

MINUTES

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

Thursday, May 15, 2025

9:01 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 Executive School Board and visitors stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Ms. Meredith Moses, *School Board*, Goochland County 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. 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:

Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools

Also present:

Ms. Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS Staff

Not Required to be in Attendance:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, *School Board*, Charles City Public Schools
Ms. Lisa Hudgins, *School Board*, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Ms. Debbie Walwer, *School Board*, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Mary Benjamin, *School Board*, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Mr. Bob May, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools

Ms. Linda Hyslop, ***School Board***, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, ***School Board***, King & Queen Public
Ms. Jill Andrews, ***School Board***, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Dalphine Joppy, ***Superintendent***, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. John Murray, ***Superintendent***, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Ms. Haidee Napier, ***Superintendent***, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Dr. Kari Weston, ***Superintendent***, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Andrew Armstrong, ***Superintendent***, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, ***Superintendent***, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, ***Superintendent***, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, ***Superintendent***, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, ***Superintendent***, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, ***Superintendent***, New Kent Public Schools
Ms. Yolanda Brown, ***Superintendent***, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, ***Superintendent***, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, ***Superintendent***, Richmond Public Schools

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

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

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

V.b Approval of Agenda

Meredith Moses proposed an amendment to the agenda motion to include a closed session at the end of today's business. This motion was seconded by Kathryn Ricard, and the amended agenda proposal was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Additionally, on another motion by Meredith Moses, which was seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the amended agenda was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Kathryn Ricard, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 17, 2025, were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- **MLWGS Mech Tech Team 422 with their 2025 Impact Video and Best-Ever Results at Nationals, including team sponsor, Mark Sailer**

Students in attendance: Matthew Tran ('25-Goochland), Kent Angert ('25-Henrico), Isaac Hathaway ('25-Hanover), and Aditya Badhryan ('25-Henrico).

The *FIRST* Championship is a culminating, international event for our youth robotics competition season and an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for our community as we prepare young people for the future. Qualification and advancement to participate in *FIRST* Championship vary by program.

Maggie Walker's Mech Tech Dragons, team 422, had their best performances yet at the Championship held April 16-19 in Houston. Mr. Mark Sailer, team sponsor, wanted us to know of their success and shared the following:

Friday – The team went 3-2 on Friday, with one of the losses being very close. The team ranked 4th on the Newton field at the end of qualifications.

Saturday – Team 422 (Mech Tech Dragons) ended up being the 3rd-seeded alliance captain and made it to the Newton Division Finals, losing to the eventual world champion alliance.

"I am extremely proud of how hard the team worked this year," said Mr. Sailer.

From the video presentation, the students shared some of their student-led impact, "from the passage of our Virginia FIRST Robotics Day Resolution, to acting as the STEM hub of Richmond City. Whether it be by a student, parent, or community member, our impact is constantly felt wherever we go. FIRST Robotics Day is Team 422's initiative to celebrate the impact of all levels of FIRST and its importance to STEM education on March 31st, by passing a resolution in the Virginia General Assembly. This year, we hosted the inaugural FIRST Robotics Day celebration in partnership with VCU and FIRST Chesapeake, inviting speakers and guests like Virginia Delegate David Owen, Senator Hashmi, and FIRST Executive Director Alex Bryant, along with other teams, community partners, and officials. This resolution operates in perpetuity, marking a day for us to celebrate our FIRST family and the amazing community it has created. With their Dragon Play Academy programming workshops, FLL off-season programs, or creative partnerships, we always try to leave a lasting impact on the community. This year, we initiated a new partnership with Richmond Parks and Rec, becoming passionate teachers and role models for eight Title I schools and three hundred plus students. Through our annual STEM event, Kick Off in a Box, and seventy STEM workshops at STEAM night, demos, and events, we uplift the Richmond City STEM atmosphere. We self-fund all of our ideas, keeping one hundred percent free for our community by partnering with organizations like the ImmerseCon Convention, Richmond Institute of Technology and Science, Autism Society of Virginia, and more, we create a STEM network that grows both STEM and FIRST in Richmond City and beyond. We also want to share our knowledge with other teams through our Virtual Virginia Advocacy Conference to make advocacy resources more accessible, through legislative open houses and speaking at the General Assembly and the national capital, we strive to ensure that STEM education gains the necessary support at the local, state, and national levels."

