

MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 16, 2025

9:06 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Michael 'Max' Smith, Assistant Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Assistant Director called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The board and audience stood for the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Board members and superintendents are listed by locality in alphabetical order. New members were welcomed to the board: Ms. Kathryn Ricard – Richmond and Ms. Debbie Walwer – Colonial Heights. The board also welcomed back Ms. Mary Benjamin from Dinwiddie.

Present:

Ms. Lisa Hudgins, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Ms. Debbie Walwer, **School Board**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Mary Benjamin, **School Board**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Ms. Meredith Moses, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. Steve Ikenberry for Mr. Bob May, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, **School Board**, Henrico County Public (*late arrival*)
Ms. Linda Hyslop, **School Board**, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, **School Board**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, **School Board**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. James Taylor, **School Board**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Kathryn Ricard, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. George Fohl for Dr. John Murray, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Travis Ridley for Ms. Haidee Napier, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Michelle Powell for Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Jenna Conlee for Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Jan Butterworth for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

Ms. Yolanda Brown, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Melanie Barron-Ficke for Dr. Wayne Lyle, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Michael “Max” Smith, **Assistant Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School
Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams– MLWGS Administration (*late arrival*)
Wendy DeGroat, Aparna Harger, Deborah Snagg, Lisa Hannah-Gordon, and David Bortz – MLWGS Staff

Absent:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Dr. Michael Cromartie, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

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

Policy No. 1020 – Electronic Participation in Meetings from a Remote Location

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

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

No requests were made for board members to participate remotely.

V.b Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Election of Chair

Nomination: James Taylor was nominated by Kenneth Pritchett. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by Kenneth Pritchett was seconded by Harwood Hall, resulting in James Taylor being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2025 Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. After congratulations, the assistant director turned the gavel over to Dr. Taylor.

VII. Election of Vice-Chair

Nomination: Heather Donbrosky was nominated by Kenneth Pritchett. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by Kenneth Pritchett was seconded by Meredith Moses resulting in Heather Donbrosky being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2025 Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chair thanked Ms. Donbrosky for her service.

VIII. Election of Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Nomination: Barbara Marshall was nominated for Board Clerk by Meredith Moses. There being no other nominations; on a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Linda Hyslop; Barbara Marshall was unanimously elected to serve as the 2025 Clerk of the Maggie L Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Ms. Marshall.

Nomination: Lucas Veale was nominated for Deputy Board Clerk by Meredith Moses. There being no other nominations; on a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Heather Donbrosky; Lucas Veale was unanimously elected to serve as the 2025 Deputy Clerk of the Maggie L Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Mr. Veale.

IX. Election of Executive Board 2025

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

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

After discussion, the following slate was offered:

2024 Membership	2025 Membership
Meredith Moses, Goochland	Meredith Moses, Goochland
Elaine Pearson, Dinwiddie	James Taylor, Powhatan
Harwood Hall, King & Queen	Harwood Hall, King & Queen
Bob May, Hanover	Heather Donbrosky, New Kent
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg	Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg

Meredith Moses made a motion to approve the slate of Moses, Taylor, Hall, Donbrosky, and Pritchett for the 2025 Executive Board, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, this slate was unanimously approved on a voice vote for the 2025 Executive Board.

X. Assignment of Director’s Designee 2025

The director recommended Dr. Michael Smith as the 2025 director’s designee.

On a motion by Heather Donbrosky, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, Michael Smith was unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2025 director’s designee to the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board. The Chair congratulated Dr. Smith.

XI. The announcement of the Superintendent’s 2025 Steering Committee Leadership

Per agreement among the superintendents, Dr. Beth Teigen will serve as chair for 2025 of the Superintendent’s Steering Committee, and Dr. Brian Nichols will serve as vice-chair.

XII. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Linda Hyslop, minutes for the October 17, 2024 Regional School Board meeting and the November 14, 2024 Executive School Board meeting were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XIII. Recognitions

- **MLWGS senior Nakhita Saravanan (Henrico) recognized for the Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia’s 2025 Strong Men and Women Contest**

Nakhita Saravanan (’25-Henrico) was on hand for recognition for being selected as one of the finalists for Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia’s 2025 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History Student Creative Expression Contest.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony on Thursday, February 6, 2025. Nakhita and a representative from our school will attend the ceremony to receive the award. She will be awarded an Apple computer and the school will receive a \$1,000 monetary award in her name.

The evening will highlight the five (5) individuals being honored as 2025 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History, which include:

Winsome Earle-Sears	Winchester	Lieutenant Governor
Damien Geter	Chesterfield County	Composer, Conductor & Bass-Baritone
Kelly L. Knight	Fairfax County	Forensic Scientist

Virginia Young Lee	Roanoke	Librarian
Don L. Scott, Jr.	Portsmouth	Legislator and Speaker of the House of Delegates

XIV. Public Comments

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

No comments were received online or presented in person.

XV. Director’s Report

A. Verbal Update

- **Max Smith, Acting Director’s Message to Community, December 12, 2024**

As many of you know, I stepped into the role of Acting Director today while Dr. Lowerre is on medical leave. Having worked here for 17 years as a teacher and assistant director, I’m very familiar with our community and our important work together. I appreciate the fine people we have on all three floors and my great partnership with Dr. Williams.

