

## MINUTES

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

Thursday, November 14, 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 Executive School Board and visitors stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

### IV. Introductions

Each member present is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Dr. Elaine Pearson, *School Board*, Dinwiddie Public Schools  
Ms. Meredith Moses, *School Board*, Goochland Public Schools  
Mr. Bob May, *School Board*, Hanover 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. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools  
Dr. Robert Lowerre – **MLWGS Director**  
Ms. Barbara Marshall – **Regional School Board Clerk**  
Mr. Lucas Veale – **Regional School Board Deputy Clerk**

#### Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams and Dr. Michael Smith – MLWGS Assistant Directors  
Wendy DeGroat, David Bortz, and Aparna Harger – MLWGS Staff

#### 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  
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  
**Interim 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 Public Schools  
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Interim 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  
Ms. Yolanda Brown, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools  
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Dr. Douglas Lyle, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools  
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

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

No board member(s) requested to participate remotely.

**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**

No action was taken on this item because the minutes from October 17, 2025, were not available.

**VII. Recognitions**

- 2024 R.E.B. Teaching Award Winner NaKita Lee, Social Studies Department. NaKita was recognized in absentia.

Established in 1988, the R.E.B. Awards for Teaching Excellence recognizes public school teachers who distinguish themselves by their inspiring classroom performance. The program is based on the belief that a positive educational experience at the elementary, middle, and high school levels helps children form positive life-long habits toward learning and discipline.

"As an educator, I provide my students with knowledge that transcends textbooks," said **NaKita Lee, Social Studies Department**. "As such, I will take a transformative trip to Ghana and Alabama to draw a cyclical connection between freedom and independence. This connection is illuminated by the stories associated with both, as Ghana was a central hub for the transatlantic slave trade, and the Clotilda, discovered underwater in Alabama in 2018, was the last known U.S. slave ship to bring enslaved Africans to America after the slave trade had legally ended. I will continue my professional development by visiting sites in Ghana, like the Assin Manso Slave River (where enslaved Africans took their "last bath"), and the Door of No Return. I will also visit Africatown in Mobile, Alabama, a small town (that still exists today) formed by 32 of the West Africans who were brought over illegally on the Clotilda."

## **VIII. Public Comments**

The Public Information Period shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes to make his/her comments. Individuals representing groups will be allotted five (5) minutes.

No comments were submitted.

## **IX. Consent Items**

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

On a motion by Harwood Hall, seconded by Bob May, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate on a voice vote: November 2024 Personnel Actions (none), the fiscal status reports of October 31, 2024, and the donations report of October 31, 2024.

## **X. Action Items**

None.

## **XI. Director's Report**

### ***a. Verbal Updates***

#### **• Civility Day at MLWGS, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

For the first quarter, we have highlighted civility quite a bit. We have displayed posters. We have featured quotes over the morning announcements. The Art Honor Society has sponsored a contest on the topic.


Continuing our efforts, Ed Coleman and Lisa Williams have organized something new—Civility Day—happening Thursday, October 31st during the extended lunch/Dragon Advisory period. With the assistance of MW Tech, student ambassadors, and several Dragon Advisors, the event, which involves four speakers, four locations, the entire student body, and four concurrent presentations, ran smoothly!

Our guest speakers include an artist, a former police chief, a doctor, and a church leader, and they will each share what civility looks like and means in their world--why it matters and how it makes a difference.

A special thanks to Robinette Cross and Michael Jordan for securing two of our guest speakers!

And a special thanks to YOU for underscoring the importance of civility in our school community and for MAKING A DIFFERENCE each day!

Dr. Williams expressed her satisfaction with the event and appreciated how the day was organized for students to explore the concept of civility from various perspectives. Speakers presented simultaneously from different locations, engaging the entire student body. For the next semester, the organizers are planning to host a large collaborative event, such as planting a community garden or a tree, to bring this concept to life.