- **Dragons Featured on the Library of Virginia Blog, including their Sponsor, Wendy DeGroat**

Students in attendance: Ally Lichtman ('25-Henrico), David Lins ('26-Chesterfield), and Maverick Busher ('26-Goochland)

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School (MLWGS) incredible Transcribe Team! We (LOV) first began working with this school in 2017, having found a wonderful partnership with MLWGS Librarian Wendy DeGroat. Ms. DeGroat is instrumental in helping Library of Virginia staff connect with students who need volunteer hours. She fosters a welcoming and encouraging environment in the transcribe-a-thons at MLWGS throughout the school year, and student leadership via the Transcribe Team Advisors role. Students are empowered to participate in crowdsourcing projects from the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and the Library of Virginia. Between October 2024 and now, MLWGS students have contributed 40,681 minutes of volunteer transcription to our Making History program. Reflections from the Transcribe Team Advisors are available at the link provided on the agenda.

Ms. DeGroat indicated we had approximately 145 student transcribers this year, and this activity is particularly helpful for students needing community service hours who have transportation issues, as their work can be performed anywhere they have an internet connection.

- **Scholastic National Gold Key in Writing Awarded to MW Freshman, including Kerry Sheppard-Teacher**

Congratulations to Howard Luo - '28-Henrico and his short story "Sandy, Wardoh, and James," a National Gold Key winner.

- **Scholastic National Winners in Arts Awards, including Jeff Hall and Georgianne Stinnett - Teachers**

Several of our MLWGS students received awards in the national Scholastic Art Awards and that one of our photography students, **Peize Wang; '25-Henrico**, received the **highest honor, a National Gold Medal Portfolio**. To our knowledge, this is the first time a MLWGS student has received this honor.

Peize was one of only eight in the nation, and this award also comes with a \$12,500 prize. Peize and his teacher, Mrs. Stinnett, will be recognized at the National Awards Ceremony on June 11th at Carnegie Hall!

Additionally, several other students also received national medals and awards, with images of their work below.

- Elijah Chen ('26-Henrico) - Silver Medal in Painting
- Neha Jain ('27-Henrico) - Silver Medal in Photography
- Molly Morrison ('25-Chesterfield) - Silver Medal in Sculpture, Honorable Mention for Sculpture Portfolio
- Mitchell Shelton ('25-Colonial Heights) - Silver Medal in Photography
- Sophia Trinh ('26-Chesterfield) - Silver Medal in Photography

VIII. Public Comments

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

None.

IX. Consent Items

On a motion by Meredith Moses to approve the consent items as a slate, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the following items were unanimously approved on a voice vote: personnel actions, fiscal status reports of April 30, 2025, and the donations report of April 30, 2025.

X. Action Items

A. One-Time Waiver to Policies 6010 and 6010.1 for Building Use (Waive First Read Requested)

The acting director requested a waiver from the Regional School Board for the group mentioned below to proceed, as they are not a 501(c)(3) organization, and both are employees of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.

Event Details: Play Title: Lunch Brunch

Produced by Candace Hudert and Devon Mattys, both are part-time employees of MLWGS.

Rehearsals would be in the evening on weekdays and during the day on weekends. They have scheduled a half hour of set up and clean up time on either end of the rehearsals, so the times listed are the only times they would be in the space. They need 4 days a week, ideally with Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays off:

- Monday 6/9 6-11pm
- Wednesday 6/11 6-11pm
- Thursday 6/12 6-11pm
- Sunday 6/15 10am-4pm

- Monday 6/16 6-11pm
- Wednesday 6/18 6-11pm
- Thursday 6/19 6-11pm
- Sunday 6/22 10am-4pm

- Monday 6/23 6-11pm
- Wednesday 6/25 6-11pm
- Thursday 6/26 6-11pm
- Sunday 6/29 10am-4pm

- Monday 6/30 6-11pm
- Wednesday 7/2 6-11pm
- Thursday 7/3 6-11pm

In summary, rehearsals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 6-11 pm, and Sundays 10-4 pm, with built in set up/clean up time (i.e. rehearsals starting at 6:30 pm if we have the space booked at 6pm).

The group requests the use of the Blackbox. They are planning for tech week to be July 6-9, with performances for two weekends, July 10-12 and July 17-19.

The acting director recommends that the group proceed with the event in the black box, so long as it does not conflict with our booking with Cadence Theater.

The group will be charged for the Black Box, security, and custodial services for the nights of the performance.

The group must have a one-day liability coverage of the same level as we ask of any outside group.

