

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY2026 Budget Adoption
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, March 20, 2025

9:07 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Regional School Board and visitors stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. 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. Bob May, ***School Board***, Hanover County Public Schools
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. George Fohl for Dr. John Murray, ***Superintendent***, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Travis Ridley for Ms. Haidee Napier, ***Superintendent***, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Dr. Michael Cromartie, ***Superintendent***, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, ***Interim Superintendent***, Hanover 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 Ficke for Dr. Douglas Lyle, ***Superintendent***, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, ***Superintendent***, Richmond Public Schools

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

Absent:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, **School Board**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat, Aparna Harger, Deborah Snagg, Kerry Sheppard and David Bortz –
MLWGS Staff
Ginger O’Neil – GS Foundation

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

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

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

V.b Approval of Agenda

The chair requested a change to the published agenda, moving New Business (Items #XVI to #XVIII) to after Certification of Closed (Items #XVIII to #XVII), plus adding discussions about the MLWGS Honor Council and Honor Code, and an update on the fiscal audit reports to New Business.

On a motion by Meredith Moses to amend the published agenda as detailed by the chair, seconded by Bob May, the amended agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kathryn Ricard, seconded by Meredith Moses, the minutes of the regular meeting and the budget public hearing of February 27, 2025, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- **2025 We the People State Champions with Sam Ulmschneider, Teacher**

On February 1st, Maggie Walker’s ‘We the People’ (WTP) team competed at the Virginia State Championship competition at Randolph-Macon College, in Ashland, VA, and Won!

This is the school’s 25th State Championship WTP title and will represent its upcoming 27th appearance at Nationals. MLWGS has won the national title five times in the We the People competition’s 38-year history, the last time was in 2023, and a national top-10-team for most of the other years.

National Finals: April 9-11, 2025

[We the People National Finals](#)

Senior team members are:

Hiya Agrawal – Henrico	Grace Blakley – Chesterfield	Matthew Bond – Henrico
Sonia Chornodolsky – Chesterfield	Winston Crane – Richmond	Caitlin Farrell – Hanover
Luna Forlano – Richmond	Ruby Freyer – Richmond	Lucy Gates – Chesterfield
Olin Gunlicks – Richmond	Allison Lichtman – Henrico	Francis Lowden – Henrico
Elena Loy – Henrico	Zoe Ma – Richmond	Sriyutha Morishetty – Henrico
Elizabeth O’Shea – Chesterfield	Ritvika Palani – Henrico	Tanvi Palavalas – Henrico
Alexis Paraschiv – Chesterfield	Anusha Rathi – Henrico	Ian Sexton – Richmond

Brenden Stremmer – Chesterfield	Katherine Watson – Chesterfield	Jillian Wilson – New Kent
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- **MW Junior Julia McClintock (New Kent) wins travel scholarship to Costa Rica, with Amanda Lemco, Teacher**

The board congratulated Julia McClintock ('26-New Kent) in absentia on the impressive honor of being selected as a Junior Travel Scholarship recipient! This is a national competition through the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), and Julia has been awarded a summer trip to Costa Rica. Her trip will balance a focus on conservation, ecotourism, and education while immersing her in the language and culture.

“Julia’s high achievement on the National Spanish Exam qualified her to apply,” said her teacher, Amanda Lemco, “and she completed an extensive application process including a written essay and a 5-minute video interview that allowed her to showcase her talent and proficiency in Spanish.”

- **Class of 2025 Presidential Scholar Candidates.**

The two candidates and their senior counselor Ms. Kimberly Forquer, were in attendance for this recognition.

Brenden Stremmer – Chesterfield

Reese Wu – Chesterfield



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

- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists**

This year MLWGS has eight National Merit Scholarship Finalists from the Class of 2025, two from Henrico, four from Chesterfield, one from Hanover, and one from Richmond. Board members from the associated divisions presented NMS Certificates to the following seniors:

Hasika Aaravabhoomi - Henrico
Winston Crane - Richmond

Arnav Kadambi - Henrico
Michael Klausner - Chesterfield
Ethan Ngai - Hanover
Samantha Schappert - Chesterfield
Brenden Stremmer - Chesterfield
Reese Wu - Chesterfield

Much appreciation and thanks go out to MLWGS Senior Counselors Dr. Rachel Loving and Ms. Kimberly Forquer for their steady guidance of our students through this program.

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

VIII. Public Comments

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

No public comments were presented live or submitted online.

IX. Consent Items

The acting director stated personnel actions include hiring two new coaches, a retirement request, and our first new hire for AY2026. Financial statements are generated by RPS, the school's fiscal agent. The finance committee reviews fiscal status at its regularly scheduled meetings.

On a motion by Lisa Hudgins to approve consent items as a slate, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following items were unanimously approved on a voice vote: March personnel actions, fiscal status reports of February 28, 2025, and the donations report of February 28, 2025.

X. Action Items

A. International Trip Proposal, Belize, March 28, 2026 (Second Read)

From the February presentation by David Barnes:

Students will spend seven days exploring the ecology, history, and culture of Belize. In the Cayo region, students will explore the rainforest from the ground, from the water on a canoe, and from the treetops on a zipline. Here students will begin to learn about Mayan culture by touring Xunantunich ruins and participating in a pottery and cooking class. Students will also tour a hot sauce factory and work a hand-cranked ferry. Students will then head to the Southern Coast, where they will explore St. Herman's Blue Hole by floating through the caves in tubes. Students will also tour a chocolate factory and the Garifuna Museum. They will also

eat Mayan food and learn to drum with the Garifuna. Students will also snorkel on the Meso-American reef. We will also visit local farms to learn about Belize’s major exports.