During this interim period, our primary goal is to ensure that our day-to-day operations continue seamlessly and that you feel supported. We know how much dedication and passion each of you brings to our school, and we want to assure you that I’m here to help in any way we can.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you need anything, whether for day-to-day concerns or something more specific. I’m here to listen, support, and keep things moving forward.

I look forward to working closely with you all and maintaining the positive momentum we’ve built together.

- **Review of Budget Calendar
Regulation 7003.1
Budget Calendar**

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

- A. At least one public forum will be held before December 30 to solicit public input.
- B. The budget work-session date in January will be published as part of the Regional School Board’s meeting schedule and will be informative for fiscal planning purposes only.
- C. The proposed operating budget and capital improvement plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February.
- D. After the February presentation of the operating budget and capital improvement plan, a brief public synopsis of the operating budget and capital improvement plan will be

published at least seven days before the date set for the hearing, at which any citizen shall have the right to attend and state his or her views thereon.

- E. A public hearing will be held before budget adoption in March.
 - F. The budget can be adopted at its earliest in March.
 - G. The Regional School Board shall annually publish the approved budget on the school's website or make the approved budget available in hard copy as needed to citizens for inspection.
- **Budget Development Public Input:** The Director will provide verbal feedback from the virtual town hall on December 10th.

[Virtual Town Hall & Survey Announcement Here](#)

[Zoom Recording of Town Hall Passcode: U+g8BwJ*](#)

MLWGS BUDGET TOWN HALL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK, DECEMBER 10, 2024

Timestamp	Stakeholder Name	Affiliation	Home Division	Key School Priorities for Academic Year 2025-2026
12/2/2024 15:05:19	Natalie Horne	Parent	Richmond	Opportunities for fun non academic opportunities to relieve the stress of the high pressure academic environment and culture of Maggie
12/2/2024 19:50:22	Jason Ferrell	Parent	Hanover	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tennis court improvements 2. Better solution for nets that hang above the bleachers in the main gym. The nets obstruct spectator views of student-athletes and sporting events when sitting in bleachers.
12/3/2024 5:23:14	Myisha Baines	Parent	Chesterfield	Instructional materials for students, summer school courses expenses for students, Field trips, athletics
12/4/2024 7:37:19	M. Jordan	Staff	Richmond	Security Personnel, add full time. Security Equipment, lobby vestibule, door alarms, roof mounted cameras.

- **Legal Representation:**

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School will continue to utilize the firm of Haney Phinyowattanachip PLLC for future services as needed. The firm is headed by Stacey Haney and Pakapon Phinyowattanachip who are both well-versed in Virginia education issues and law.

- **Message to the school community on December 18, 2024**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Snow Closings:** Monday, January 6, and Tuesday, January 7.
- **Other Closing:** Wednesday, January 8 through Friday, January 10 due to Richmond City Water Outage.
- **Community Service Announcement to the community on December 18, 2024**

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

- **Professional Development 2025 - Cultural Competency Training**

The PD subcommittee has planned some exciting opportunities that we would like to share with you.

Please use this [link](#) to check out a calendar of activities for January and February 2025 (thanks, Robinette Cross and Maddie Paturel, for creating it). Also, look at the flyer below (thanks, NaKita Lee, for designing it).

In short, we will facilitate: a *Shakespeare in Politics* lecture (Sam Ulmschneider), a mentor training session (NaKita Lee and Hana Voight), a faculty-parent book discussion (Connie Hill, Christine Anderson, and Lisa Williams), and a quilting and social justice presentation (Lynn Reed)...and that's just for the first two months of the new year!

Here are a few important points regarding the faculty-parent book discussion on *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*:

- The topic of the book is the growth vs. the fixed mindset.
- During our discussion (that will involve low pressure, interactive activities), we will explore ways that parents and teachers can work together to support students through challenges and obstacles, encourage students to take risks, and help students view mistakes (and even failure) as an opportunity for growth.
- We will focus on an important word: resilience.
- In addition to the parent-teacher discussion, we will also facilitate an activity on the book just for teachers.
- In the meantime, if you would like to participate, please let Dr. Lisa Williams know.



- **The International Language Fair** is on **Saturday, February 22, 2025**, for any interested *middle school student* in the community designed and led by Maggie Walker students.

Each workshop will allow participating students an opportunity to engage in a series of fun student-led activities, learn about languages offered at Maggie Walker, and experience the life of an MLWGS student. We believe learning about global languages and cultures allows students to

become more inclusive, inquisitive, and respectful citizens and learners who see the world with a broadened perspective.



- **Japanese Exchange, March 1-15, 2025**

Students from our partner school in Japan are visiting Maggie L. Walker next March. The planned dates for the visit are **March 1st (Sat)– March 15th, 2024 (Sat)**.

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

- **Welcome International Language Teaching Assistant**

The Japanese Department is pleased to send a teaching assistant from Japan, Ayaka Naito. Ayaka is a student from Shimane University and will be staying with us from today (January 14) until the end of February. She will be assisting MLWGS teacher Yoko Eshita with the Japanese classes.