Ms. Moses asked to understand the request, “the policy states that employees cannot rent the facility, and you also don’t want to charge for it. Did I get that right?” Dr. Smith responded, “We don’t want to charge them for rehearsal times but for the actual performance, they are going to be charged for the performance and for security coverage for the performance.” Ms. Moses followed, “Will liability cover rehearsals and the performance?” Dr. Smith said, “The liability that they would be taking on would be for the performance.” “She then asked, “What about if something happens during the rehearsals?” Dr. Smith answered, “That would be covered by the school?” Concluding, Ms. Moses sounded her response, “Just as long as everything’s covered, okay?”

Dr. Taylor added, “Dr. Smith, for every action we take or every decision we make, kind of sets a precedent for the future. Do you anticipate this opening the door to other companies wanting to come in or other organizations that are not nonprofit? Does it become a problem?” Dr. Smith replied, “I do not. The only reason I would consider a waiver is that both of these people have been long-time employees of the school and have been very dedicated to the drama program here. I don’t anticipate that this will open any kind of precedent for the future. This is the first time that we’ve been presented with a request along these lines. I would like to support the arts in this case.”

Ms. Moses asked if we should revise these policies, but Dr. Smith said he wouldn’t recommend opening the door any wider than this request.

With no additional discussion, Dr. Taylor called for a motion to waive first read and for approval of the request for facility usage. On a motion by Kathryn Ricard, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the board unanimously approved the waiver for first read of this request and the approval of the request for waiver of Policies 6010 and 6010.1 for facility usage on a voice vote.

XI. Director’s Report

A. Verbal Update

- **Working Toward 'bell to bell, no cell.'**


Our first week of working toward compliance with the General Assembly’s ‘bell to bell no cell’ law has gone smoothly. No cell phones were turned in at the security office for later pick-up. We had to issue warnings to approximately 3% of the students. Please continue to remind students that their phones should be turned off and stored in their backpacks during class time. It was

refreshing to see greater focus in classes, more student-to-student interaction, and fewer people bumping into each other in the hall. If you missed earlier communications, here is our [timetable](#).

Students are still allowed to use phones in the cafeteria and during transitions, but during class time, phones must be powered off and stored in backpacks (not pockets). As this is a cultural change for our school, we plan a long runway, with ample input, flexibility, and open communication. In June, we will reassess to determine if further steps are necessary to ensure compliance with the law.

Cell Phone Usage

- 7.5% of students officially warned
- 1 double confiscation
- 2 single confiscations
- 2 should have been a confiscation
- Keep vigilant:
 - Classrooms
 - Hallways during class time
- Share feedback with department leads
- Discussion at June leadership retreat



[Phone Usage Log](#)

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

Dragon Advisory

This school year, MLWGS piloted a launchpad course for freshmen called **MLWGS 101**, a revised edition of a previous course known as FIRC (Foundations for Independent Research and Communication). In this pilot, twelve cohorts of 16-17 students began the year in a six-week Foundations segment of MLWGS 101. Then, four student cohorts rotated to a ten-week segment in Math, four to Speech, and four to Social Studies. In the two remaining ten-week rotations, they completed the other subject segments.

Having all freshmen start the year in the Foundations segment gave them an opportunity to explore concepts like honor and integrity, get acclimated to essential technology tools and school resources, organize for success, understand how to read a syllabus and grading rubric, practice active notetaking and active reading, and more—all before Fall Festival. The longer subject rotations provided a few more days for assignments like the argument paper in the Social Studies segment of MLWGS 101 that prepares freshmen for a more extensive historical argument paper that they'll complete in Global Studies 10.

Overall, the MLWGS 101 pilot met our expectations. We also discovered opportunities for refinement. For year two, we'll address the overlap in content about homework, study skills, and time management that occurred with MLWGS 101 and Dragon Advisory, and experiment with building in a shared community service opportunity. We'll also shift how the course is constructed in PowerSchool to no longer require the use of a shared gradebook since this caused some frustrations for both students and teachers.

The Dragon Advisory program was started this year to help incoming ninth graders transition to Maggie Walker's social and academic culture. Students were assigned to one of twelve Advisory sections, each led by a volunteer faculty advisor. Care was taken to ensure that students were in the same Advisory section as their MLWGS 101 section, ensuring that freshmen knew a group of approximately 16-18 fellow students even before day one - we began meeting in groups during the Walker Way Welcome Day and Freshman Orientation in August.