Students: 24 maximum

Chaperones:

David Barnes

Other : TBD

Working with EF Tours

Price of this tour

The tour program price covers a wide range of services that ensure students have an incredible travel experience. It includes all the planning and preparation that leads up to departure, travel and accommodations, and logistical support once the group reaches their destination.

Valid Today	
STUDENTS	ADULTS
\$4,499	\$5,229
or \$315/Month	or \$367/Month
TOUR INCLUDES:	
Program Price	\$4,239
Global Travel Protection (US Fire)	\$190
Canoeing in the Cayo Region	\$70

Sources of revenue for the trip other than individual student fees (Ex. Foundation, sponsors, clubs, and fundraising):

This tour is being provided by EF Tours. Each student will have the opportunity to fundraise if they wish. The student’s EF account has a fundraising feature.

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the travel proposal to Belize in March 2026 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

B. FY2026 Budget Adoption (Second Read)

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

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

No public comments were presented live or submitted online regarding the FY2026 budget proposal.

On a motion by Bob May, seconded by Meredith Moses, the FY2026 budget proposal was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

C. AY2026 Operating Calendar Adoption (Second Read)

No major changes were made to the 2025-26 calendar as compared to the 2024-25 calendar. Minor changes include placing the Q1 Teacher Workday on Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day rather than another day in October. Also, it was noted that March 27, the Friday before Spring Break, will become a School Holiday if fewer than 5 instructional days are lost due to inclement weather, etc. This will alleviate the Regional School Board from having to approve such a change during the 2025-26 school year. Major holidays for our diverse student body continue to be observed. Our first day, winter break, spring break, and last day align with our major participating divisions on a two-week early start calendar.

On a motion by Katherine Ricard, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the FY2026 operating calendar was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

D. AY2026 Textbook Adoption (Second Read)

The MLWGS textbook adoption process for implementation in 2025-2026 followed proper protocol.

- The following for **Social Studies** was posted to mlwgs.com on January 28, 2025, in News:

Prospective textbooks for the 2025-2026 academic year AP US History and AP African American Studies will be placed in the library for community review. These will be in the library for community members to evaluate starting on Monday, January 27th, up through February 27th.

TITLE: APUSH: The American Pageant, 18th edition, AP edition.

AP African-American Studies:

- 1. From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans by John Hope Franklin-textbook**
- 2. Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War by Vincent Brown, supplemental.**

Rationale for AP US History Textbook, The American Pageant, 18th Edition: The reason for the decision to purchase a new textbook is that we are currently out of compliance with College Board guidelines regarding publication dates of textbooks used for AP classes as well as needing a textbook that is fully aligned with the current curriculum. The current textbooks were purchased in 2014, and College Board guidelines mandate that textbooks used for the course should be no more than 10 years old. In addition, starting in 2016 The College Board made significant revisions to the exam and further minor revisions were implemented in both 2018 and 2024. Although the existing Brinkley textbook served the department very well, instructors found that they often had to work around the existing textbook in order to meet these changes. Our selection of the American Pageant, 18th edition, copyright 2025, is that the textbook not only covers the current curriculum, but the quality of primary documents and

images far exceeded that of other textbooks that we examined. Perhaps most important, the vocabulary and narrative were deemed by reviewers to be most appropriate for our student population. The cost of the textbook is 169.00 dollars per copy which is commensurate with, or better than, the other two texts that were previewed. The overall cost, including shipping and handling, would be roughly 29,315.00 dollars (155 copies minimum to account for the potential of 7 sections of the course). I do note that publishers mentioned that the cost could change by the time this order is placed (However, this has been said with every purchase, and I have not seen the cost increase on any previous order). The possibility of using an online textbook was also considered. However, these were orders that had to be placed on either a 6-month or 1-year basis. Utilizing these online sources over a ten-year period would have, in the end, cost substantially more than just purchasing a hardcopy textbook that we would use over this time frame.

- The following for **Spanish** was posted to mlwgs.com on February 6, 2025, in News:

Prospective textbooks and workbooks for Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, and Spanish 4 have been placed in the library for community review. These will be in the library for members of the community to evaluate from Wednesday, February 5 to March 5.

The rationale for choosing new Spanish 1-4 textbooks is that we are out of compliance with our current texts, Avancemos 1-4 (published in 2018 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), which was discontinued by the publisher in 2024. After considering five different textbook series, the Spanish faculty evaluators recommend the **Mapas 1-4 textbooks and workbooks, published by Klett World Languages in 2023.**

The selection of Mapas is based primarily on the rigor and authenticity of the language and resources included in the program. The pacing of these books is appropriate for a gifted and talented student population, containing 6 thematic units that align with the core themes of both AP Spanish Language and Literature courses in a scaffolded manner. Additionally, all of Mapas' audio files are recorded in four different dialects of Spanish, which gives students greater exposure to the wide range of vocabulary and accents that exist in the Spanish-speaking world. The images and videos represent diverse perspectives and communities, and lessons are presented in an inductive, student-centered format that enables higher order thinking and discovery learning. The series also includes a student reader for each level, centered on daily life in a capital city of four different Spanish-speaking countries. Our evaluators agreed that this supplement would be a good investment to help students develop their reading comprehension skills.

Evaluators also considered including a digital subscription for students to access the e-book and supplemental materials on the KWL Hub platform, but this would raise student fees to \$60 for Spanish 1-4. Due to the fact that the workbook contains the vocabulary lists and grammar notes that students need to access from home, the evaluators felt that purchasing an annual teacher subscription would suffice to share the online resources with students, rather than burdening families with this additional cost.

