

## MINUTES

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

**Thursday, June 20, 2024**

**9:04 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 County Public Schools  
Ms. Meredith Moses, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools  
Mr. Bob May, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools  
Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools (late arrival)  
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools (late arrival)

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:**

Dr. Lisa Williams, *Assistant Director*, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School  
Dr. Max Smith, *Assistant Director*, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

#### **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. 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.**

No action was needed, and there were no requests for remote participation.

#### **V.b Approval of Agenda**

On a motion by Elaine Pearson to approve the agenda, seconded by Bob May, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

#### **VI. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Bob May, seconded by Meredith Moses, the minutes of the executive board meeting of May 16, 2024, were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **VII. Recognitions**

- None.

## 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

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: June personnel actions, fiscal status reports for May 31, 2024, and the donation report of May 31, 2024.

## X. Action Items

### a. *FY2024 Assignment of Reserve Funds (Second 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, *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. 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 are available for any purpose.

*It is estimated that on June 30, 2024, the General Fund balance will be \$65,600.00 and the Capital Improvement Fund balance will be \$0.00. I propose that by June 30, 2024, we move \$65,600.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund which will bring the Capital Improvement Fund to \$65,600.00, leaving \$0.00 in the General Fund, \$0.00 of which will be assigned to benefit reserve. That will leave a balance of \$0.00 in unassigned reserve in the General Fund.*

On a motion from Elaine Pearson, seconded by Bob May, the FY2024 assignment of reserve funds as recommended by the administration was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

### b. *Business Insurance Renewal with VACorp (Second 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

On a motion from Bob May, seconded by Elaine Pearson, renewal of business insurance with VACorp was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

## XI. Director's Report

### a. Verbal Update



- **The Class of 2024 had 176 Graduates**
- 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 **\$9.54 million in scholarship offers as of June 7th**, and that number continues to grow.
- The average **GPA was 4.29** (preliminary number).
- The average **SAT score was 1,416 and ACT is 33** (preliminary numbers as of June 7th).

- 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 Truist 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!
- **Maggie L. Walker Governor's School students, Jackson DeHaven and Hareem Mubashar, win full scholarships to attend the University of Virginia**



Jackson DeHaven and Hareem Mubashar, seniors at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, have been awarded two of the most highly selective merit scholarships in the nation. The [Jefferson Scholars Foundation](#) at the University of Virginia selected Jackson as one of 34 recipients of the [Jefferson Scholarship](#) and Hareem as one of 12 recipients of the [Walentas Scholarship](#). They will commence their studies in the fall at UVA.

To be named a Scholar, candidates must undergo a rigorous, highly competitive, multi-stage [selection process](#). First, they are nominated by their high schools based on their demonstrated excellence and exceptional potential in the areas of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. Walentas Scholar nominees additionally must be the first generation in their families to attend college. Once nominated, the students go through at least one round of regional interviews. If

selected as a regional finalist, students then are invited to participate in a final round of interviews. This year, over 2,700 students were nominated for the Scholarships, and nearly 200 finalists, between the two competitions, were invited to take part in remote interviews conducted by UVA alumni and faculty.

The recipients of the 2024 Jefferson and Walentas Scholarships boast a number of significant achievements and Jackson and Hareem are no exception. Both students were members of the 2024 'We the People' team. Hareem was also a member of the TJ History Honor Society and served as its Secretary, as well as holding the position of Vice-President in Model Congress. Jackson, on the other hand, was a co-leader of the Newtowne Tutoring Project and also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

- **Summer Facility Activities and Projects:**

- Two summer camps with Cadence Theater:
  - Two summer camps with Cadence Theater: (Candace Hudert, our Tech Theater Lead, is coordinating the camp performances in our auditorium).
  - ♣ Camp 1 – June 19th – June 30th, Jammin in June with performances of Disney's Aladdin Kids and The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition.
  - ♣ Camp 2 – July 10th – July 21st, Jammin in July with performances of Shrek The Musical JR.
- The policy committee will review the May VSBA updates for the board first-read in August.
- Finance will be busy closing out FY24 and starting FY25 with initial textbook orders and supplies.
- Administration: Colonial Webb will be replacing one rooftop unit this July. All salvageable parts will be retained for repairs of the other 12 units, all of which are 20+ years old. The RTU to be replaced was selected because of the numbers of problems it has given the school historically.