Seventy-two members of Maggie Walker's National Honor Society volunteered to serve as peer mentors for the Class of 2028, resulting in a 3:1 freshman to mentor ratio. Over the course of the year, these mentors presented information created in last year's Bonsai Balance program, a student-designed program that gave tips on such vital skills as time management, health and nutrition, the importance of self-care, and the challenges of competition. The Advisory period also allowed us to conduct whole-class activities, such as the Honor Pledge Signing Ceremony in the fall, a class meeting in the winter to prepare for the Freshman Dance and Lock-In, and an end of the year Ice Cream Social, where students participated in the creation of a Legacy Garden in the courtyard.

There is certainly room for growth and improvement in 2025-2026. We had great interest from upperclassmen in serving again as mentors, but from our feedback and student surveys, it became clear that peer mentoring was a more valuable use of our time than formal presentations on Bonsai Balance units. Additionally, the goal of helping students transition to high school seems to have largely been successful by the end of first semester. Our original plan was to meet on all Schedule B Fridays, which required a slight adjustment to the bell schedule to create a minimally longer lunch period during which Advisory could meet. We thought to have 22-25 meetings over the course of the year. School cancellations due to weather and the Richmond water crisis altered our meeting schedule in January and February, but we realized that the program should probably be front-loaded for Semester 1 anyway, with informal mentoring and contact by the upper class mentors throughout Semester 2 and fewer formal Advisory periods.

Running these pilots simultaneously allowed us to discern what content fits better in each of these facets of the MLWGS freshman experience. We'd like to recognize the teachers and students who worked diligently to bring MLWGS 101 and Dragon Advisory into fruition. This wouldn't have been possible without them!

MLWGS 101 Teachers

Dickson Benesh, Christie Riles, and Ryan Webb: Foundations, Math

Celie Boswell and Michael White: Foundations, Speech

Kyle Rogers and Matthew Ruskan: Foundations, Social Studies

Supporting cast: Joy Cobb, Wendy DeGroat, Mark Sailer, and MLWGS Tech (David Bortz, Lisa Gordon, Deborah Snagg, and technology integrators)

Faculty Advisors for Dragon Advisory

Dickson Benesh, Patrick Kennedy, Heather Kemmerly, Connie Hill, Kara Love, Amanda Lemco, Pete Cashwell, Matthew Ruskan, Alecia Nichols/Kelly Ndayizigiye, Adam Rotche, Paige Hawkins, Jenn McLaughlin

Student mentors for Dragon Advisory

Student Co-Coordinators: Maddie Gerlach, Sophia Watson, Shaun Ye

Student Mentors: Samuel Adalbert, Kent Angert, Laney Atkinson, Abby Barnett, Gabriell Bonev, Ashley Booker, Flannery Boshier, Christy Brescia, Josie Briggs, Jake Bryner, Jack Buchta, Diego

Burgos-Feliciano, Reagan Carroll, Vera Chunnanond, Lillian Davies, Amanda Downey, Ash Duimstra, Elise Eason, Camden Ennis, Henry Erda, Sunjana Finn, Stella Gary-Ford, Bhavya Gummadi, Aashna Gupta, Henry Hanna, Celia Harrison, Isaac Hathaway, Isaiah Hathaway, Leah Hazelrigg, Eleanor Heslinga, Aiden Hess, Dottie Heyming, Charlotte Hill, Lilith Holmes, Maximillian Jimanez, Maggie Josefiak, Aryan Kanduri, Max Keating, Parth Khandal, Ella Kristensen, Deepanshi Kumar, Alina Laraway, Hanh (Alex) Le, Emma Lindsey, Jack Lion, Clemmie Mannell, Abigail Martin, Julia McClintock, Francie McKay, Anna Mellina, Jaymes Milston, Yurika Motai, Aditi Nair, Jake Nelson, Mackenzie Parr, Shreeya Patel, Kelly Paulchell, Ellie Qureshi, Ethan Roerink, Klara Salley, Saket Sambaraju, Samhith Sarva, Sophia Schaffermath, Ivey Shields, Mitchell Shelton, Thomas Short, Kellyn Smith, Caitlyn Smith, Audrey Tang, Rewa Totey, Sophia Trinh, Mary Grace Turner, Anne Vincent, Thienvan Vo, Lily Voorhees, Honarah Walsh, Caroline Walton, Reid Winters, Peter Yanovitch

- **Upcoming: VA Budget Amendments – HB1600 (Floor Approved)**

Bonus Payment

Out of this appropriation, \$140,527,598 the first year from the general fund is provided for a one-time bonus payment of **\$1,000** (*update after this meeting, Monies were received in 2025 and will be issued to employees on June 15*), per funded SOQ instructional position and support position and per Academic Year Governor's School and Regional Alternative Education Program instructional and support position. Funded SOQ instructional positions shall include all teacher, guidance counselor, librarian, instructional aide, principal, and assistant principal positions.