After negotiating a bulk institutional discount with the publisher, the cost of each hardcover textbook will be \$53.60, and the supplementary reader will cost \$2.95. This one-time purchase, with a shipping fee of \$1,722.38, totals \$19,172.63 to serve 280 students each year for the next eight to ten years. The annual fee for the workbook will be \$14.57 per student with

our discount, which is a reduction of \$18 from our current student consumable fee for Spanish 1-4.

On a motion by Bob May, seconded by Harwood Hall, AY2026 textbook adoptions were unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

E. AY2026 Student Fee Schedule (Second Read)

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

The 2025-2026 student fee schedule is presented to the regional school board for its approval. Changes to highlight include the integration of additional technologies in English and new courses in Science and Senior Seminars. Cost increases for individual workbooks and specific lab fees in Science, Fine Arts, and International Languages reflect recent trends in inflation on all educational resources. Increases in Dual-Enrollment course fees reflect an increase in the VCU tuition. Overall lab and workbook fees remain near static.

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the AY2026 Student Fee Schedule was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists (Recognized in-person during Item #VII.)**

This year MLWGS has eight National Merit Scholarship Finalists from the Class of 2025,

Hasika Aaravabhoomi - Henrico

Winston Crane - Richmond

Arnav Kadambi - Henrico

Michael Klausner - Chesterfield

Ethan Ngai - Hanover

Samantha Schappert - Chesterfield

Brenden Stremmer - Chesterfield

Reese Wu - Chesterfield

- **Colonial Heights and Dinwiddie will have their first graduates this year!**
- **Mindfulness Activities at MLWGS in March 2025**

We're thrilled to welcome this opportunity back to Maggie Walker and hope this remains an extension of Mindfulness Month tradition in which students participate in guided yoga, nature documentary screenings, workshops for breathing exercises, meditation, and the science of mindfulness, pajama day, and free tea at lunch during March. BC2M believes in the indirect relationship between practicing mindfulness, diminished stress levels, and acting with integrity, responsibility, and compassion. By facilitating a lunch session with therapy dogs,

BC2M hopes students will feel a sense of joy and tranquility, as well as realize the vitality of taking a step back when life feels overwhelming.

Maggie Walker Mindfulness Month And Bring Change 2 Mind

Week 1: March 3rd-March 7th (Bring Change 2 Mind Week!!!)

- Tuesday: Social Media-Based Check-In Project
- Wednesday: Start of Compliment Campaign!
- Thursday: Promoting the BC2M Club
- Friday: Pajama Day!

Week 2: March 10th-March 14th

- Monday: Chalk Day!
 - Outside near the senior parking lot
- Tuesday: Origami Day
 - Club Meeting/Just chill hangout in Room 209
- Wednesday/Thursday/Friday: Gratitude Tree
 - Put a tree up in the counselor's office
 - Encourage student's to stop by and put their thumb print on the tree
 - Collaboration with Art Honors Society

Week 3: March 17th-March 21st

- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: free hot cocoa and tea
 - Warm your heart with tea and Hot Cocoa!
 - Concessions Stand

Week 4: March 24th-28th

- Thursday: Therapy Dogs
- Spirit Week collab with SCA
- Potential collab with RPD to bring horses, TBD

- **Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan's (VA-04) Second Annual Black History Month Essay Contest**

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Congratulations to **Tanvi Palavalas ('25-Henrico)** who won first place and to **Chris Qian ('27-Chesterfield)** who won third place.

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Students wrote essays about the namesakes of Fort Gregg-Adams in Virginia's Fourth District and focused on the legacy of Gen. Arthur J. Gregg, the first Black Army officer to reach the rank of lieutenant general. Congrats Tanvi and Chris!

- **National German Exam Results**

Several MLWGS students received recognition for their 2025 National German Exam performance. This challenging yearly exam tests students' ability to read and comprehend authentic print, audio, and video materials in German. **Keegan Blake ('28-Hanover)** has

advanced to the national stage of competition for a three-week summer study scholarship trip to Germany. Wir gratulieren euch alle!

- **SOL's at Maggie Walker March 3-6**

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

- **Future Dragon Days March 11-14 (also previously reported to the board in February)**

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

Chesterfield – 3/11

Hanover and Henrico – 3/12

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

Richmond City – 3/14

- **RSB Approved Civil Rights Class Field Trip to Tulsa and Oklahoma City, March 13-16, 2025**

The Black Legacy/Black Lives: African American History and Culture senior seminar (taught by

NaKita Lee) is planning an experiential learning trip to Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The trip intends to help students connect deeply to critical moments concerning race, religion, gender, and equity in the United States. The course aims to provide a nuanced understanding of

the vibrant tapestry of African American experiences through experiential learning such as a field trip to one of the landmarks of what has been historically called Black Wall Street.

- **Mu Alpha Theta Guest Speaker, Dr. Laura Taalman, March 21, 2025**

Dr. Laura Taalman of James Madison University is our guest speaker on Friday, March 21, 2025, from 3:30 to 4:45 in the Forum. Her presentation is on “Interactive Patterns: Using math and code to optimize crafts.”

- **Multicultural Assembly and Parent Performance, March 20 and 21**



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

In-school performances will be held on March 21st. Can't wait to see you all there!

- **Night of the Dragon Auction March 22 at the Faison Center.**

We would love for you to join us for the 23rd Annual Night of the Dragon—Sneaker Ball—March 22 at the Guzman Community Center at the Faison Center near Willow Lawn. You can reserve your complimentary ticket(s) at <http://bidpal.net/nightofthedragon2025> using the promo code: *Teacher of Dragons*. Dress as fancy or casual as you like and sport your fave, fun shoes.

If you can't attend the event, we'll miss you but be sure to [register on the site](#) to bid from anywhere. We've got lots of great items with more coming daily. Spread the word!