# MLWGS CIVILITY DAY

**October 31, 2024**  
**during our extended lunch/Dragon Advisory period**  
**11:50-12:20**

**TOPIC:**  
**"What does Civility mean in my profession?"**

**Each grade level will attend a presentation and activities by a guest speaker**



**Freshmen: Dr. Levenson, Vice Chair of Psychiatry at VCU (Black Box)**  
**Sophomores: Mr. Vance Richards, former chief of police for Virginia Union University (Cafeteria)**  
**Juniors: Elder Hampton-Duggar, a local faith leader (Gym)**  
**Seniors: Professor Hope Ginsburg, VCU School of Arts (Auditorium)**

- **AP Exam Fee Payment Notice: Advanced Placement (AP) students and their parents:** AP exam fees (\$99/test) were incorporated into student fees this year. We realize that AP exam fees can be costly and may need additional time for payment. As announced earlier in the school year, families may pace themselves by paying for AP exams through November 1<sup>st</sup>. Beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the \$40 College Board late fee will be applied.
- **Winter Sports start November 11, 2024.**
- **Robotics:** On November 17th, the Mech Tech Dragons will host a **FIRST Lego League tournament at MLWGS** for local elementary and middle school teams. Mark Sailer, the team sponsor, reports this will be the largest tournament the school has ever hosted with over 300 registrants.
- **MLWGS Drama** presents *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, **November 21-23, 2024, 7:00 pm.**

Directed by Chewie Lo Moore and Elle Meerovich

Featuring:

Ellie Agnello, Hiya Agrawal, Annie Boshier, Helena Z. Damer, Elise Eason, Lucy Gates, Brennan Harbour, Shakylia Jones, Jaanvi Kanda, V Lowden, Violet Mcfarlane, Charlotte Oristian, Ansley Plaisted, Rohan Rajguru, Sophia Runberg, Veda Urban, Scarlett Wharff, and Max Whealton.

Tickets: \$7 for students, \$12 for adults

Tickets are available at the door or online.

- **Virtual FY26 Budget Development Town Hall for Public Input, December 10, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.**

The results will be shared with the RSB. Developing the budget is always challenging as we aim to keep up with competitive salaries and maintain an older facility. This fall, the school encountered a problem with the elevator, which broke down. It was so old that no replacement parts were available, and new parts had to be fabricated. The larger question we need to consider is whether we should replace the elevator entirely.

- **City of Richmond Public Hearing for the CSX Bridge Replacement Project, December 11, 2024, 6:00-8:00 pm, MLWGS Commons.**
- **Winter Concert is December 13, 2024**

The Maggie Walker Music Program has a longstanding tradition of combining band, chorus, and orchestra for the winter concert. After performing our fall concerts to full houses, it has been determined that our auditorium no longer accommodates the winter program. Please read below for important venue change information.

**Concert Location:** Highland Springs High School, 200 S Airport Dr., Highland Springs, VA 23075

**Concert Date:** Friday, December 13, 7:00 pm.

**Concert Day Student Assembly** is on December 20<sup>th</sup> during assemblies at MLWGS.

- **Reassigning Administrative Duties During Director's LOA**

The administrative team met to discuss reassigning duties during Dr. Lowerre's medical leave (11/13/24-1/6/25). As he has shared, he intends to be available to telework starting in January and will likely remain so through March.

During the 7.5 weeks Dr. Lowerre is on medical leave, Dr. Williams and Dr. Smith will share several of his responsibilities. We will supervise the main office, MWTech/integrators, and Seminar/Mentorship. We will also jointly maintain relations with the Foundation and PTSA.

Several responsibilities will be divided. Dr. Williams will supervise the Counseling Department, Health/PE Department, MLWGS 101, and Dragon Advisory. Dr. Smith will manage relations with the Regional School Board, begin generating the annual operating budget/salary scales, and handle outward-facing communication, such as the Sunday Night Update. He will also be the cluster administrator for International Languages.

If you have any questions about VCU DE, you should contact Dr. Williams, and those regarding the VDOE should be directed to Dr. Smith.

This realignment is temporary until Dr. Lowerre is accessible via phone, email, and Zoom. During his medical leave, we ask you not to contact him; instead, you should look to your department chair or cluster administrator. We want to do everything possible to ensure Dr. Lowerre's speedy recovery and swift (virtual) return in 2025.