Dr. Taylor asked if the school had money in the budget to offset any gap [*bonuses and taxes*]? Dr. Smith referred him to approved carry-over monies. Dr. Taylor added, “How much difference do you have to make up?” Dr. Smith said between five and seven thousand dollars. “That's all?” “Yes. at least for full-time employees. With the part-time employees, I believe we have less than ten, I would anticipate with the part-time employees, less than ten thousand dollars in order to be able to make up the gap. The number we were advised from Lynn Bragga [RPS] was that we would be receiving eighty-three thousand dollars, to which Ms. Hoover, the MLWGS finance officer, anticipates that the cost of this would be something like ninety-two thousand dollars. The gap is probably smaller than it is in some of your districts.

Mr. Pritchett asked about bringing an amended budget proposal for board action. Dr. Smith said, Yes, we will bring this action to the board in June.

- **Student Conduct Takeaways and hope on the horizon:**

Student Conduct	Takeaways:
Tally (December- April):	Twice as many in this period as in previous years
Honor Code- 22	Unauthorized assistance has dramatically eclipsed plagiarism and cheating
Skipping- 5	Hope on the horizon:
Failure to follow reasonable request- 4	-AI Subcommittee
Horseplay- 2	-Cell phone ban
	-Lock down browser
	-Turnitin.com
	-Townhall
	-VDOE bonus in September

- **End-of-Year Band and Chorus Concert** performed by the students of MLWGS on **Wednesday, April 30 @ 7 pm**, in the auditorium.

- **School Principal’s Appreciation Day, May 1.**

National School Principals' Day is celebrated annually on May 1st in the United States. It’s a day dedicated to recognizing the hard work, dedication, and leadership of school principals who play a vital role in shaping the educational environment for students, teachers, and communities.

- **Teacher and Staff Employment Contracts for AY2026 were issued on May 6th.**

- **End-of-Year Orchestra Concert** performed by the students of MLWGS on **Friday, May 2 @ 7 pm**, in the auditorium.

- **Teacher Appreciation Week May 5-9.** The PTSA and MLWGS Foundation had several events for our teachers, including the following:

Date	Day	Timing	Theme
5/5	Monday	Lunch	Tex-Mex Fiesta
5/6	Tuesday	Lunch	Sandwiches from Costco
5/7	Wednesday	Afternoon snack	Dessert/Charcuterie
5/8	Thursday	Morning	Breakfast
5/9	Friday	Lunch	Southern BBQ

- **2025 Junior/Senior Prom** is Saturday, May 17 @ 8 pm at the Hippodrome Theater



- **Senior Awards Assembly @ 1 pm on Thursday, May 8th, and Senior Recognition Night @ 7 pm, on Monday, May 19th (auditorium).** We honor our seniors and celebrate our students' successes while reflecting on their time here at MLWGS. The highlight of the evening for the students is always the Senior Slide Show.
- **MWTech: LockDown Browser Installation on student BYOD devices.**

Starting the second semester, PowerSchool communications were sent requesting the installation of the LockDown browser on all student devices. As MLWGS is a *Bring Your Own Device* (BYOD) school, we very much need cooperation from our families to facilitate this task. Teachers have expanded the use of the testing application through Schoology courses, and MWtech does not have loaner device capacity, especially during the May window of online AP and SOL test administration, to provide additional devices to students.

- **NCAA Athletic Signing Day, Monday, May 19th.**

Athlete Scholars from the Class of 2025



Donavan Johnson (King & Queen) Richard Bland College
Baseball



Colston Wisotzki (Richmond) Fairfield University
X-Country



Lydia Shields (Richmond) University of Richmond
X-Country



Gabby Hines (Chesterfield) Amherst College
Volleyball



- **Senior Showcase on Wednesday, May 21st.** This event was presented by sponsor Mr. Les Cook.

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

Mr. Cook presented an invitation to the board to attend along with the programs of the day's showcases, highlighting students by their district.