The membrane roof of the lobby will be replaced by Baker Roofing. Baker replaced the membrane roof of the main commons in the spring of 2024. This has ended several persistent leaks.

Powerwashing of the exterior of the building will take place in June.

Repair and sealing of the monumental stairs will take place in June.

Resealing of the parking lot is planned for July.

- Human Resources will be processing new employees into payroll and benefits. VRS and insurance groups will be updated with new salaries. The Staff Handbook will also be updated.

- o MWtech is working on:
  - Data and Server Center
  - Infrastructure upgrades to include Firewall, FortiVoice VOIP, Wireless network (WLAN), switch network (LAN), and vCenter systems
  - Computer Carts/Labs - Updates and Repairs
  - Classroom Interactive Panels - Installations
  - Website Platform - Updates and Repairs, including a new calendar, mobile-friendly site version,
  - General - Account and Device Management and Inventory
  - Technology Training - Preparation for New Staff and Students
  - Workrooms - Preparation for New Staff/current Staff moves
  
- o Department of Education web-based materials will be updated, including the school operating schedule and contact details, and the administrative manual.
  
- o Counseling will receive records from the home divisions on incoming freshmen for updates in the MLWGS database. Student scheduling is still being tweaked and SOL scores will be updated.
  
- o Security is pursuing additional staffing and working to implement a new ID Card System.
  
- o The Facility Department will be busy on summer maintenance items, including; cleaning and lubricating rooftop units, painting and repairs to classrooms and furniture, replacing damaged ceiling tiles, and replacing lighting as needed.
  
- o The sanitation team will perform its annual deep clean and floor waxing of the entire facility.
  
- **College Boot Camp for seniors will be held August 5th-7th** with two sessions each day, 9 am–noon, and 1 pm–4 pm.
  
- **Walker Way Welcome Day and Freshman Orientation**, open to all freshmen, has been organized by Dr. Williams and Ed Coleman. WWWD will occur on Monday, August 12th, the day before freshman orientation. This event for incoming freshmen is a “fun” time for students to meet each other and make new friends in Freshman Advisory groups and explore and understand Maggie L. Walker Governor School’s values. Freshmen will attend workshops that focus on the four pillars of the Walker Way (courage, compassion, community, and collaboration). These pillars align with our focus on school culture and wellness and with the goals of the Freshman Advisory curriculum.
  
- **Reopening of School Preparations:**
  - o Department Chairs return on August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o Fall athletic season begins August 5th, student try-outs and practice start
  - o New Teacher Academy on August 7<sup>th</sup>
  - o Teachers return on August 8<sup>th</sup>

- Walker Way Welcome Day (above) on August 12<sup>th</sup> (description above)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Day is scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup>
- Faculty professional development is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>
- Instruction for students begins August 19<sup>th</sup>.

***b. Coming Events May 20<sup>th</sup> – August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

June	The Gymnasium is Closed for Floor Resurfacing (all month)
Monday, June 10 <sup>th</sup> – July	Summer Operating Hours, M-Thur, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm. Closed each Friday.
Monday, June 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Cadence Theater Summer Camp #1 of 2. 8:15 am – 3 pm daily. Black Box, Commons, + 2 classrooms, occasional use of Auditorium.
Wednesday, June 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MLWGS Staff - Juneteenth Holiday (Cadence Theater is Open)</b>
Thursday, June 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153</b>
Monday, June 24 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Board approved international trip to London/Paris/Madrid with Ms. Nakita Lee
Wednesday, June 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	TSA Students at National Conference in Orlando, FL
Thursday, June 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Cadence Theater Evening Performance @ 5:30 pm, Auditorium
Thursday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holiday – Office Closed</b>
Monday, July 8 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Portraits by Lifetouch/Prestige, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Commons
Monday, July 8 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cadence Theater Summer Camp #2, 8:15 am – 3 pm, Black Box, Commons, + 2 classrooms, occasional use of Auditorium.
Wednesday, July 10 <sup>th</sup>	New Resident Testing, 9:00 am, Room 153
Thursday, July 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cadence Theater Evening Performance @ 5:30 pm, Auditorium
Monday, July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Varsity Golf Begins
	Normal Operating Schedule Resumes
Thursday, August 1 <sup>st</sup>	First Day for Department Chairs
Monday, August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Sports Begin
Monday, August 5 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, August 7 <sup>th</sup>	College Boot Camp for Rising Seniors, two sessions daily, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
Wednesday, August 7 <sup>th</sup>	New Teacher Academy, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, Room 153
Thursday, August 8 <sup>th</sup>	First Day for Teachers
Friday, August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Development for Faculty
Monday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Walker Way Welcome Day for freshmen, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Tuesday, August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Freshman Orientation, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Thursday, August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Development for Faculty
Thursday, August 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153</b>



Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

**Instruction of Students for AY25 Begins**

**c. Annual Field Trip Report to the Board for AY23**

Presented for board information required by policy 4006.