*b. Coming Events: November 14, 2024, through January 16, 2025*

Thursday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, MLWGS Campus, Rm 153</b>
Friday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Q2 Interims Available
Friday, November 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Model UN Conference Off Campus (Competition)
Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	First Lego Tournament sponsored by MW Robotics, 7 am, Gymnasium
Thursday, November 21 <sup>st</sup> – Saturday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Drama presents The Crucible by Arthur Miller, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
Friday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Q2 Interims Issued Online
Wednesday, November 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday – Building is Closed</b>
Monday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	TJ History Honor Society Speaker Series: Sarah Meacham, 1135am, Forum
Tuesday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm, Forum
Thursday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	MLWGS Director’s Circle Reception, 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm, Off Campus
Friday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fine Arts Department Student Field Trip to Washington, DC
	MENA Seminar Winter Holiday Bazaar, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Cafeteria/Commons
Saturday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	VA Band and Orchestra Director’s Association Central Regional Orchestra Auditions, 8:00 am, Auditorium, Gym and Classrooms
Tuesday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	VA Math League Contest, 11:40 am, Auditorium
	VIRTUAL FY26 Budget Town Hall, 6:00 pm, Zoom
Wednesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Richmond Public Hearing for CSX Bridge Replacement Project, 6:00-8:00 pm, Commons
Friday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert, 7:00 pm, Highland Springs High School
Friday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert Assemblies, 12:40 pm – 2:35 pm, Auditorium
Monday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Friday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Winter Holiday – Building is Closed</b>
Monday, January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Instruction Resumes
Thursday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 8:30 am
Tuesday, January 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Orientation for New Board Members, 10:00 am</b>
	Math League Contest, 11:30 am, Auditorium
	Q2 Report Cards Issued
Thursday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153</b>

*c. Reminder: 2025-2026 Division Enrollment Due to MLWGS December 1, 2024*

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

Letters have been provided to participating school divisions for their 2025-2026 student enrollment commitment. Note that each letter should be executed by the division superintendent and school board member and returned to MLWGS by December 1, 2024.

**d. 2025 VSBA Policy Renewal Agreement**

MLWGS originally entered into an agreement with the VSBA effective January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2016, at a contract fee of \$1,000 per year. This agreement was renewed with the VSBA on January 1, 2017, and 2021, with four additional one-year terms and no change in contract pricing.

This agreement will be renewed on January 1, 2025, with no pricing increase (\$1,000).

The agreement requires the Regional School Board to maintain and follow up-to-date policies and further requires that all policies be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

**XII. Unfinished Business**

**a. Strategic Plan Implementation Report**

The matrix report is located at the end of these minutes with little changes noted. The director stated he has started the process of putting together the strategic plan development team that will start work in January to review the current plan, what needs to stay in, what needs to be eliminated, and what needs to be added for the development of the new plan. The director is striving to get a very strong cross-section of constituents on the team. The director projects being able to bring the new strategic plan proposal to the board in April, approval in May, and being in-place at the expiration of the current plan (June 30, 2024).

Mr. May inquired whether divisions have the option to expand their slot totals. Dr. Lowerre confirmed that they do have this option and provided examples of divisions that have utilized it. However, Mr. May's question was aimed at understanding whether, when other counties do not fill their allotted slots (for example, a commitment of 50 slots but only sending 45 students), the divisions are notified of these openings so they can consider filling them with students on their waiting lists. The director responded that this scenario does not occur, noting the school could accommodate requests to increase slots, provided it is not a significant increase, as the school is nearing capacity.

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

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

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the chair and vice-chair at the January 16, 2025, meeting.

<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Kenneth Pritchett – Chair	
Harwood Hall – Vice-Chair	

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

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the board clerk(s) at the January 16, 2025, meeting.

<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Barbara Marshall – Clerk	
Lucas Veale – Deputy Clerk	

**c. Election of Executive Committee Members (*First Read*)**

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, Article IV, Section 3, the election of the annual Executive Committee members shall be held during the January 16, 2025, reorganization meeting.

<b>2024 Membership</b>	<b>2025 Membership</b>
Meredith Moses, Goochland	
Elaine Pearson, Dinwiddie	
Harwood Hall, King & Queen	
Bob May, Hanover	
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg	

**d. Election of the School Advisory Council Membership (*No Action Recommended*)**

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

**POLICY 1050**

***ARTICLE 1***  
***Membership***

**Section 1. Composition**

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

This committee has held no meetings this year.

The school administration is discussing SAC and thinks that we will use this time to create suggestions on ways to move forward--with SAC still playing a critical role. Though we are getting so much accomplished through our teacher subcommittees, there is still a place for SAC.

The school is scheduled to update its strategic plan next year and what we produce will serve to guide our discussion about how to make some modifications and provide clearer direction to SAC members.