- **Graduation for the Class of 2025:** Monday, May 27 @ 6 pm, the Dominion Energy Center-Carpenter Theater.



- **Graduation – Streaming live this year**

Due to the limited tickets available for graduation, we have secured the services of Seagram AV to stream our ceremony.

B. Coming Events May 15 – June 12, 2025

Thursday, May 16 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
Saturday, May 18 th	Junior/Senior Prom at The Hippodrome Theater, 7 pm
Monday, May 20 th	Final Exams for Periods 1 & 5
Tuesday, May 21 st	Final Exams for Periods 2 & 6
	NCAA Athletic Signing Day, 3:45 pm, Forum
Wednesday, May 22 nd	Final Exams for Periods 3 & 7
	Senior Recognition Night, 7 pm, Auditorium
Thursday, May 23 rd	Final Exams for Periods 4 & 8
Friday, May 24 th	Senior Showcase Day
Monday, May 27 th	Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday, May 28 th	Senior Baccalaureate Sponsored by the PTSA, 7:00 pm, Reveille United Methodist Church
Wednesday, May 29 th	Graduation for the Class of 2024, 6 pm, Altria Theater
Thursday, May 30 th	Annual Senior Picnic at the Carillon Shelter, Byrd Park, Noon
Friday, May 31 st	Last Day for Students (make-up exams only)

	End of the Year Faculty Luncheon, 11:30 am, Cafeteria
Monday, June 3 rd	Last Day for Teachers
	Summer Online Economics Classes Begin
Tuesday, June 4 th	Final Report Cards Issued
	Planning Committee Meeting, 10 am, Location TBD
Wednesday, June 5 th	Last Day for 10-Month Support Staff
Thursday, June 6 th	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 9 am
Saturday, June 8 th	End Spring Sports
Monday, June 10 th	Last Day for Department Chairs
	Summer Operating Hours Begin, Monday-Thursday 7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Friday, June 14 th	Friday Closed
Monday, June 17 th	Cadence Theater Summer Camp #1 of 2 Begins, at 8:15 am
Wednesday, June 19 th	Closed for Holiday
Thursday, June 15 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9 am, Room 153

Ms. Moses asked Dr. Smith what the typical amount of college credit Maggie Walker graduates leave the school with? He responded, they often leave us with 30-45 credits between AP and dual enrollment classes, or on average, they enter as a sophomore in college. He added a recognition for Dr. Rachel Loving, who runs MW's AP testing and does an outstanding job with her oversight, stating this year we administered over 1,600 tests which is enormous for a school of only 800 students and freshmen are unable to test, even extending testing to non-MW students who cannot test in their district because they self-study or their course was not offered. He cited AP Human Geo AP Econ as examples.

C. 2025 Senior Seminar with Les Cook Coordinator, May 21, 2025

(See the director's verbal report of these minutes, located before Coming Events).

XII. Unfinished Business

a. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

Dr. Smith reported the following updates:

1.2.3: Our school social worker will collaborate with security, counseling, and administration to revise the threat assessment process and forms to align with current standards and best practices.

1.2.5: The school has implemented restrictions on student cell phone usage with priority placed on instructional time. Students and parents have provided feedback indicating that they would like a school policy for next year that allows for the use of devices during non-instructional time.

2.1.3: The master schedule build will include Italian III. This is a high-level elective language course that is rarely offered. Administration approved the course based on strong student and parent advocacy.

2.2.1: Our coordinator of strategic engagement has adopted a block of Moore Street on behalf of our school. Efforts are being made to organize a quarterly clean-up through our MLWGS 101 or Dragon Advisory.

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

XIII. Items for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. FY25 Assignment of Reserve Funds (First Read)

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

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

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

It is estimated that on June 30, 2025, the General Fund balance will be \$_____ and the Capital Improvement Fund balance will be \$_____. I propose that by June 30, 2025, we move \$_____ from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund, which will bring the Capital Improvement Fund to \$_____, leaving \$_____ in the General Fund, \$_____ of which will be assigned to the benefit reserve. That will leave a balance of \$_____ in unassigned reserve in the General Fund.