**MLWGS Field Trip Report 2023-2024**

Date:	Organization:	Sponsor:	Location:	Purpose:	~Student Cost
9/28/2023	Yearbook	M. White	Thomas Fulgham Conf Center	Publisher's workshop	\$0
10/18/2023	Spanish Conversation	R. Bradner	VMFA	Observe artwork & artifacts pre-Columbian	\$0
10/21/2023	Engineering	H. Kemmerly	NASA Langley, Hampton VA	Exposure to the field of aerospace engin	\$0
10/27/2023	We The People	S. Ulmschneider	Philadelphia Museum of America	Study the constitution	\$0
11/3/2023	Model UN	K. Rogers	William & Mary College	Model United Nations conference	\$115
11/15/2023	Gender Politics	C. Anderson	US Army Museum	Discuss gender roles in the US Army	\$0
11/30/2023	Strategic Engagement	A. Harger	University of Richmond	Diversity Dialogue Day	\$0
12/1/2023	Art	J. Hall	Smithsonian Museum	To experience art & culture	\$40
12/6/2023	Baseball Seminar	D. Benesh	Cooperstown, NY Museum	Baseball Hall of Fame research	\$150
2/2/2024	Band	N. Merillatt	Highland Springs High School	District band, musical enrichment	\$0
2/2 - 2/5/2024	Physics	D. Austin	NC State University	US Annual Young Physicists Tournament	\$0
2/2/2024	Model UN	K. Rogers	Va Tech	Conference	\$300
2/8 - 2/9/2024	Chorus	K. Snyder	J R Tucker High School	District chorus, musical enrichment	\$0
2/8-2/10/2024	Fashion & Style	G. Stinnett	New York City, NY	Studying fashion	\$655
2/16/2024	Peer Mentors	J. Cobb	National African American Museum	Celebrate Black History month	\$0
3/1/2024	Band	N. Merillatt	VCU	Musical enrichment	\$0
3/6/2024	Physics	B. Gooss	SMVA	Physics/Environmental Science enrichment	\$0
3/8/2024	Gender Politics	C. Anderson	Washington, DC	Women's suffrage sites	\$0
3/11/2024	Japanese Language	Y. Eshito	Science Museum & SURGE RVA	showing Japanese exchange students RVA	\$24
3/13/2024	Japanese Language	Y. Eshito	VMFA, Carytown	showing Japanese exchange students RVA	\$0
3/14 & 3/15/2024	Civil Rights/Black Live	R. Cross/N.Lee	NC & GA	study civil rights	\$200
3/27 - 4/5/2024	MENA Senior Seminar	R. Cross	Morocco	Experiential learning trip	\$3,500
3/31 - 4-9/2024	Spanish Conversation	R. Bradner	Costa Rico	participating in an immersion program	\$3,889.00
4/1 - 4/9/2024	Science	D. Barnes	Panama	Adventure in Panama	\$3,639
4/2 - 4/9/2024	AP Comp Gov	D. Brown	Ireland	Study the Ireland government	\$2,975
4/2 - 4/9/2024	Evolution of London	K. Sheppard	London, England	Study of London	\$3,000
4/18-04/20/2024	Japan Bowl	Y. Eshito	University of Maryland	Japanese Quiz Bowl	\$0
4/23/2024	French Class Visit	M. Paturel	William & Mary College	experience French at the college level	\$20

Executive Summary: The 2023-2024 school year saw field trips return to pre-COVID era levels. Teachers were encouraged to take their students further afield and have additional authentic experiences, as reflected in the report above. Costs increased as trips went out of state or even out of the country, but once again, the MLWGS Foundation has done an admirable job of supporting student financial aid to make all trips accessible to all students.

**d. Annual Student Wellness Report to the Board for AY2024**

Presented for board information required by policy 4075.

