Managing staffing including on-site and off-site resources.
- Responsible for working with HR to find and vet skilled resources for the project and gain client approval.
- Coordinating resources at different locations to adhere to standards and communicate status.

- **Board Officers**

The following Directors have agreed to serve as officers of the Board in 2024-2025. They will be officially elected at the Foundation's May Annual Meeting:

Chair–Beth Simms
Vice Chair–Veronica Chornodolsky
Treasurer– Karen Setzer ‘99*
Secretary– vacant (to be filled by Julie Seitz, pending appointment to the Board)

- **Committee Chairs**

The following Directors have agreed to serve as committee chairs for Board committees in 2024-2025. They will officially begin their terms on July 1, 2024.

Alumni Steering:

Current (2023-2024): Erin Ortiz ‘06

2024-2025: Erin Ortiz ‘06*

Development:

Current (2023-2024): Brian Baird

2024-2025: Brian Baird*

Events:

Current (2023-2024): Beth Simms

2024-2025: Veronica Chornodolsky

Finance:

Current (2023-2024): Adam Powers ‘10

2024-2025: Adam Powers ‘10*

Governance and Nominations:

Current (2023-2024): Emily Stegmaier Winbigler ‘00

2024-2025: Emily Stegmaier Winbigler ‘00*

- **Directors Rolling Off the Board**

Three Directors will be rolling off the Foundation Board following the close of the Foundation’s meeting on May 1, 2024, having each served two consecutive 3-year terms:

Neil Amin ‘95

Barrie Bowers

Jewel Caven

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Meredith Moses, the Governor’s School Foundation 2024-2025 Board of Directors and board members were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

b. International Exchange Proposal, Germany 2025 (Second Read)

GERMANY, JUNE 17-JULY 3, 2025

SPONSOR: KRISTEN MACKLIN

Brief description/overview of this trip:

The exchange trip is sponsored by the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), which is part of Germany’s foreign cultural and education policy. The program is mainly funded by the German Foreign Ministry but also receives funding from the U.S. Department of State. The program is administered jointly by the Goethe-Institut (New York), GAPP, and PAD (Bonn).

GAPP exchanges are set up as school-to-school exchanges with the following goals (source: GAPP Guidelines for Implementation):

- The establishment of a long-lasting interest in the partner country and the deepening of the relations between Germany and the USA
- Promotion of German language studies at high schools in the USA
- Expanding students' and teachers' knowledge of the partner country
- Intercultural encounters of participants
- Acquisition and improvement of proficiency in the target language
- Continuing education for exchange coordinators

Estimated cost: \$2,500 (approximately) based on twenty students.

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Elaine Pearson, Ms. Macklin's 2025 German Exchange was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

a. Verbal Update

- **Freshmen Initiatives New with the Class of 2028**

Dragon Advisory -New 2024

On behalf of the Freshman Experience subcommittee, we would like to formally introduce the initiative starting next school year, **Dragon Advisory!** We will be rolling this program out to increase a sense of welcomeness for our freshman class. On Fridays when all classes meet, cohorts of freshmen and upperclass mentors will meet during a 30-minute portion of lunch under the supervision of faculty advisors to check in, bond, and experience activities/discussions related to weekly themes. Here's a working list of topics to be covered in Dragon Advisory sessions:

From Bonsai:

1. Study Systems
2. Balancing School, Sports and Socials
3. Fueling Up
4. Importance of Sleep
5. Pros and Cons of Competition
6. Stress Management

Additional topics:

1. Digital citizenship
2. Honor at MLWGS (plagiarism, AI, the pledge)
3. Walker Way values
4. Meaningful service opportunities

We are currently in the process of planning specific sessions based on this list as it will help shape the program into something we can all be proud of and that best serves freshman classes here at MLWGS for years to come.