FY25 estimates will be provided at their June meeting (this meeting is too early for accurate projections) for the distribution of assigned funds as required by GASB 54. Approval with amounts will be requested at the June 2025 meeting of the Executive School Board.

b. Business Insurance Renewal with VACorp (First Read)

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

	FY2025 Rates		FY2026 Rates
General liability, educator's liability, environmental liability, cyber, crime, business auto, equipment breakdown, property, increased limits, inland marine, and security risk management	\$26,620.00	General liability, educator's liability, environmental liability, cyber, crime, business auto, equipment breakdown, property, increased limits, inland marine, and security risk management	\$27,141.00
Worker's Comp	\$18,878.00	Worker's Comp	\$14,729.00
TOTAL	\$45,498.00	TOTAL	\$41,870.00

Dual Program Discount and Rate Credit	-\$1,496.00	Rate Credit	-\$503.00
TOTAL DUE	\$44,996.00	TOTAL DUE	\$41,367.00

The acting director recommends that the Executive School Board review this insurance proposal of required coverages for FY2026. Approval will be requested at the Board's June meeting.

c. RFP for Security Partition Installation (First Read)

An RFP for [Security Partition Installation 2025](#) was advertised on mlwgs.com for sealed bids. A legal notice was also placed in the Richmond Times-Dispatch on Wednesday, April 20, 2025, and also ran through their online service.

Timeline:

On-site, scheduled viewing of proposed area: May 5-19, 2025 (Contact Mr. Jordan @ mjordan@gsgis.k12.va.us to arrange a visit time)

- Proposal Submission Deadline: June 10, 2025
- Contractor Selection: June 18, 2025
- Project Commencement: July 7, 2025
- Milestone Meeting (If necessary): July 30, 2025
- Project Completion Deadline: August 15, 2025

The acting director proposes to bring forward contractor bids to the Executive School Board in June. Bids and administrative recommendations may need to be sent via email because of the timeline. We note that the regularly scheduled meeting on June 19 fell on a holiday and has been rescheduled to June 12, 2025, which is before the selection of the contractor. The board may be asked to cast their electronic votes for contractor approval.

XIV. Information

- No Scheduled Meeting in May of the Finance Committee
- April Department Highlight: Science - Research, Problem-Solving, and Rigor
- MW junior wins 4-week travel and homestay in Japan, Summer 2025
- MW junior earns National Award of Merit from the PTA Reflections Contest
- Richmond Free Press Spotlights MW Senior Jaeda Perry, Richmond
- Japan Bowl 2025 Report
- Walker Debate earns 2nd Place at the VHSL State Championship
- MW TSA Club at Technosphere State Competition, May 1-4
- Five Dragons Perform at All-Virginia Band and Orchestra, April 26
- Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, April 24
- Annual Grandparents and Special Adults Day at MLWGS, April 25
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, May 5, Olive Roever-'26-Richmond, Track
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, April 28, Davis Voelzke-'25-Henrico, Tennis
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, April 21, Donovan Johnson-'25-King & Queen, Baseball
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, April 14, David Roberts-'26-Chesterfield, Boys Soccer

XV. New Business

None.

XVI. Announcements

None.

XVII. 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.

Heather Donbrosky made a motion to enter into a closed meeting at 10:15 am, seconded by Meredith Moses, and was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The chair stated the motion had carried and the board is now in closed session. The recorder was turned off, and anyone who was not a board member left the meeting.

Return to Open Session

The chair called for a motion to return to an open meeting.

Heather Donbrosky made a motion to enter into an open meeting at 11:08 am that was seconded by Kathryn Ricard and unanimously approved on a voice vote. The chair stated; The board is now back in open session.

XVIII. Certification of Closed Meeting

The Chair read the following statement:

Mr. May 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, Mr. May made a motion to certify the closed session, seconded by Meredith Moses and 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.

Meredith Moses made a motion to certify the closed session, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, and was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Closed Session Action

No actions requiring certification were conducted during closed session.

XIX. Adjournment

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Meredith Moses, this meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 11:10 am.

The next scheduled meeting for the Executive Board is on June 12, 2025.

Dr. James Taylor, Chair

Michael Smith, Ed.D., Acting Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

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

DATE: May 15, 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	Our 3rd annual Dare to Be a Dragon Day is scheduled for April 19 with 150-200 fifth grade students expected to attend.		
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 PTSA is planning a session with the VA First Lady to support teenage mental health. The target audience are current MW parents. Expected attendance 100-		

			150. Target date is April 23.		
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 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 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	Our coordinator of strategic engagement is establishing a presence on Handshake.org. This will help us in conveying job postings to colleges/universities throughout the commonwealth.		

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 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.	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			