- **Save the Date: Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, March 24th.**

Plans are shaping up in a wonderful way for the 23rd Annual Night of the Dragon, being held **March 24, 2025**, at the Faison Center. This year's theme is Sneaker Ball! Make your plans now to join us for this hallmark social event and the largest MLWGS fundraiser of the year. Tickets go on sale in late January.

- **Teacher-Generated Senior Seminar Proposals for the Class of 2026**

Teacher	Seminar Title
Benesh	The History and Sabermetrics of Baseball
Stinnett	Photojournalism in the Digital Age
Stinnett	Fashion and Style: Implications of the Clothes on Our Backs
Raviotta	Digital Video
Merillat	Music Production and Recording
White	Slavic Folklore
Cross	Gender and Culture in the Middle East and North Africa
LeCroy-Whitworth	The Power of Story—Teaching Narrative through Travel Writing

Utterback	The Power of Story—Teaching Narrative through Travel Writing
Cashwell	Worlds Apart: Imagined Societies in Speculative Fiction
Love	Jane Austen and Her Cultural Legacy: From Regency England to Modern Media
Brown	Military History
Lee	Motion & Migration: Diversity and Identity in 20 th Century European Capitals-London, Paris, Madrid
Reed	Inspired by DaVinci: Mathematics and the Arts
Sheppard	Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers

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

John Piersol (Walker English teacher on a 2-year sabbatical) will be presenting to our students via Zoom on his Taylor Teaching Award travels that allowed him to study the journey of Frederick Douglass in England and Ireland. NaKita Lee, Joy Cobb, and Dr. Lisa Williams are planning to organize a Peer Mentors field trip to the former home of Douglass in Washington DC. In addition, Wendy DeGroat is organizing a transcribe-a-thon on the writings of Douglass.

B. Coming Events

January 16, 2025, through February 20, 2025

Thursday, January 16 th	Reorganization Meeting for the Regional School Board and Budget Work Session, starting at 9:00 am, Room 153
Friday, January 17 th – Tuesday, January 21 st	Music Department Trip to Disney
Friday, January 17 th	AY26 Course Registration Assembly for Underclassmen, 11:35 am – 12:15 pm, Auditorium and Dragon Advisory Class
Monday, January 20 th	HOLIDAY
Wednesday, January 22 nd	One Small Step Workshop, 11:35 am, Library
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, January 23 rd	Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Friday, January 24 th	Student Leaders Workshop, 11:35 am – 12:30 pm, Forum
Saturday, January 25 th	New Student Evaluation Day for the Class of 2029, 2-Sessions, morning and afternoon, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, MLWGS
Tuesday, January 28 th	Teacher Team Meetings, 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm, Counseling Office
Wednesday, January 29 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
	TJ History Honor Society Induction, 5:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Auditorium
	College Kick-Off for Sophomores and Juniors 9:15-11:30 am, Auditorium
Thursday, January 30 th	College Kick-Off for parents at 10:15 am – 3:30 pm, Auditorium
Friday, January 31	Winter Pep Rally, 2 pm
Saturday, February 1 st	2nd Day for Student Evaluations for the Class of 2029 - 1 Session Only at 9 am to accommodate testing conflicts on 1-25-25

	We the People State Championship at Randolph-Macon College
Tuesday, February 4 th	New Student Assessment Make-up, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Room 153
	Monthly Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm, Forum
Wednesday, February 5 th	Q3 Interims Available
	Transcribe-a-thon, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Library
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, February 6 th	Regional Application Evaluation Day, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm, J. Sargeant Reynolds-Goochland
	TJ History Honor Society Sponsored History Fair, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Auditorium
	Planning Committee Meeting, 10:00 am
Friday, February 7 th	Band Clinic, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Band Room
Saturday, February 8 th	Hold – Snow Date for New Student Evaluation Day for the Class of 2029
	Quiz Bowl VHSL Regional Tournament at MLWGS, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, February 11 th	PTSA Faculty Appreciation Luncheon, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Room 153
	VML Math Contest, 11:40 am – 12:15 pm, Auditorium
Friday, February 14 th	Student Leader’s Workshop with the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Auditorium
	Annual MLWGS Valentine Dance, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Commons
Monday, February 17 th	HOLIDAY
Wednesday, February 19 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, February 20 th	Regular Meeting of the Regional School Board and Budget Public Hearing, starting at 9:00 am, Room 153

Dr. Smith highlighted two events of note: The addition of a second student assessment on Saturday, February 1st to accommodate students with testing conflicts due to snow closings earlier in January, and college kick-off for sophomores and juniors and their parents on January 29 and 30.

C. Regional School Board Protocols Manual 2025

Pursuant to Policy 1007-P the Regional School Board is issued at the reorganizational meeting its Protocols Manual.

D. VDOE Full Site Evaluation Report on MLWGS, October 2024

The Virginia Department of Education sponsored a full-site evaluation of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies (MLWGS) October 7-10, 2024. Participating in the evaluation were the following team members: Melissa Bach, School Coordinator/Counselor, The Governor’s School at Innovation Park; Kristen Beekwilder, Biology/Research Instructor, The Governor’s School of Southside Virginia; Katherine Klus, Mathematics/Research Instructor, Massanutten Governor’s School; and DOE Coordinators Marc Carraway, Retired Director, Blue Ridge Virtual

Governor's School, and Dr. Rosanne Williamson, Retired Director, Mountain Vista Governor's School.