Dragon Advisory will consist of 12 cohorts, thus we will need 12 faculty advisors as well as several substitute advisors when advisors are absent. Your responsibilities will include:

- Take attendance
- Set expectations/norms for your cohort
- Help upperclass leaders facilitate lessons/activities/discussions
- Provide support for freshmen in your cohort

Foundations portion of MLWGS 101- New 2024 (formerly FIRC)

Teachers: FIRC teachers with assistance from tech integrators for a few tech-heavy lessons

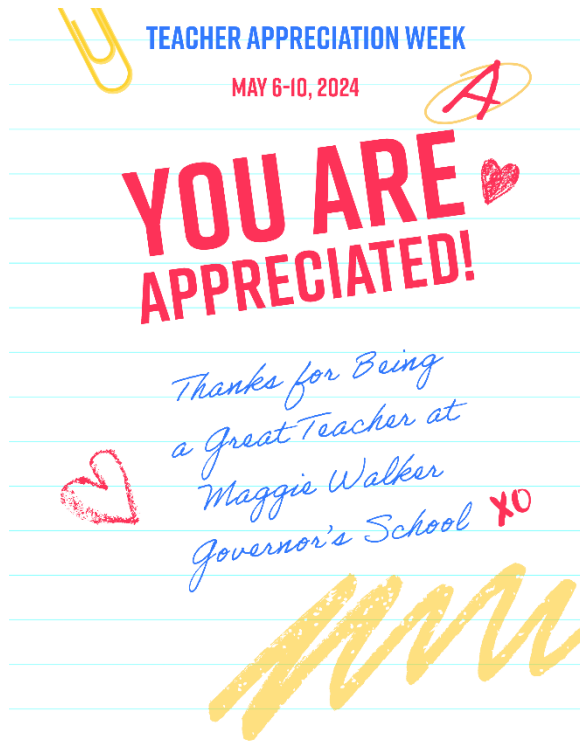
Pilot participants: Class of 2028 in 12 cohorts of about 15-16 students each

When: During what has traditionally been a freshman's FIRC block

Duration: First six weeks of school. Afterward, three 10-week content rotations in Math, Speech, and Social Studies will follow this Foundations portion. Skills and concepts previously covered in FIRC Science have been integrated into Biology.

Description: The Foundations portion of MLWGS 101 will ensure that by the end of their first six weeks at MLWGS each freshman is aware of the academic and personal honor expectations at MLWGS and understands the benefits and responsibilities of being part of a culture of honor, can access and use necessary technology tools, implements a plan to manage their passwords, organize their files, and back up their work, understands how to read a syllabus and grading rubric, practices active note-taking strategies and active reading skills, and knows how to access Counseling services and Library resources.

- **Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10.** The PTSA and MLWGS Foundation had several events for our teachers, including the following:
 - Monday Lunch provided by the PTSA
 - Tuesday Lunch provided by the PTSA
 - Wednesday Breakfast provided by the PTSA
 - Thursday Lunch provided by the PTSA
 - Friday Lunch provided by the MLWGS Foundation, plus NHS thank-you notes



- **Teacher and Staff Employment Contracts for AY2025** have been issued and executed by faculty and staff.
- **End-of-Year Band and Orchestra Concert** will be performed by the students of MLWGS on Friday, May 3 @ 7 pm, in the auditorium.



- **End-of-Year Chorus Concert** will be performed by the students of MLWGS on Wednesday, May 8 @ 7 pm, in the auditorium.



- **The 2024 Junior/Senior Prom** is Saturday, May 18 @ 8 pm at the Hippodrome Theater



- **Senior Awards Assembly @ 1 pm on Monday, May 13th, and Senior Recognition Night @ 7 pm, on Wednesday, May 22nd (auditorium).** We honor our seniors and celebrate our students' successes while reflecting on their time here at MLWGS. The highlight of the evening for the students is always the Senior Slide Show.
- **Senior Showcase on Friday, May 24th.** This event was explained by Dr. Lowerre on behalf of its sponsor, Les Cook, who was unable to attend the meeting. Senior Showcase programs were provided to board members at the table.

The culminating activity for the Senior Seminar/Mentorship Program is Senior Showcase. This event is devoted to the seniors who have spent the last year in either a seminar or mentorship studying and researching a field of particular interest. Seminar students work collaboratively in each of their respective seminars to create a presentation about their year of study. Mentorship students present their specific type of mentorship experience and the research they undertook during that process.

This year's Senior Showcase will be an in-person event.