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

Policy 1012.b The committee includes the MLWGS Director and up to two members of the Regional School Board. Other members may include the assistant director(s), faculty member(s),



staff member, and a PTSA representative. The committee will review, amend, and make recommendations to the Regional School Board for policy approval or updates as initiated by the VSBA.

<b>2024 Membership</b>	<b>2025 Membership</b>
Ms. Lisa Hudgins, Regional School Board	
Ms. Meredith Moses, Regional School Board	
Dr. Robert Lowerre, Director	Dr. Robert Lowerre, Director
Dr. Lisa Williams, Associate Director	Dr. Lisa Williams, Associate Director
Dr. Max Smith, Assistant Director	Dr. Max Smith, Assistant Director
Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk	Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
Paige Hawkins - Faculty	Paige Hawkins - Faculty
	Dr. Rachel Loving - Faculty
Open - Parent	Open - Parent

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

**Policy 1012.a ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

<b>2024 Membership</b>	<b>2025 Membership</b>
Paige Hawkins, Activities Director	Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse
Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse	Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse
Erin Ortiz, Faculty-Social Worker	Erin Ortiz, Faculty-Social Worker
Wendy DeGroat, Librarian	Wendy DeGroat, Librarian
Dr. Robert Lowerre, Director	Dr. Robert Lowerre, Director
Open, Student	
Open, Student	
Open, Parent	
Open, Parent	

**g. 2025 Assignment of the Director’s Designee (*First Read*)**

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

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

<b>2024 Designee</b>	<b>2025 Designee</b>
Dr. Max Smith – Assistant Director	Dr. Max Smith – Assistant Director

**h. Announcement of Superintendent’s Steering Committee Leadership 2025 (*First Read*)**

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

2024 Leadership	2025 Leadership
Dr. Brian Nichols, New Kent, Chair	
Open, Vice-Chair	

**i. 2025 Election of the Finance Committee Members (*First Read*)**

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

2024 Membership	2025 Membership
Dr. Robert Lowerre, MLWGS Director	Dr. Robert Lowerre, MLWGS Director
Dr. Max Smith, MLWGS Asst. Director	Dr. Max Smith, MLWGS Asst. Director
Dr. Lisa Williams, MLWGS Asst. Director	Dr. Lisa Williams, MLWGS Asst. Director
Ms. Karen Hoover, MLWGS Bus. Mgr.	Ms. Karen Hoover, MLWGS Bus. Mgr.
Barbara Marshall, MLWGS Exec. Asst.	Barbara Marshall, MLWGS Exec. Asst.
Ms. Lynn Bragg, RPS	
Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover	
Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield	
Mr. John Wack, Henrico	
Ms. Debbie Halloway, Powhatan	

**j. 2025 Code of Conduct for School Board Members (*First Read*)**

Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 16, 2025, meeting.

**k. 2025 Code of Conduct for Clerks (*First Read*)**

Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 16, 2025, meeting.

**l. 2025 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (*First Read*)**

The director recommended a review of the proposed 2025 calendar of meetings and consultation with the member’s local calendar for conflicts and/or modifications. Approval will be requested at the January 16, 2025, meeting of the Regional School Board.

**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS  
JANUARY 2025-JANUARY 2026**

January 9, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
January 14, 2025	<b>Board Orientation for New Members if Needed</b>
January 16, 2025	<b>Reorganization Regional Board Meeting &amp; Budget Work Session</b>
February 6, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
February 20, 2025	<b>Regional Board Meeting &amp; Public Hearing for Input on Budget Proposal</b>

March 6, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
March 20, 2025	<b>Regional Board Meeting &amp; Budget Adoption</b>
April 10, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
April 17, 2025	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
	<i>No May Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
May 15, 2025	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
June 5, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
June 12, 2025	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
	<i>No July Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
July 2025	<b>No Regional or Executive Board Meeting</b>
	<i>No August Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
August 21, 2025	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
	<i>No September Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
September 18, 2025	<b>Regional Board Meeting</b>
October 2, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
October 16, 2025	<b>Regional Board Meeting</b>
November 6, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
November 13, 2025	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
<b>November TBD, 2025</b>	<b>VSBA Annual Conference - Williamsburg, VA</b>
<i>December 9, 2025</i>	<b>FY27 Budget Development Public Town Hall (6:00pm)</b>
	<i>No December Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
	<b>No December Regional or Executive Board Meeting</b>
December 2025	
January 8, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
January 13, 2026	<b>Board Orientation for New Members if Needed</b>
January 15, 2026	<b>Reorganization Regional Board Meeting</b>