The evaluation included classroom observations and formal and informal interviews with administration; faculty; students; parents; Regional School Board members and superintendents; Superintendent-in-charge; Planning Committee members; Admissions Coordinator; Foundation Director and Board Chairman.

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School currently serves 795 students in grades 9 – 12 from the school divisions of Charles City, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, King and Queen, New Kent, Powhatan, and Prince George Counties, and the Cities of Richmond, and Petersburg.

After the team's review and evaluation, Maggie Walker Governor's School was deemed to have met or exceeded every category of the team's rubric.

The rubrics in this report summarize the commendations and recommendations made by the visiting team. It was clear to the evaluators that MLWGS continues to fulfill its mission and beliefs in terms of its comprehensive curriculum, emphasis on citizenship, and innovative instructional program. It was apparent in the hallways, classrooms, and laboratories that its vibrant community of learners is thriving. The administrators, faculty, and support staff cooperate as a team and have numerous structures in place to help each student reach academic success while maintaining social and emotional wellness. Parents are supportive of the school and overwhelmingly express that they would not wish their children in any other program.

The visiting team found many examples of exceptional inquiry-based teaching, students being challenged to use their minds creatively to design products, and teams of students working together to solve problems and engaging in research with much less traditional lecture and question-response teaching than was indicated in the last evaluation. The committee saw examples of differentiation, not in every class, but consistently across the school.

Strengths include the extra and co-curricular activities, clubs, student-designed classes, and the senior mentorship/internship options which give students opportunities to pursue their own interests. Unique in the state, a wide variety of classes are offered in World Languages and Social Studies. Support for students' emotional health and social well-being are integrated in the fiber of the school community.

The team recommends that the school consider how best to update its technology, both instructionally in classrooms and for implementation of student "one-to-one" computer access for functionality and equity.

The Visiting Team found that Maggie L. Walker Governor's School continues to be an exceptional school, well deserving of the commendations it receives, and thriving under its current leadership. The Team recommends that the Virginia Department of Education continue its support of MLWGS.


The full report is available in the January Regional School Board packet.

E. One-to-One Laptop Initiative Presentation by David Bortz, Chief Technology Officer of MLWGS

The following PowerPoint presentation was provided to the board:

Regional School Board Report
16 January 2025
David W. Bortz, Chief Technology Officer | MLWGS


- ***Recommendation for a school-managed Windows device student 1:1 program.***

1 

Regional School Board Report | 16JAN2025

RSB discussion (September 2024) on:

- *Recent VDOE guidelines on student cell phone use in schools,*
- *MLWGS current student BYOD program and how it is supported,*
- *Directive to MWtech to review possible school-managed student device 1:1 program*

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Regional School Board Report | 16JAN2025

History:

- *Informal, parent-managed, student BYOD in place*
- *MWtech 1:1 Pilot Program in 2017-18*
 - *45 devices (15-Macs, 15-Chromebooks, 15-Windows devices)*
 - *Funding, Management, Staff*
- *School-based desktop/mobile labs*

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Regional School Board Report | 16JAN2025

Highlights of MLWGS Staff Survey:

- *70 Staff members responded*
- *50% of respondents have worked in an environment with school-managed student devices, and*
- *By a nearly 9-1 margin (88.6% to 10%), Staff prefer a Windows-based device over a Chromebook, citing flexibility, compatibility, and familiarity*

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Regional School Board Report | 16JAN2025

Highlights of MLWGS Partner Division Survey:

- *All 14 partner division tech directors replied*
- *All 14 partner divisions support 1:1 student device programs for grades 9-12*
- *10 partner divisions utilize PowerSchool, most use M365 and/or Google Workspace*
- *All utilize on/off campus content filtering*
- *All utilize a mobile device management (MDM) platform*

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Regional School Board Report | 16JAN2025

Why 1:1 now?

- *Challenges of BYOD*
- *Expansion of online content, testing (PSATs, SOLs, APs)*
- *Support and management systems in place*
- *Network connectivity and security crucial*
- *Equity in access and support*
- *Expanded finance partner program*

6

MWtech

Regional School Board Report | 16JAN2025

Our recommendation:

- *Windows-based device for students 1:1 Fall 2025, add class each year until 2028*
- *Would need RSB approval by February meeting to make planning/procurement goals, and provide notification to newly accepted students in March*

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MWtech

Regional School Board Report | 16JAN2025

Funding modifications: An additional 0.6% for FY26*

FY25 Tuition \$10,200 x 0.006 = \$61.20/student

- *Increase to 900 managed devices by 2028 (from 400)*
- *Utilize same MDM (Intune), change cloud filtering platform, reduce current school-based devices (mobile carts, desktop labs)*
- *Retask MWtech staff roles; need additional skill sets at Helpdesk level*
- *Expand relationships with current vendors for additional support*
- *Student Technology Fee (device repair pool)*

***Future FY increase determined by tuition increase request.**

8

MWtech

Thank you for your time today!

Questions?