And there's still time to donate an auction item/service to help make the evening a \$\$ success. Items from teachers and staff are always popular.

- **New Student Registration for the Class of 2029, March 26, 2025 @ 6 pm.**

The New Student Registration Evening is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th, and will be held in person at 6 pm in the auditorium. During Future Dragon Days earlier in March, we distributed a welcome packet to our newest students. The information included in the welcome packet is available at the [school counseling webpage](#) as well.

- **Community Service Fair at MLWGS, March 27, 2025 @ 11 am**

Maggie Walker requires 140 hours of community service by the 3rd quarter of every student's senior year. Each year the school holds a community service fair to help bring organizations and students together. This year the date of the fair is March 27 so that all students would have a chance to attend if interested.

- **RSB Approved International Travel with Students Around Spring Break 2024**
 - LeCroy Writing Class to France
 - MENA to Morocco
- **German Student Exchange Visiting MLWGS April 7-17. Walker students visiting Germany June 17-July 3, 2025.**

MLWGS students and families will be hosting 20 German exchange students and two teachers from Munich. The visit is part of a two-week German-American Partnership Program (GAPP) exchange April 7-17.

In addition to visiting Maggie Walker, the German students will participate in several field trips, including to the State Capitol, VMFA, Monticello, UVA, Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Washington, D.C. The D.C. visit includes a tour of the U.S. Capitol, a Wizards game, and a view from the top of the Washington Monument. It is sure to be an amazing time. Eighteen Maggie Walker students, chaperoned by Mr. White and Ms. Macklin will then be visiting our partner school, the Carl-Orff Gymnasium near Munich, for 16 days in June. The group will start with a four-day sightseeing tour of Berlin and Potsdam before taking the train to our partner school in Munich.

Special recognition and gratitude go to Ms. Kristen Macklin for her efforts in coordinating the details that made this exchange possible.

- **Future Event: ‘Dare to Be a Dragon Day for 5th Graders,’ Saturday, April 19th**

We anticipate 200 fifth graders from all 14 partnering divisions will be invited to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School on Saturday, April 19th to attend 6 exciting workshops on coding, math, languages, art, drama, creative writing, and more! Note: Gifted coordinators from our partnering divisions agreed to a specific number of invitations based on their current number of seats.

A special shout-out to the teachers and student leaders who have volunteered their time for one of our amazing sessions, and also fun activities, like face-painting and balloon animals, during the break.

B. Coming Events

March 20, 2025, through April 17, 2025

Thursday, March 20 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus
	Islamic Club Celebrates Ramadan/Iftar, 6 pm, Cafeteria
	Multicultural Show for Parents 6:30 pm, Auditorium
Friday, March 21 st	Future Dragon Day for Waitlisted Students
	Multicultural Assembly for Students, 12:15-2:00 pm (2 sessions), Auditorium
	Mu Alpha Theta HS Guest Speaker, Dr. Laura Taalman, JMU
Saturday, March 22 nd	Mathematics, Arts & Language Assessment for the Class of 2029, 8:30 am
	24 th Annual Night of the Dragon Auction, 6:00 pm, Faison Center

Monday, March 24 th – Friday, March	Spirit Week. Daily Activities.
Monday, March 24 th	Bob's Burgers Staff Luncheon Sponsored by the PTSA, 11:30 am, Room 153
Tuesday, March 25 th	National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony, 11:30 am, Black Box
	Q3 Report Cards
Wednesday, March 26 th	MENA Class departs for Morocco, RSB Approved
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
	New Student Registration, 6:00 pm
Thursday, March 27 th	Community Service Fair, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
	Therapy Dogs Visit MLWGS, 11:30 am, Black Box
Friday, March 28 th	Spring Pep Rally, 2:00 pm, Gym
Saturday, March 29 th	Power of Story Seminar Class departs for France, RSB Approved
Monday, March 31 st – Friday, April 4 th	Spring Break. School closed for students.
Monday, March 31 st	FIRST Robotics Day in Virginia (spearheaded by the Mech Tech team)
Friday, April 4 th – Sunday, April 6 th	MLWGS competes at the Japan Bowl 2025 in Washington, DC
Monday, April 7 th – Thursday, April 17 th	Visiting German Exchange Students at MLWGS
Wednesday, April 9 th – Friday, April 11 th	We the People Nationals, Washington, DC area
Wednesday, April 9 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, April 10 th	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 9 am
Saturday, April 12 th	VCU Nepalese Student Association Cultural Show at MLWGS, 6-9 pm, Auditorium
Monday, April 14 th – Sunday April 20 th	FIRST Championship (Robotics), Houston, TX
Wednesday, April 16 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
	Mu Alpha Theta Guest Speaker, Emily Lutken, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Forum
Thursday, April 17 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus

C. Graduation for the Class of 2025 with Kerry Sheppard

Ms. Sheppard was on hand to present the board with their formal invitation information to graduation on May 27, 2025.

“Hello, everyone. You should have received an email from me this morning, inviting you to our graduation, said Ms. Sheppard.”

“It's a little bit different this year than if you had joined us in the past; we had been at the Altria for several years. Well, we are changing it up this year, not really by choice, but by necessity! We are going to be at the Carpenter Theater, the Dominion Energy Center. It's going to be from six to eight p m., a little bit later into the evening, but that's to accommodate our staff and students at school during the day and then give me some time to get everybody ready to go.”

“Hopefully, it will have a slightly smaller collection of students coming. We had to restrict tickets in order to make the space work for us, but we are a small group, and this is the preferred location for everyone. We have had a graduation at the Carpenter Theater before when Altria was being renovated.”