On behalf of the MLWGS Wellness Committee, I submit this report outlining the work of the committee during the 2023-2024 School Year.

**Review of Practices**

The MLWGS Wellness Committee looked to our partner districts for a model that would provide structure to our wellness initiatives. We decided that the model used by Goochland County Public Schools (GCPS) most closely matched the components that we wanted to highlight. The

Goochland model employs the CDC Healthy Schools model program “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child” (WSCSS) in order to take an inventory of what GCPS was currently doing that would fall under the ten components of WSCC. We also chose to set out to identify where MLWGS might have deficits as related to those components.

Within each component, we identified practices of MLWGS that benefit the health and wellness of our students, faculty, and community. Some examples of practices applicable to this past school year are as follows:

### **Health Education**

- Health/PE 9 and 10
- Mindfulness/Yoga sessions provided for 10th grade students
- Mindfulness Month endorsed and organized by Bring Change 2 Mind (club)
- Signs of Suicide training for all 9th and 11th grade students annually
- Schoolwide yoga
- Continuous education regarding Covid-19 (prevention, transmission, etc.)
- PD sessions
- Four-session Mind and Body Awareness for Better Wellbeing in AP Psychology
- One-on-one meetings with students in consultation with the nurse and school social worker to discuss health issues and provide recommendations, as well as follow up
  
- **Planned enhancements for 2024-2025**
  
- Dragon Advisory content includes proper sleep habits
- Nurse Shapiro pursuing Physiology First certification

### **Nutrition Environment and Services**

- Free in-school meals for qualified students
- Healthy choice meals available at all meals
- Healthier options available in vending machines
- **Planned enhancements for 2024-2025**
  - Dragon Advisory content includes proper nutrition

### **Employee Wellness**

- Flu vaccine clinics
- Coordination with VDH for COVID-19 testing when needed for employees
- COVID-19 home test kits provided for staff and students as needed
- In-house TB risk assessments for all new staff
- In-house CPR training
- Newly purchased AED equipment now available on all three floors of the building as well as on the outdoor track
- Professional development sessions in August 2023 and March 2024 facilitated by the nurse, school social worker, and librarian
- One-on-one meetings with faculty and staff members in consultation with the nurse and school social worker to discuss issues and provide recommendations/resources

- Reimbursement for up to \$50 per employee for wellness activities/resources

### **Social and Emotional School Climate**

- Mindfulness programs and training
- Re-establishing relationship with Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC)
- Opportunities for ongoing and/or acute sessions with the school social worker
- PD sessions
- Teacher Welcome subcommittee
- Monthly staff social activities organized Teacher Welcome subcommittee
- Periodic staff affirmation activities organized by administration
- Listening workshop in English rotation of MLWGS 101
- One Small Step program - extracurricular spring program & integrated program in non-AP U.S. government - to promote active listening and foster connection among students with policy/political differences

### **Planned enhancements for 2024-2025**

- Dragon Advisory content includes time management, healthy competition
- Collectively, MLWGS 101 Essentials and Dragons Advisory will allow more time for freshmen to make connections with their classmates
- Explore feasibility of transitioning to smartphone-free classrooms
- Explore ways to enhance the efficiency of teacher workflows and other strategies to reduce teacher stress

### **Physical Environment**

- HEPA filters in classrooms and expanded to larger school spaces
- New contract with building custodial company
- In process of replacing HVAC units on the roof

### **Health Services**

- Concussion Return to Play program (VCU)
- Ongoing partnership with VCU Sports Medicine

### **Family Engagement**

- Family support sessions provided by the PTSA
- Consultation with community-based providers to support students returning to school from hospitalization

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for your support of the MLWGS Wellness Committee and for your care and attention to the health and welfare of all students who attend Maggie L Walker Governor's School.

Sincerely,

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D.  
Director Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

***e. GS Foundation FY2025 Enhancement Grant Information***

The FY2025 Enhancement Grant request was submitted to the Governor's School Foundation by Dr. Lowerre for the 2024-2025 school year and approved by the Foundation Board at its June meeting. AY2025 reflects an increase of \$14,000 over the AY24 grant that, in part, is due to the rise in the number of students enrolled next year, increased costs for travel, a widening of the opportunities and experiences available to our students, and increased costs for teacher professional development.

The Foundation will be working with MLWGS administration over the summer to clarify the parameters for funding and ways to communicate better the internal processes used by the school to teachers.

Presented for board information annually.