David W. Bortz, CTO | MLWGS
dwbortz@gsgis.k12.va.us | (804) 354-6800 x 2130

9



End of Presentation

10



The following comments for the one-to-one presentation portion of this meeting were taken by Wendy DeGroat, MLWGS Librarian and submitted here due to recorder malfunction:

- Mr. Bortz (@ MLWGS since 2016) shared his recommendations with the Board.
- Dr. Pennycuff (Hanover) said that Hanover provides their students with Chromebooks and asked why they should fund Windows devices here since they're more expensive.
- Ms. Moses (Goochland) clarified whether it would be a 0.5% or 0.6% increase; Mr. Bortz clarified it would be 0.6% tuition increase.
- Dr. Pennycuff reiterated her concern about the additional cost for Windows devices v. Chromebooks, calling the cost for Windows devices “excessive.”
- Ms. Atkins (Henrico) asked about existing and projected tech staffing. Mr. Bortz said he anticipates additional vendor management costs and additional duties for tech staff.

- Ms. Atkins asked for more information about leases. Mr. Bortz said now we stretch the cost of sizeable leases over three years; anticipates changing to a four-year cycle and, when possible, large upgrade costs (like servers) may be stretched over five years.
- Ms. Atkins asked whether there's been a conversation on developing a CIP, because in five or ten years, MLWGS would need a CIP to manage ongoing funding for this aspect of the school's expenses. Mr. Bortz explained that the board has approved a CIP in the past but not approved related funding.
- Ms. Donbrosky asked about filtering. Mr. Bortz explained that 1:1 expands filtering needs to off-campus; he's modeling the plan for MLWGS on how Henrico handles this.
- Ms. Kathryn Ricard (Richmond) asked about anticipated changes in technology infrastructure. Mr. Bortz said the number of devices on the network should be similar and the system has capacity to handle more than it currently does.
- Ms. Ricard asked for clarification about whether 0.6% would be for all students or just freshmen. Dr. Smith and Mr. Bortz clarified it would be for all students.
- Dr. Teigen (Powhatan) asked if 0.6% would go away after four years. Dr. Smith clarified that it would not go away. They anticipate a 0.6% increase per year for four years and then stay at the fourth-year level.
- Dr. Pennycuff asked Mr. Bortz to provide per-student pricing estimates for Chromebook vs. Windows devices.
- Ms. Atkins requested that the questions and answers in this discussion be summarized in the minutes, and prior documents gathered that had been referenced. For instance, she'd like to see the previous work on a CIP plan. Dr. Smith said he could provide that info and said that the CIP plan was approved in 2016 but funding was not approved.
- Ms. Moses requested that Ms. Marshall compile this segment of the minutes before she'd typically send the full minutes so that Ms. Moses could share those notes with her Board and superintendent prior to their next meeting on Feb. 11.

XVI. Unfinished Business

a. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

Dr. Smith provided a brief overview of the current report. Most of today's discussion centered around the upcoming development of the new 5-year strategic plan that will occur this winter/spring to replace the expiring plan on June 30, 2025. Dr. Smith encouraged members of the board are welcome to assist with plan development.

The current report is located between the end of these minutes and the start of the budget work session minutes.

XVII. Consent Items

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Linda Hyslop, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a block on a voice vote: personnel actions for January 2025, fiscal status reports of November 30, 2024, and December 31, 2024, and the donations reports of November 30, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

XVIII. Action Items

a. 2025 Code of Conduct for Board Members (*Second Read*)

The Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members is grounded in the model code of the Virginia School Board Association. The Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the 2025 Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

b. 2025 Code of Conduct for Clerks (*Second Read*)

The Code of Conduct for Clerks is grounded in the model code of the Virginia School Board Association. The Chair called for a vote to approve the code presented.

On a motion from Harwood Hall, seconded by Linda Hyslop, the 2025 Code of Conduct for Clerks was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

c. 2025 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (*Second Read*)

Dr. Smith discussed the board’s schedule proposal for (5) Regional School Board meetings and (5) Executive Board meetings in 2025. However, it was pointed out that the board will need to add one more regional board meeting to the schedule in the spring for approval of the upcoming strategic plan or extend approval authority to the executive school board.

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

January 9, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
January 14, 2025	Board Orientation for New Members if Needed
January 16, 2025	Reorganization Regional Board Meeting & Budget Work Session
February 6, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
February 20, 2025	Regional Board Meeting & Public Hearing for Input on Budget Proposal
March 6, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
March 20, 2025	Regional Board Meeting & Budget Adoption
April 10, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
April 17, 2025	Executive Board Meeting
	<i>No May Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
May 15, 2025	Executive Board Meeting
June 5, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting

Discuss

June 12, 2025	Executive Board Meeting	2nd Thursday due to Holiday
	<i>No July Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
July 2025	No Regional or Executive Board Meeting	
	<i>No August Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
August 21, 2025	Executive Board Meeting	
	<i>No September Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
September 18, 2025	Regional Board Meeting	
October 2, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
October 18, 2025	Regional Board Meeting	
November 6, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
November 13, 2025	Executive Board Meeting	
<i>November TBD, 2025</i>	VSBA Annual Conference - Williamsburg, VA	
<i>December 9, 2025</i>	FY26 Budget Development Public Town Hall (6:00pm)	
	<i>No December Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>	
December 2025	No December Regional or Executive Board Meeting	
January 8, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting	
January 13, 2026	Board Orientation for New Members if Needed	
January 15, 2026	Reorganization Regional Board Meeting	

After discussion, it was decided to schedule an additional regional school board meeting on April 17, 2025, for the sole purpose of considering approval of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Once this matter is concluded, the regional school board will transition into the scheduled executive board meeting to address the remaining business for April.