“Please join us if you can, I think the students really love to see you, and we love welcoming you in our opening speeches and whatnot. If you can join us, please submit your RSVP, preferably by the ninth of May so I can get you ticket and parking information, in the weeks leading up to graduation, but we look forward to having you if you can join us. Thank you.”

XII. Unfinished Business

A. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

The minutes shall contain a report on the Strategic Plan, which can be found at the end of this document.

The acting director reported no updates have been made to this report since the board's February meeting.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

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

The Regional School Board grants the Acting Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School the authority to issue faculty/staff contracts based upon salary scales, clubs/activities, and athletic stipend scales incorporated within the FY2026 Operating Budget.

Approval for this authorization, granting the director the authority to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for FY2026 will be requested at the April 17, 2025, meeting of the Executive School Board.

After the conclusion of Mr. Dan Brown's presentation (Item XIII.c) the board circled back to this item (XIII.a) with Ms. Moses asking if the executive board had the authority to authorize this action in April. The clerk answered, "yes, the executive board has the authority for this action." Mr. May also suggested the board could make a motion today to waive first reading for this authorization and have the full board approve this action.

On a motion by Meredith Moses to waive first read of the annual authorization for the [Acting] Director to Issue FY2026 Personnel Contracts, seconded by Bob May, the request to waive first read on Item XIII.a was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

On a motion by Bob May to approve the request to grant the Acting Director the authority to issue Personnel Contracts for FY2026, seconded by Meredith Moses, the motion to grant authority for Item XIII.a was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

B. MLWGS Foundation Slate of Officers for 2025-2026 (First Read)

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

Section 1.5 Term of Office. Each Director shall serve a term of three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, except that (i) each person who serves as an ex officio Director shall serve for as long as such person holds the office entitling him or her to be an ex officio Director, unless a different term is provided therefore by the Board of Directors at the time of such person's election; and (ii) any Director filling a vacancy as a result of an increase in the number of Directors shall be designated to serve a term of one (1), two (2) or three (3) years as necessary to most closely achieve a result that one-third (1/3) of the members of the Board of Directors will be elected each year. At the expiration of the term of a Director, such Director shall be eligible for election to another term as a Director, except that no Director may serve more than six (6) years in succession without a break in service.

The Governance and Nominations Committee of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Foundation is pleased to recommend to the MLWGS Regional School Board the following individuals for Director of the Foundation for a term of 3 years, beginning on July 1, 2025. If approved by the Regional School Board, this slate will be presented to the Foundation Board for election at its annual meeting on May 21, 2025.

Board of Directors Nominations

Olen Crane (Parent, Richmond)

Olen Crane is a parent of two current MLWGS students, a freshman and a senior. He has lived in the City of Richmond for almost 20 years, living briefly in the Philippines during that time and also in Charlottesville for graduate school. Olen has a degree in engineering from UVA and an MBA from UVA's Darden School of Business. After spending much of his career in business analysis at Capital One, Olen now manages 3rd party relationships and product launches for Remitly, a FinTech focused on international remittances. Outside of work, Olen

enjoys attending his children's activities and events, seeing live music and stage productions, and planning his family's next travel adventure! Olen currently serves as a member of the MLWGS Foundation Governance & Nominations Committee.

Anne Hoffer (Parent, Richmond)

Anne Hoffer is Executive Director of Principal Giving Stewardship at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She has more than 30 years of experience in stewardship, donor relations and university events. Anne received her B.A. and M.Ed. (Higher Education Administration) from William and Mary.

Anne is also an enthusiastic Maggie Walker parent. Her son, Will, is a 2018 graduate, and son Ben is a current sophomore. A 20+ year volunteer with the Richmond Symphony League, Anne enjoys chairing their annual Student Concerto Competition. She and her husband of 33 years, Clay, are ardent travelers. Anne, Clay, and Ben live in Richmond. Anne currently serves as a member of the MLWGS Foundation.

Events committee

Lindsay Horning (Parent, Richmond)

Originally from Greensboro, NC, Lindsay is a graduate of the University of Richmond Jepson School of Leadership. She spent 17 years at Capital One before becoming owner of Bluesky Deliveries, a licensed FedEx Contractor, in 2023.

Lindsay and her husband Joel have two children, their daughter Leila who is a freshman at Maggie Walker and a son in 7th grade at Albert Hill Middle School. Lindsay has been active supporting her children's schools, having served as President of the Mary Munford ES PTA (2021-2022), Program Chair for the Albert Hill PTA (2023-2024, 2024-2025), For 5 years, she assisted or led the annual auction for Mary Munford ES auction, raising \$40k each year. Lindsay currently serves as a member of the MLWGS

Foundation Events Committee

Board Officer Nominations

The following Directors have agreed to serve as officers of the Board in 2025-2026. They will be officially elected at the Foundation's May Annual Meeting and officially begin their duties on July 1, 2025.

Chair—Veronica Chornodolsky

Vice Chair—Anikka Moore

Treasurer—Karen Setzer '99*

Secretary—Julie Seitz*

Committee Chairs/Director Members

The following Directors have agreed to serve as committee chairs/Director members for Board committees in 2025-2026. They will officially begin their terms on July 1, 2025.