Invitations were provided to parents, Board Members, Superintendents, Planning Committee Members, and mentors. Additionally, the entire student body selects presentations they are interested in attending and is provided a schedule on the morning of Showcase Day.

- **Fostering Conversation and Connection Among Community Members with Contrasting Political Views by Wendy DeGroat (MLWGS librarian)**

Ms. DeGroat will be a presenter at the ALA Annual Conference at the San Diego Convention Center on Saturday, June 29th for One Small Step. The direct program link:

<https://cdmcd.co/XKGYMP>

Learn how a localized version of the One Small Step (OSS) program from StoryCorps can foster conversation and connection – and about multiple models for adapting it to your context – models with which the presenter has direct experience.

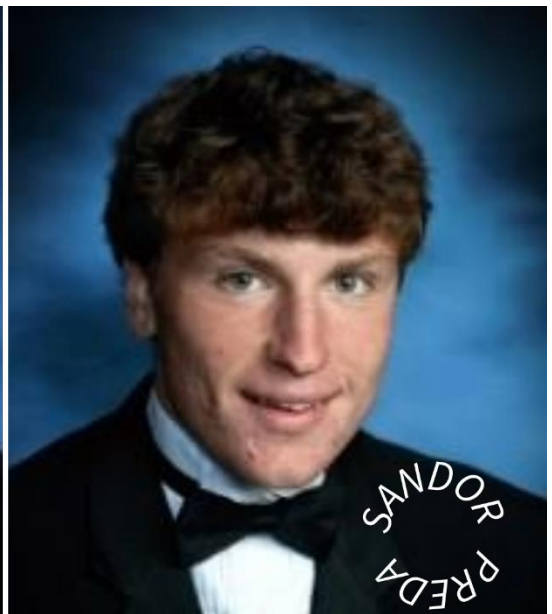
- **2024 National Merit Scholarship Winners**

- **Arjun Azhabappan** (Chesterfield) has been selected as a winner of the National Merit \$2500 Scholarship.
- **Ethan Choe** (Goochland) has been selected as a winner of the National Merit \$2500 Scholarship.
- **Isabella Kenney** (Henrico) has been selected as a winner of the National Merit \$2500 Scholarship.
- **Sruthi Vegunta** (Henrico) has been selected as a winner of the National Merit \$2500 Scholarship.









- **2024 National Merit Truist Scholarship Winners**

- **Qingyuan (Eric) Hu** and **Sandor (Alex) Preda** (both from Henrico) have been selected as a winner of the National Merit Truist Scholarship.



- **NCAA Athletic Signing Day, May 21st**

	BENJAMIN 'CRASH' ACKERLY III '24 - Richmond YALE SWIMMING	
	CHRISTINE DATOVECH '24 - Hanover VIRGINIA TECH SWIMMING	
	MAXWELL 'MAX' ECONOMY '24 - Chesterfield MOUNT ST. MARY'S WATER POLO	
	ALYSSA JONES '24 - New Kent NORTH FLORIDA SOFTBALL	
	SANDOR 'ALEX' PREDА '24 - Henrico CARNEIGE MELON SOCCER	
	KATHERINE STREETER '24 - Richmond CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIV. CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK	

- **Graduation for the Class of 2024: Wednesday, May 29 @ 6 pm, at the Altria Theater in Richmond.**



- **The Class of 2024 had 176 Graduates (preliminary numbers as of May 9th)**
- As a class, they have performed a total of 33,063 community service hours. This is an average of approximately 188 hours per student.
- **Yash Saxena** (Henrico) reported 810.25 hours of community service.

- As a class, they earned \$9.53 million in scholarship offers as of May 8th, and that number continues to grow.
- The average GPA was 4.29 (preliminary number).
- The average SAT score was 1393 and ACT is 29 (preliminary numbers).
- They are going to 59 different colleges, 97 are staying in-state, 59 are going out-of-state, and two are attending college outside the United States. Three students are planning to take a gap year. Kalliyam Eam (Chesterfield) has been appointed to the United States Naval Academy. William Sams (Chesterfield) has been awarded a Marine Option NROTC Scholarship. Fifteen seniors are still considering their post-secondary options and will report their intended college or other plans later this month.
- Sixteen were National Merit Finalists, four received National Merit Scholarships (\$2500) two received National Merit Trust Scholarships, and 30 more received Commendations in the National Merit Program. Four were offered National Merit Scholarships. Two were awarded a corporate-sponsored scholarship through National Merit.
- Three were Presidential Scholar candidates.
- In total, the Class of 2024 was recognized with 316 honors, awards, and scholarships!

b. Coming Events May 16 – June 20, 2024

Thursday, May 16 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
Saturday, May 18 th	Junior/Senior Prom at The Hippodrome Theater, 7 pm
Monday, May 20 th	Final Exams for Periods 1 & 5
Tuesday, May 21 st	Final Exams for Periods 2 & 6
	NCAA Athletic Signing Day, 3:45 pm, Forum
Wednesday, May 22 nd	Final Exams for Periods 3 & 7
	Senior Recognition Night, 7 pm, Auditorium
Thursday, May 23 rd	Final Exams for Periods 4 & 8
Friday, May 24 th	Senior Showcase Day
Monday, May 27 th	Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday, May 28 th	Senior Baccalaureate Sponsored by the PTSA, 7:00 pm, Reveille United Methodist Church
Wednesday, May 29 th	Graduation for the Class of 2024, 6 pm, Altria Theater
Thursday, May 30 th	Annual Senior Picnic at the Carillon Shelter, Byrd Park, Noon
Friday, May 31 st	Last Day for Students (make-up exams only)
	End of the Year Faculty Luncheon, 11:30 am, Cafeteria
Monday, June 3 rd	Last Day for Teachers
	Summer Online Economics Classes Begin
Tuesday, June 4 th	Final Report Cards Issued
	Planning Committee Meeting, 10 am, Location TBD
Wednesday, June 5 th	Last Day for 10-Month Support Staff
Thursday, June 6 th	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 9 am
Saturday, June 8 th	End Spring Sports
Monday, June 10 th	Last Day for Department Chairs
	Summer Operating Hours Begin, M-Thur 7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Friday, June 14 th	Friday Closed
Monday, June 17 th	Cadence Theater Summer Camp #1 of 2 Begins, at 8:15 am
Wednesday, June 19 th	Closed for Holiday
Thursday, June 15 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9 am, Room 153

c. 2024 Senior Seminar with Les Cook Coordinator, May 24, 2024

Dr. Lowerre presented this information on behalf of Les Cook (see the director’s verbal report of these minutes).

XII. Unfinished Business

c. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

Dr. Lowerre's review was simple with him stating there are not many updates on this report but that he does plan to provide the board between now and the fall with a comprehensive review of the strategic plan, what is closed out, what pieces are in process, and what is still being developed. He further reminded the board that by the end of June 30, 2025, we need to have a new strategic plan in place. In the past, we have used external facilitators, but the director believes we understand the process enough now to develop it with our personnel and save those costs.

The Strategic Plan matrix update is located at the end of these minutes.

XIII. Items for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. FY24 Assignment of Reserve Funds (First Read)

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board statement 54 (GASB 54) establishes fund balance classifications and provides a hierarchy of spending constraints. MLWGS implemented GASB 54 beginning in FY2011.

Under GASB 54, the *Assigned fund balance* represents amounts *intended* to be used for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority. The assigned fund balance also includes any portion of the fund balance that will be incorporated into the subsequent year’s budget. The governing body must take formal action that specifies to whom the delegation of authority to recommend fund balance assignments is given (i.e., the Director).

Unassigned fund balance represents resources remaining after all other classifications have been met, and that are available for any purpose.

It is estimated that on June 30, 2024, the General Fund balance will be \$ _____ and the Capital Improvement Fund balance will be \$ _____. I propose that by June 30, 2024, we move \$ _____ from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund which will bring the Capital Improvement Fund to \$ _____, leaving \$ _____ in the General Fund, \$ _____ of which will be assigned to benefit reserve. That will leave a balance of \$ _____ in unassigned reserve in the General Fund.

FY24 estimates will be provided at their June meeting (this meeting is too early for accurate projections) for the distribution of assigned funds as required by GASB 54. Approval with amounts will be requested at the June 2024 meeting of the Executive School Board.

b. Business Insurance Renewal with VACorp (First Read)

MLWGS administration proposes the Regional School Board renew all non-medical insurance coverage with VACorp as of August 1.

	FY2024 Rates		FY2025 Rates
General liability, educator’s liability, environmental liability, cyber, crime, business auto, equipment breakdown, property, increased limits, inland marine, and security risk management	\$25,310.00	General liability, educator’s liability, environmental liability, cyber, crime, business auto, equipment breakdown, property, increased limits, inland marine, and security risk management	\$26,620.00
Worker’s Comp	\$17,108.00	Worker’s Comp	\$18,878.00
TOTAL	\$42,418.00	TOTAL	\$45,498.00
		Dual Program Discount and Rate Credit	-\$1,496.00
		TOTAL DUE	\$44,996.00

The director recommends that the Executive School Board review this insurance proposal of required coverages for FY2025. Approval will be requested at the Board’s June meeting.

XIV. Information

- May Finance Committee Meeting - No Meeting Was Scheduled
- RTD Sports Backer All-Star Senior Alex Percy, '24-Henrico
- Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at MLWGS, April 25
- Dragons Compete at the National Japan Bowl at U of M, April 18-19
- TSA Dragons at the State Conference, May 2-5, 2024
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, April 15 - #11, Lewis Dunn '27-Goochland, Baseball
- Scholar-Athletes of the Week, April 22 - #12, Emily Rucker '24-Chesterfield and Zara Lenkowitz '24-Chesterfield, Track & Field
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, April 29 - #13, Chanan Wijesooriya '25-Richmond, Soccer
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, May 6 - #14, Anna Conley, '26-Hanover, Dance Team

XV. New Business

None.

XVI. Announcements

The chair inquired Dr. Lowerre about the status of the outstanding school audit reports. The director responded, "We're experiencing a peculiar situation where every time we believe we have completed the audit, the auditor discovers additional information they require." He said, "I would like to assure you that we have provided everything the auditors have requested as have RPS. Based on all indications, we anticipate having the FY19, FY20, and FY21 audits ready for the next board meeting. Nevertheless, I have learned not to promise anything until it is finalized." Dr. Lowerre also mentioned that he has seen draft versions of the reports and that CB (Cherry,

Bakaert) needs to finalize them. The departure of the CB staff member working on our reports has contributed to the delay.

Ms. Moses inquired about why these outstanding reports date back so far. The director shared information from 2016 that the school had not been audited in quite some time. The fiscal agent, RPS, had not signed the agreement to conduct the audits, so CB wasn't taking any action, and RPS wasn't either, and we were unaware of it. When Dr. Lowerre arrived in 2017, we began the process of completing these reports, but there was a lot of confusion about who was responsible for what, which led to Mr. Jason Kamras, RPS Superintendent, attending a regional board meeting over a year ago to address the issue. Since Mr. Kamras got involved, a lot of progress has been made to catch up. Richmond is attempting to relinquish the fiscal agency responsibility for MLWGS, but no other county will consider taking us on until we have a current clean audit. Henrico was interested, but our patron, Mickey Ogburn, is no longer on that board.

In conclusion, Dr. Lowerre everyone is working on getting these finished and there is a lot of cooperation between the agencies to finish.

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Meredith Moses, this meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 9:56 am.

The next scheduled meeting is the Executive Board, on June 20, 2024.

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: May 16, 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	Measure-ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	Cost to Budget
OBJ 1.1	MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.				
1.1.2	Develop and enhance relationships with districts, schools, administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and potential students.	Administration, Counseling, Faculty	We are establishing relationships with local administrators through outreach. A middle school counselor day took place in September of 2022. Dare to be a Dragon Day took place for 5 th grade students in April 2023. We have hired a Coordinator for Strategic Engagement who will assist in implementing strategies for increased community outreach. 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	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 a highly qualified and diverse faculty and staff that mirrors the diversity of our population.		
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. FIRC is now MLWGS 101 and reflects the needs of the 21Century learner.		
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 through available software solutions.			2021	
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.		
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			