On a motion by Alicia Atkins, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the 2025 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings to include a designated RSB meeting in April for Strategic Plan action was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

d. Policy Committee Membership 2025 (Second Read)

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

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

On a motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Harwood Hall the 2025 policy committee membership was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

e. Wellness Committee Membership (*Second Read*)

Per Policy 1012.a-Advisory Committees to the Regional School Board: It is the duty of the Regional School Board to appoint advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms.

2024 Membership	2025 Membership
Paige Hawkins, Activities Director	Paige Hawkins, Activities Director
Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse	Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse
Erin Ortiz, School Social Worker	Erin Ortiz, School Social Worker
Wendy DeGroat, Librarian	Wendy DeGroat, Librarian
Robert Lowerre, Director	Robert Lowerre, Director
Open, Student	Open, Student
Open, Student	Open, Student
Open, Parent	Open, Parent
Open, Parent	Open, Parent

On a motion by Alicia Atkins, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the 2025 wellness committee membership was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

f. Finance Committee Membership 2025 (*Second Read*)

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

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. Lynn Bragg, RPS
Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover	Ms. Terry Stone, Hanover (<i>New</i>)
Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield	Ms. Jami Peoples, Chesterfield (<i>New</i>)
Mr. John Wack, Henrico	Mr. John Wack, Henrico
Ms. Debbie Halloway, Powhatan	Ms. Debbie Halloway, Powhatan (<i>Approved by Superintendent After Meeting</i>)

On a motion from Lisa Hudgins, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the 2025 finance committee members were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

g. School Advisory Committee Membership 2024-2025 (No Action Required)

The School Advisory Council (SAC) has not held a meeting this school 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.

h. New Course Proposals 2025-2026 (Second Read)

DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL STUDIES

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

Prerequisite(s): Global Studies 9

Credit: (yearlong) 1 credit

Is this course: (1) New: 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: 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.

On a motion from Alecia Atkins, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the 2025 – 2026 new course proposals for the Social Studies Department were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

i. International Trip Proposal to Morocco for the MENA Senior Seminar, March 26, - April 4, 2025 (Waive First Read Requested)

This action is placed here in the minutes and on the agenda; however, it occurred after the one-to-one presentation and its discussion to allow Ms. Cross to return to her classroom for instruction.

Sponsors: Robinette Cross and Kelly Ndayizigiye

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

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

Cities and Activities:

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

Chaperones:

- Robinette Cross
- Kelly Ndayzigiyie

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

Financial Breakdown:

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

\$2,019.23/ per student
(\$26,520)

Royal Air Maroc (14 passengers)

**\$1,153.85/ per student
(\$15,000)

Trip Cancellation Insurance through Allianz Global Assistance \$125/ per traveler
(\$1,870)

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

Richmond Limousine

Approximately \$2,000

Total:

****\$45,120 or \$3,470/student**

Fundraising Efforts:

Students of the MENA seminar and Mrs. Cross met in August to discuss fundraising activities. There are allocated MLWGS Foundation funds of up to \$20,000 to offset the cost of the trip, leaving out-of-pocket family costs \$1,400.

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

The Chair called for a motion to waive the first read and approve the 2025 student international travel proposal to Morocco in March 2025. A motion from Kenneth Pritchett to waive the first read and approve this trip request was made, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, waiving the first read for this action and approval of requested an international travel proposal for students in March 2025 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XIX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Amended Policy Proposals (*First Read*)

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

The policies listed were adopted in the early years of the school but never finalized into a policy format and directory. They either lived in an old policy binder, or the student or admissions handbooks.

FINAL	RL	NAME	NEW/AMENDED	DESCRIPTION
		School Board Governance		
	<u>1034</u>	Change of Residency	Amended	Adopted 1997 and found only in binder; however, this is the practice that has been followed
	<u>1045</u>	National Board Certification	Amended	Adopted 2008 and found only in a binder
		Instruction		
	<u>3003.0</u>	Diploma Requirements	Amended	Adopted by the VBOE 2010 and listed in the student handbook
		Human Resources		
	<u>5099</u>	National Board Certification	New	Listed in the HR category as cross-reference for Pol 1045. Policies are identical.

Approval of amended policies will be requested at the board’s February meeting.

XX. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes January 9, 2025

- November Department of the Month: International Languages
- December Departments of the Month: Administration, Support, Nurse and Librarian
- MLWGS Drum Line Performs in Dominion Christmas Parade, December 7
- Dragons Perform for the VA Governor at Capitol Square Holiday Reception, December 11
- Robotics Team Sponsors Legislative Open House, December 13

XXI. Superintendent’s Steering Committee Report

No report was presented and the committee did not meet.

XXII. Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXIII. Certification of Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXIV. New Business

- As requested, the board participated in a poll regarding the need to conduct a retreat this spring.