Alumni Steering

Current (2024-2025): Erin Ortiz '06

2025-2026: Erin Ortiz '06*

2025-2026 Directors Serving the Committee: Erin Ortiz '06, Emily Stegmaier Winbigler '00, Adam Powers

Development

Current (2024-2025): Brian Baird

2025-2026: Julie Seitz

2025-2026 Directors Serving the Committee: Brian Baird, Monique Johnson, Anikka Moore, Julie Seitz

Events

Current (2024-2025): Veronica Chornodolsky

2025-2026: Co-chairs: Veronica Chornodolsky*, Lindsay Horning (pending final approval of Lindsay as a Board member)

2025-2026 Directors Serving the Committee: Veronica Chornodolsky, Lindsay Horning and Anne Hoffler (pending final approval of Lindsay and Anne as Board members)

Finance

Current (2024-2025): Adam Powers '10

2025-2026: Adam Powers '10*

2025-2026 Directors Serving the Committee: Adam Powers '10, Tyler Gibson '10

Governance and Nominations

Current (2024-2025): Emily Stegmaier Winbigler '00

2025-2026: Olen Crane (pending final approval as a Board member)

2025-2026 Directors Appointed to the Committee: Emily Stegmaier Winbigler '00, Monique Johnson, Stinson Mundy, Olen Crane (pending final approval of Olen as a Board member)

Directors Rolling Off the Board

Three Directors will be rolling off the Foundation Board following the close of the Foundation's meeting on May 21, 2025, having each served two consecutive 3-year terms:

Cynthia Kostelecky, parent, Richmond

Julie Seabury, parent, Richmond

Beth Simms, parent, Richmond

Also resigning at the end of one term due to a relocation is:

Lakshmi Algappan, parent, Hanover

* returning

Ms. O'Neil spoke to the board about these candidates and their recruitment and selection process. "The Foundation vets candidates who come from across our working districts to join our board. We do that with an eye toward equity on lots of levels, including having a good mix of districts, a good mix of alumni grandparents and alumni parents, and a good mix of folks with backgrounds with specific skills that we're looking for."

"We have three folks rolling off this year at the end of their second term as required, and all are from Richmond City, and that is why we have three Richmond people who are nominated. That will leave us once again with six representatives from RPS-one of whom is an alum, five representatives from Chesterfield-two of whom are alums, two from Henrico-two alums, one from Hanover, and one currently living in New York City who is a Chesterfield alum. It's

harder, as you can imagine, with the smaller districts because it's harder for them to travel. But we do try.”

Approval for the 2025-2026 MLWGS Foundation Slate of Officers will be requested at the April 17, 2025, meeting of the Executive School Board.

C. International Trip Proposal to England/France, Belgium & Germany 2026 with Mr. Dan Brown (First Read)

New Trip Proposal: WW II and the Western Front

Sponsor: Dan Brown

Dates: June 20-July 1st, 2026

12th international trip that I have organized, but the first trip for this topic.

Students will be involved in an 11-day trip through a series of European countries learning about the origins, conflicts, challenges, and legacy of WW2. The trip will start in London, where students will visit the Imperial War Museum, visit the Churchill War Rooms, and take a guided tour of London. Students will then travel to Normandy, France where they will visit several sites of the D-Day landings, the D-Day Museum, and visit the American Cemetery in Colleville. Students will then move to a guided tour of Rouen and a walking tour of Paris. While in Paris, students will take a riverboat cruise on the Seine and visit the Palace of Versailles. After a day and a half in Paris, the group will head to Bastogne, Belgium to see a key site in the Battle of the Bulge. The closing of the trip includes a stop in Cologne to visit the Cathedral as well as the American Cemetery in this city. The last stop of the tour will be in Berlin where we will get an opportunity to visit numerous sites related to World War II and the Cold War. The trip is geared to those enrolled in the Military History Seminar in the 25-26 school year but will be open to students not enrolled in this course.

Students Attending: Anticipated 12 Maximum

Chaperones:

Dan Brown and Matthew Ruskan

Unofficial Chaperone: Margaret Corcoran

An EF Tour Guide will be with us throughout the entirety of the trip

Price of the Tour:

The cost of the trip includes coverage of travel and accommodations, transportation within the various cities visited, Breakfast and dinner each day, and activities. Ef Tours will provide logistical support throughout the entirety of the trip.

Cost: Student-4,864 dollars Parents-5,869 dollars

Several fundraising opportunities will be made available to students on this trip as well as a limited request for funds from the Foundation.

Approval for the military history seminar class trip proposal in 2026 will be requested at the April 17, 2025, meeting of the Executive School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes March 6, 2025
- March Department Highlight: Fine Arts
- Sriyutha Morishetty (Henrico) Named 2025 Coca-Cola Scholar
- MLWGS Orchestra Earns Perfect Scores at Their Assessment
- MW Speech Team Finished 2nd Place at Regionals
- Both the MW Speech and Debate Teams had Big Results From Super Regionals and Regionals
- MW Student Poetry Featured in the Youth Poetry Anthology
- Youth Art & Music, Extravaganza at MLWGS on March 6
- MW Future Problem Solvers Team Qualifies for the State Competition in March
- MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week, Feb 17 - Cal Vellozzi, '28-Chesterfield, Swim

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Tiegen reported the committee met before the Regional School Board meeting and discussed free and reduced lunch economics for Maggie Walker Governor's School students, the audit report status stating one of the concerns for them was moving into hiring a new director that it would be best to have audits up-to-date, and finally, the enacted cell phone policy and its full implementation.

XVI. Closed Meeting

The Chair read the following statement:

Do I have a motion to enter closed session in accordance with Section (§) 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under Subsection No. 1. - Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the School Board.

Meredith Moses made a motion to enter into a closed meeting, seconded by Bob May. The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote at 10:05 am.

The chair stated, "the motion carried, and the board is now in closed session." The clerks and other guests left the meeting, and the recorder was turned off.

Return to Open Session

The chair called for a motion to return to an open meeting at 10:47 am.

Bob May made a motion to enter into open meeting that was seconded by Meredith Moses. The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote. The chair stated; "The board is now back in open session."