Discuss date change due to holiday

**Color Code:**

<b>Regional Board Mtg</b>
<b>*Executive Board Mtg</b>
<b>No Meeting</b>

**Meeting Times & Locations**

8:30 a.m.-Finance Oversight Meetings, Rm 218  
9:00 a.m. -Board Meetings  
10:00 a.m. - Orientation

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

- 1) June meeting moved up one week, shown as the second week of June, to accommodate a holiday.

The calendar of meetings will be presented for adoption at the January 16, 2025, meeting.

**m. New Course Proposals for AY2025-2026 (First Read)**

The following proposals are presented for ESB consideration:

**DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL STUDIES**

- **COURSE TITLE: AP African American Studies**

**Prerequisite(s): Global Studies 9**

**Credit: (yearlong) 1 credit**

**Is this course: (1) New: X or (2) Replacing another course? Which?**

Course Description:

AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with varied sources.

**DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL STUDIES**

- **COURSE TITLE: Topics in Policy, Politics, and Government**

**Prerequisite(s):** For Non-Intensive courses students should be enrolled in Global 10; For Intensive courses, students should be a Junior who has completed Global 9 and 10 and be enrolled in, or having already taken, US History or US Government.

**Credit: (yearlong) 1 credit**

**Is this course: (1) New: X or (2) Replacing another course? Which?**

Course Description:

Topics in Policy, Politics, and Government is a course that supplements the Social Studies curriculum by providing students with the opportunity to explore specialized topics in greater depth.

Course proposals will be presented for adoption at the January 16, 2025, meeting.

In conclusion, Dr. Lowerre stated we currently offer 27 AP classes to our students.

**XIV. Information Items**

- Finance Committee Meeting, November 2, 2024, *Not Available*
- October Department of the Month Recognition at MLWGS - English
- MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week (wk #5) – Gabriella Hines ('25-Chesterfield) - Volleyball
- MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week (wk #6) – Anthony Bastardi ('26-Richmond) - XC

**XV. New Business**

- None.

**XVI. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

- None.

**XVII. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

On a motion from Elaine Pearson, seconded by Meredith Moses, on a unanimous voice vote this meeting ended at 9:38 am.

**Next Meeting of the Regional School Board**

January 16, 2025, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Richmond, VA 23220.  
804-354-6800 x 2190.

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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: November 14, 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	In compliance with FY 2021 Budget Item 145, C-27,l, 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.		
<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	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.		
<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			
<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	<b>Implemental funding mechanism separate from the operating budget.</b>	Mr. Smith	The issue has been discussed by the RSB.		
3.2.1	<b>Purchase of on-line teacher receipting program.</b>	Ms. Hoover; Ms. Charity	An web based fee payment program has been implemented.		
3.2.2	<b>Implement field trip request and tracking software.</b>	Mr. Smith	Online system has been put in place with appropriate policy changes.		
3.2.3	<b>Integrate field trip software with student information system.</b>	Mr. Bortz			
3.2.4	<b>Reduce student fees.</b>	Leadership Team	We have reduced fees where we could, but many of the fees are simply pass-through accounts.		
3.2.5	<b>Incentivize the use of current on-line payment systems.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	Budgeted and Completed.		
<b>OBJ 3.3</b>	<b>Enhance our safe school environment.</b>			<b>2020</b>	
3.3.1	<b>Implement an annual climate survey.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	Participation in the Virginia School Climate Survey. Jan 2022		
3.3.2	<b>Complete a full revision of the safety/crisis plan.</b>	Mr. Smith	Completed Fall 2021		
3.3.3	<b>Further develop relations with local fire, police, and EMS in order to incorporate best practices and facilitate external audits.</b>	Mr. Jordan	Completed Fall 2021		
3.3.4	<b>Train faculty on cyber security and teaching digital literacy.</b>	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	<b>Research options for future fiscal processing.</b>	Mr. Smith	Discussions have taken place with the superintendents.		
3.4.2	<b>Secure board approval for a new fiscal agent.</b>	Dr. Lowerre	Discussions have begun		
3.4.3	<b>Create a transition plan.</b>	Ms. Hoover			