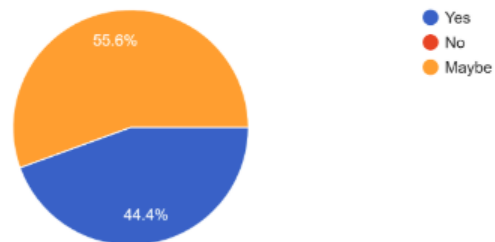
Members Participating (9)

- Alicia Atkins
- Heather Donbrosky
- Lisa Hudgins
- Linda Hyslop
- Meredith Moses
- Steve Neece
- Elaine Pearson
- Katie Ricard
- James Taylor



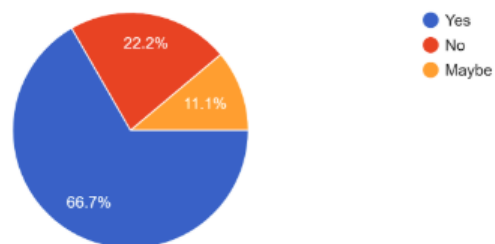
Do you feel that a board retreat would be helpful?

9 responses



Should we schedule a retreat before the February 20th RSB meeting?

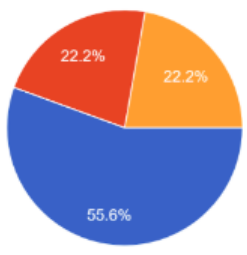
9 responses





What are your preferred time options for a retreat?

9 responses

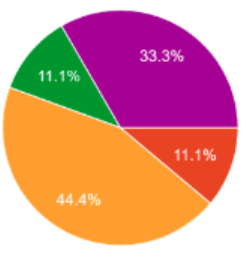


- Mon-Fri during the regular workday - morning
- Mon-Fri during the regular workday - afternoon
- Mon-Fri after regular workday hours 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Saturday 10:00 am - noon



What day of the week is your preferred option for a retreat?

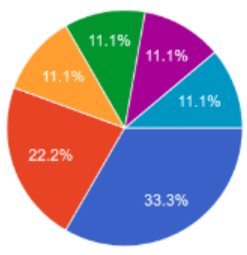
9 responses



- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday


Would you prefer to retreat on campus or at a private off-campus location?

9 responses



- Yes - school campus
- No - lets try someplace with more aesthetics (we have options)
- I'm good with either option.
- doesn't matter
- either option is fine with me, just so they're not too far away
- Either option works for me





Projected goals and discussion of needs
Unsure
Where are we with current goals and what do we need to add
Differences between MLWGC and component schools
I don't really have a list of topics, but I'd like to get a full picture of the school
It would be helpful to know how and when to bring up concerns regarding a matter that comes before the board for approval. Otherwise, having the chance to get to know the other board members better outside a board meeting will help me to feel more comfortable in bringing up questions and concerns during board meetings. Thank you!
Discuss Access and Equity in Technology, Biophilic design to improve mental health and enhance learning environments, and Transportation
It would be great to get to know the other members better and learn about or develop the key priorities for the upcoming year

Thank you



After discussing the matter, the board concluded that a retreat would not be necessary this year. The newest members, who attended the board orientation in January, expressed satisfaction with the information they received about the school and the board's role in school operations.

XXV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

- *None.*

XXVI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 11:02 am.

Next Meeting and Budget Public Hearing

February 20, 2025, at 9:00 am.

Dr. James Taylor, Chair

Michael Smith, Ed.D., Assistant Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

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

DATE: January 16, 2025

Blue Text = Updates

Green = Completed

GOAL 1	MAGGIE L. WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL CREATE A WELCOMING AND RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT CELEBRATES AND REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WE SERVE AND FOSTERS A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR ALL.	Responsible Party	Measurement	Year to begin Implementation	Cost to Budget
				2020	
OBJ 1.1	MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.				
1.1.2	Develop and enhance relationships with districts, schools, administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and potential students.	Administration, Counseling, Faculty	We are establishing relationships with local administrators through outreach. A middle school counselor day took place in September of 2022. Dare to be a Dragon Day took place for 5 th grade students in April 2023. We have hired a Coordinator for Strategic Engagement who will assist in implementing strategies for increased community outreach. 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,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.		
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	Implement funding mechanism separate from the operating budget.	Mr. Smith	The issue has been discussed by the RSB. Will continue the discussion in 2025.		
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			

**FY26 BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

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

Thursday, January 16, 2025

11:10 a.m.