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting

The Chair read the following statement:

“Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Regional School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i-**one**) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and (ii-**two**) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. Any member of the Regional School Board or committee who believes that there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place.” After this reading, Bob May made a motion to certify the closed session, seconded by Linda Hyslop, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The chair asked if any board members believed there was a departure from these requirements. No board members indicated they believed there was a departure from the stated requirements; and the chair called for a motion to certify this statement.

Bob May made a motion to certify the chair’s statement that only lawful business matters were conducted in closed session, seconded by Linda Hyslop, and unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XVIII. Closed Session Action

Kenneth Pritchett made a motion to retitle the position of the ‘Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School’ to the ‘Executive Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School’ upon the selection of the school’s next chief officer. The motion was seconded by Harwood Hall and unanimously carried on a voice vote.

Meredith Moses made a motion to authorize the hiring timeline and its process for an Executive Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School, as organized by the Executive School Board at their special meeting on March 13, 2025, seconded by Bob May, the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

XIX. New Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive School Board Special Meeting, March 13, 2025.

On a motion by Heather Donbrosky, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive School Board on March 13, 2025, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

B. Executive School Board Vacancy for the Remainder of 2025

Harwood Hall had requested to step away from executive board membership for the remainder of 2025, and that seat will need to be filled.

Kenneth Pritchett nominated Kathryn Ricard to the executive committee and made a motion to approve her membership, seconded by Meredith Moses. Ms. Kathryn Ricard's membership for the remainder of 2025 was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

C. Discussion of the Honor Council/Code

Ms. Moses reported that she heard from a teacher last week that the honor system [at MLWGS] is frustrating for many students. People are cheating, and there are often no consequences even when incidents are reported. She expressed her uncertainty about how to address the issue, stating, "I have read the honor code, and it seems like there should be consequences for cheating, especially with the emergence of AI and similar technologies. I'm not sure whether the policy needs to be tightened or simply enforced more rigorously."

Dr. Smith stated that he can provide context on this matter. While there may be a perception that nothing is happening, this is largely due to privacy protections. Dr. Williams and I have encountered more cases of unauthorized assistance than ever before. Just last week, we dealt with five cases. I would estimate that the number of instances of unauthorized assistance—especially when students use AI to generate materials—has at least doubled, if not tripled, compared to previous years. This increase has kept us exceptionally busy, but we cannot publicly penalize students for these actions, which contributes to the perception that nothing is being done.

The consequences for students typically involve a combination of restorative practices, such as writing self-reflective essays or letters of apology, along with punitive measures like community service hours. The first offense, according to our policy, serves as a learning experience for the student. However, for a second offense, the stakes are much higher, as students risk being removed from honor societies, which is very serious for them.

I would say that nine out of ten times, just one encounter with Dr. Williams and me is enough to deter students from repeating the same behavior. As you may be noticing in your own schools, incidents of academic integrity violations, particularly those involving artificial intelligence, have significantly increased. We are doing our utmost to manage every referral we receive, and I can honestly say I've never seen such a high number of referrals in a single year, especially related to these issues.

Dr. Smith stated that we are taking action by implementing programming, raising awareness, and conducting community-building activities. We are also providing materials to the students. Presentations from the honor council have been made to the faculty during faculty meetings. We are doing our best to address this evolving issue, which requires adaptable solutions. Additionally, we have a teacher subcommittee focused on generative AI and how teachers can respond to it—specifically, how to use it in a way that enriches the curriculum while avoiding potential academic integrity issues.

Dr. Smith noted that prior to his time as an administrator, our honor council was much more active in student adjudication. However, a privacy concern arose when a member of the honor council leaked sensitive information to a college during the admissions and scholarship process. As a result, the board decided that any academic integrity issues would default to the administration, with the option for students to present their case to the honor council if they chose. Dr. Smith added that, in his experience, students rarely opt to go in front of their peers,

which means the responsibility for addressing these issues has largely fallen to the administration. We have been actively working to address the situation, but the problem persists.

The honor council at this point exists as a community building and awareness raising organization. The last case to go in front of the student led honor council was probably seven or eight years ago, because students almost always, and I'm not saying nine out of ten times more like nine point nine times out of ten [9.9/10] select for Dr. Williams and I to hear the case interview, do the leg work on the case, and then keep it all within administration rather than introducing the issue to a board of their peers that is twelve individuals. Unfortunately, the honor council is not what it used to be, it now really has more of a symbolic role in putting on programs and assemblies and helping the teachers, but it no longer has the adjudication role that it did before 2015 when changes to the honor council occurred. So that's a long-winded answer in order to give you the context of the situation.

In conclusion, Dr. Smith stated that any changes to the Honor Policy would require action from the board. This would determine whether the Honor Council would be more effective or less so than it currently is. For now, we are addressing violations at the administrative level, and this has been more frequent than what I've observed in my nine years of administration. "It's just too easy at this point, it's just too easy."

The chair thanked Ms. Moses and Dr. Smith for bringing awareness to this topic to the board's attention.

D. Discussion of Audit Report Status

As requested by the board, Kathryn Ricard reported on her follow-up of the audit status for Maggie Walker. Last year, we completed quite a backlog, including fiscal years 2019 through 2021. There still is a backlog of 2022, 2023, and 2024. We have reached out to our auditor, which is Cherry Bekaert, to see if they have the capacity to finish these reports. The deadline we gave them was September 30th and we have not heard back from them yet. One of our financial officers reached out to them again on Tuesday to say, let us know or not, because if not, then we need to use another auditor.

Ms. Ricard stated she will continue to follow up with these reports, we do want to get them done. Our goal is still September 30th so that we can then talk about handing off the fiscal agency.

Dr. Smith thanked Ms. Ricard for her support, saying he had been copied on those emails. He is aware that RPS is doing their level best in order to get us up to date. Thank you.

XX. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Dr. Amy Cashwell, Henrico Superintendent, was named a Women Who Drive Richmond recipient.

Mr. May announced this would be his last board meeting as he will be stepping down from the Hanover School Board in June, and there are no more RSB meetings between now and then.

He stated it has been an honor to serve on this board and to work with such outstanding individuals and to witness what we do and all of the great things here. Secondly, Hanover hopes to announce their new superintendent in the next two weeks.

And thirdly, Hanover is honoring the first African-American students who entered Hanover Public Schools at both Patrick Henry High School on April 14th at 5 pm, and the formerly Lee-Davis High School, now Mechanicsville High School, on April 21st at 5 pm. We've created a plaque to honor eight total individuals. Each plaque will include their picture and name. Hanover is pretty proud of this recognition. Mr. May extended an open invitation to everybody in attendance today.

The chair stated, "I think we can all agree that we appreciate your leadership, Mr. May, and the contribution you've made to this board and the school over the years. So, thank you for that. I would also add that hopefully this is not your last time with us because it looks like we'll have to call a special meeting of the board to interview some candidates." "I'll do that, I like interviewing," said Mr. May.

XXI. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On a motion to adjourn by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Bob May, this meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am on a unanimous voice vote.

Next Meeting – Executive School Board

April 17, 2025, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

James Taylor, Ph.D., Chair

Michael Smith, Ed.D., Acting Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

MLWGS 2020-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS/OBJECTIVES/ACTION STEPS

DATE: March 20, 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	Measure-ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	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 occurred in September 2022 and is scheduled again for 2025. Dare to be a Dragon Day took place for 5th-grade students in April 2023. This remains an annual event. 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	The Fall Festival begins before the school day ends to eliminate the transportation barrier. Also, during the Fall Festival, SAC conducted a student survey to determine ways to eliminate the obstacles 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 was hired. In 2023-2025 Prof. Devel. 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. A book group of faculty and parents on growth mindset is scheduled for March 2024.		
1.2.5	Facilitate student input and feedback	Administration, Counseling	Surveys completed by SAC and VSCS. The coordinator of Strategic Engagement 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 now two days to incorporate social-emotional learning and making connections. The Walker Way Welcome Day was implemented in August 2022. In November 2023, I visited TJST to observe their freshman onboarding program, which resulted in the creation of the Dragon Advisory program.		
1.2.7	Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment	Administration, External Trainers	Two years of cultural competency training have been completed. Year Three had resources and activities on equity and inclusion. We are nearly finished two years of training on mindfulness and mental health.		
OBJ 1.3	MLWGS will codevelop a plan with its districts to increase enrollment of historically underserved populations.				
1.3.1	In compliance with FY 2021 Budget Item 145, C-27,I, the school will work with the partner districts to collect application	Dr. Lowerre	We have been working with districts to improve access for underserved minorities.		

	and admission data to be used to support a plan to increase the percentage of historically underserved populations at MLWGS.		Significant improvement has been made with our core divisions. RSB approved removing the Achievement Test from the 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.	Admin	A recruitment subcommittee has been created. A focused effort has been made to recruit highly qualified and diverse faculty and staff that mirror the diversity of our population.		
1.4.2	Strengthen professional development resources for faculty.	Admin	Comprehensive PD has begun with positive feedback from staff. Focus areas have included cultural competency, equity, inclusion, mindfulness, and mental health.		
1.4.3	Develop hiring strategy.	Leadership Team	A hiring workshop is scheduled for March 2025 with the Leadership team. A recruitment subcommittee continues to meet regularly.		
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	Measure-ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	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	Admin, School Counseling	New classes have been offered and		

	innovation of all course offerings.		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.	Leadership Team	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	Partnerships with French, German, and Japanese schools have been established. We have also entered exchange programs with schools in all three countries.		
2.1.7	Develop a reimagined FIRC course to equip freshmen to succeed at MLWGS	MLWGS101 Sub-Committee	A new model was presented to the RSB in Spring 2024. FIRC is now MLWGS 101 and reflects the needs of the 21st-century learner.		
OBJ 2.2	Teachers will provide engaging, student-centered instruction.				
2.2.1	Encourage teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Leadership Team, Tech Integrators	Following the COVID pandemic, a renewed effort to assess and implement student-centered learning strategies has been taking place.		
2.2.2	Provide opportunities for teachers to participate in training and collegial discussions about enhancing student engagement, embedding community engagement, and integrating instructional technology within their curricula.	Admin	Departments have been reaching out to the community to bring in alumni and others to enhance instruction and learning. A trip to TJ SciTech was completed in November 2023.		
2.2.3	Incentivize teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Admin			

GOAL 3	MAGGIE L. WALER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL BE A SAFE SCHOOL WITH EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES.	Responsible Party	Measure-Ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	Cost to Budget
OBJ 3.1	Create and fund a ten-year capital improvement plan.			2023	
3.1.1	Conduct a needs assessment of future needs for the facility and technology.	Facilities and Technology	Project is underway		
3.1.2	Forecast ten-year costs.	Facilities and Technology			
OBJ 3.2	Create a better experience for students, teachers, and parents through available software solutions.			2021	
3.1.3	Implemental funding mechanism separate from the operating budget.	Dr. Smith	The RSB has discussed the issue. We will continue the discussion in 2025.		
3.2.1	Purchase of on-line teacher receipting program.	Ms. Hoover; Ms. Charity	A web-based fee payment program has been implemented.		
3.2.2	Implement field trip request and tracking software.	Dr. Smith	An online system has been put in place with appropriate policy changes.		
3.2.3	Integrate field trip software with student information system.	Dr. Smith & Mr. Bortz	Meeting with vendors regarding form automation options.		
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.	Dr. 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 ChatGPT 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.	Dr. 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			
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