<b>MLWGS FY25 Foundation Request</b>	
Approved by Foundation Board 5/1/24	
<b>TEACHERS</b>	
GRADUATE COURSEWORK	\$18,000.00
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	\$5,000.00
CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS	\$12,000.00
<b>TEACHERS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,000.00</b>
<b>STUDENTS</b>	
INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENT	\$15,000.00
ACADEMIC CLUBS AND TEAMS	\$30,000.00
STUDENT AID	\$30,000.00
WE THE PEOPLE	\$20,000.00
MAGICAL REALISM SEMINAR	\$10,000.00
BASEBALL SEMINAR	\$20,000.00
MATH MODELING (SABR Analytics)	\$20,000.00
CIVIL RIGHTS SEMINAR	\$10,000.00
MENA SEMINAR	\$15,000.00
LATIN SEMINAR	\$10,000.00
MISC. TRAVEL	\$10,000.00
AP COMP GOV TRAVEL	\$14,000.00
<b>STUDENTS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL FOUNDATION REQUEST</b>	<b>\$239,000.00</b>

f. ***School Advisory Council (SAC) AY2024 Year-End Report to the RSB***

The 2023-24 school year represented a transition for SAC, largely due to the implementation of teacher subcommittees. This year teacher subcommittees took on many initiatives, some directly related to our school's strategic plan, with great success. One of the most notable subcommittee accomplishments was designing a new freshman experience program. Starting in the fall, and occurring on each Friday, all freshmen will participate in 35-minute school culture and wellness workshops and activities facilitated by select teachers and students. In addition, our academic FIRC courses were redeveloped and renamed MLWGS 101. These teacher subcommittees also addressed professional development and teacher onboarding and even planned and hosted "dragon downtime" afterschool activities for all staff.

One of the most notable accomplishments of SAC this school year was the Outreach Subcommittee's design of a new recruitment tool, a flyer that underscores MLWGS's unique course offerings and vibrant school culture. In addition, the Student Culture and Engagement Subcommittee helped organize a school visit by Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger.

Best regards,

Dr. Lisa Williams, SAC

Dr. Lowerre spoke about the Student Advisory Council (SAC), which advises the RSB and assists the director with various matters. He used the example of the council's involvement in transitioning to the 10-point grading scale a few years ago. However, in the past couple of years, the council's role has changed due to the introduction of school-based sub-committees that involve teachers in school-wide operations and planning. Consequently, SAC has struggled to find meaningful tasks, as the director doesn't require as much assistance because of these sub-committees. Dr. Lowerre suggested transitioning SAC into a new role, rather than dissolving it.

Ms. Moses inquired about the availability of Narcan on campus. Dr. Lowerre stated he was uncertain but committed to providing an answer by the next board meeting.

**II. Unfinished Business**

***c. Strategic Plan Implementation Report***

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

With only a few updates, Dr. Lowerre said we will be able to use this document as a base for the development of the next strategic plan. He said, "It was a good document, and we used it well."

There were no questions from the board.

**XIII. Items for Board Review and/or Discussion**

**a. Annual Authorization of DOE Signatures 2024-2025 (*First Read*)**

At the August 2024 meeting, the director suggested that the Executive School Board choose a designated signature when the director is unavailable for the Department of Education.

**b. Annual Certification of the MLWGS Crisis Manual 2024-2025 (*First Read*)**

Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section. MLWGS has developed such a plan and it describes the components of a medical emergency response plan in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The Regional School Board shall review this plan annually and has the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of §2.2-3705.2. The Superintendent (Director) shall certify in writing that the review has taken place no later than August 31 of each year to the Virginia Center for School Safety VCSS.

The existing Crisis Plan was originally approved by the Regional School Board on August 21, 2008. The updated manual will be available for Board viewing at the August 2024 meeting. Unless otherwise noted, updates generally reflect personnel changes and vendor contact updates.

Approval will be sought at the Board's August 2024 meeting.

**c. 2024-2025 Student Handbook (*First Read*)**

Updates to the student handbook will be proved in August and changes highlighted in the document. The handbook is currently under construction for AY2025.

Dr. Lowerre discussed the attendance section, stating that we are trying to improve communication with parents regarding the need to contact the school about absences in a timely manner.

Approval will be sought at the Board's August 2024 meeting.

**d. Health and Dental Benefit Rates 2024-2025 (*First Read*)**

Renewal rates are typically updated in August. The Regional School Board will be asked to review and approve new rates at their August meeting.

Open enrollment for employees is scheduled for September. Detailed information, as well as group meetings describing the benefit plans, will be available to our employees to assist them in making an informed decision.

The new plan year begins October 1, 2024.

\*No school-paid subsidy is provided for retirees who contribute 100% premium.

Approval for new health and dental premium rates will be sought at the Board's August 2024 meeting.

**e. Trip Proposal to Tulsa and OK City, March 2025 (*First Read*)**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TRIP PROPOSAL  
SPONSOR: NAKITA LEE, SOCIAL STUDIES FACULTY  
TULSA AND OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
MARCH 13, 2025 – MARCH 16, 2025**

The Black Legacy/Black Lives: African American History and Culture senior seminar (taught by NaKita Lee) is planning an experiential learning trip to Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The trip intends to help students connect deeply to critical moments concerning race, religion, gender, and equity in the United States. The course aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the vibrant tapestry of African American experiences through experiential learning such as a field trip to one of the landmarks of what has been historically called Black Wall Street.

Estimate per Student Cost (12 students): \$1,400  
Chaperones (2) Nakita Lee and Lisa Williams

Approval for this new trip proposal will be sought at the Board's August 2024 meeting.

**XIV. Information**

- Finance Committee Minutes June 6, 2024
- Farewell to Departing Faculty Adieu to the Retirees of MLWGS
- Graduation for the Class of 2024
- MW Junior named 2024 Russian Scholar Laureate
- Success on the National French Exam
- 2024 Japan Bowl Report
- MLWGS Scholastic Bowl with the best results since 2015 at HSNCT
- MLWGS team wins Narrative Category at the VHSL Film Festival
- Girls' Track wins the VHSL 3B Regional
- Girl's Tennis team wins the VHSL 3B Regional, including the Singles Champion
- Boys' Tennis includes the VHSL 3B Regional Singles Champion
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, May 13, 2024-#15, Adrian Chenoweth, '25-Richmond, Track & Field
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, May 20, 2024-#16, Anna Newell, '24-Henrico, Girls Tennis

**XV. New Business**

None.

## **XVI. Announcements**

Dr. Lowerre mentioned that he received the FY19, 20, and 21 audits last night and they will be presented to the board in August. As of the end of FY21, the school has \$1.7 million in reserve with the City of Richmond. The director estimates that upon receipt of the FY22, 23, and 24 reports, there should be approximately \$2 million in reserve. The director intends, if feasible, to use some of the reserve for projects to offset future salary decompression. This will result in lower future tuition increase projections. He is very conscious of keeping costs down and ensuring our teachers are taken care of by getting their salaries to the average level in the area.

Mr. May added he understood the need for lower costs versus competitive salaries as it has taken Hanover approximately four years to decompress its salaries. It's one of the actions teachers and staff follow and watch.

Dr. Lowerre stated that there are a couple of divisions whose salary scales we will never match, but our teachers understand that. Our teachers have been grateful for the decompression and improvement.

Finally, Mr. May announced that a Hanover bus driver retired with over 50 years of service and her story was picked up nationally. She never had an accident or any issues. Dr. Lowerre remarked that he thought bus drivers are undervalued, stating that for 95% of students, that driver is the first adult they see each morning. Most drivers are loved by the students and they are a constant in their lives.

## **XVII. Adjournment**

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Bob May, this meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 9:36 am.

The next scheduled meeting is the Executive School Board, on August 15, 2024.

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Kenneth Pritchett, Chair

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Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk



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

DATE: June 20, 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	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.		
<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>OBJ 2.1</b>	<b>Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.</b>			<b>2020-2021</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	<b>Expand student enrollment in SGC's and teacher-developed courses.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	New Courses have been taken to the Planning Committee and the RSB.		
2.1.6	<b>Augment opportunities for student travel and beyond-the-classroom experiences.</b>	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	<b>Develop a reimagined FIRC course to equip freshmen to succeed at MLWGS</b>	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	<b>Encourage teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.</b>	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	<b>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.</b>	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			
<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>MAGGIE L. WALER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL BE A SAFE SCHOOL WITH EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES.</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Measure-Ment</b>	<b>Year to begin Implemen-tation</b>	<b>Cost to Budget</b>
<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	Mr. Jordan	Completed Fall 2021		

	practices and facilitate external audits.				
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			