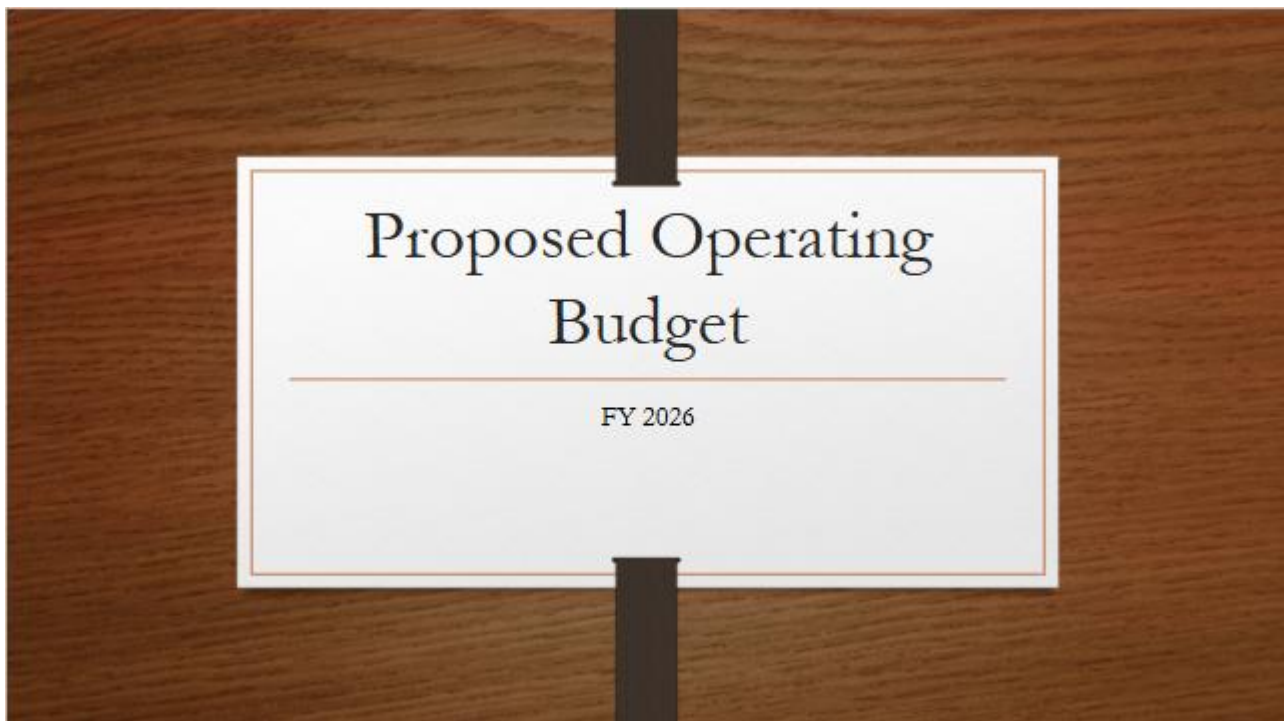
Many members were unable to stay for the work session due to other meeting commitments.

Present:

Ms. Meredith Moses, *School Board*, Goochland County Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, *School Board*, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, *School Board*, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. James Taylor, *School Board*, Powhatan Public Schools

Dr. Michael Smith, **Assistant Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Dr. Smith presented the Director's Executive Summary of the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget proposal:



Overview

As the second year of the State Budget Biennium, State funding is expected to stay near static for Fiscal Year '26, and revenue numbers reflect current DOE funding.

The FY '25 school budget was adopted with the first step of increasing compensation for teachers and staff to better align our scales with our partner districts.

Our proposed budget reflects the second step toward compensation parity, the increased costs of goods and services to address the school's needs and funding capital projects.

Revenue

Revenue Overview

**Total Proposed
Increase:
\$619,516**

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY '24	\$10,589,799
FY '25	\$11,895,952
FY '26	\$12,515,468

Revenue Detail

**Total FY '26:
\$12,515,468**

Description	Amount
Local Contribution: 797 students x \$10,863 (6.4% tuition increase)	\$8,657,811
Building Rental	\$7,000
Salary Supplement Incentive	\$12,500
Dual Enrollment	\$30,000
Technology Initiative	\$26,000
Building Reserve and Carryover	\$200,000
State Contribution	\$3,582,157

Expenses

Expenses Overview

FY '26:
\$12,515,468



Major Expense
Detail-Additions

Total Additions:
\$619,516 *

*Also includes incremental increases for
inflation in certain areas

Description	Amount
Salary/Benefits	\$453,628.21 (Continues decompression and parity three-year plan)
Maintenance and Repair	\$150,000 (Replace 1 RTU)

Major Expense
Detail-Reductions

Total Reductions:
\$51,201.80

Description	Amount
Security	\$22,201.80
Administrative Fees	\$10,000
Professional Development	\$5,000
Copier Lease/Purchase	\$4,000
Substitute Teachers	\$10,000

Conclusion

Thoughts Going Forward

- Funding outlook for FY'26 (6.4% Tuition Increase)
- One-to-one initiative would require an additional .6% Tuition increase sustained for the next 4 years (Total Tuition Increase FY'26 7.0%)
- Need to continue de-compress salary scale
- Need to find a way to fund capital improvement separately from general operating budget
- Funding from the Commonwealth expected to be somewhat static



The chair expressed gratitude to the assistant director for the informative presentation. The board members present then discussed its content. Ms. Moses inquired about the reasons behind the reduction in the security budget. Dr. Smith explained that the current budget includes funding for overlapping security officers during lunch periods, which has proven unnecessary. Therefore, they plan to eliminate this overlap in FY2026.

The group briefly discussed the creation of a funded Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) moving forward, and ideas are still developing.

The work session was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Dr. James Taylor, Chair

Michael Smith, Ed.D., Assistant Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk