

Regional School Board (RSB) Meeting, 16 October 2025

Notes from your faculty liaison

Important: These are informal notes from my observation of the RSB meeting, including "my takeaways" which you'll find at the end. For official RSB meeting minutes, please see the [school web site](#).

Present at today's regular board meeting: Dr. James Taylor (Chair, Powhatan), Heather Dombrosky (Vice Chair, New Kent), Kenneth Pritchett (Petersburg), Kathryn Ricard (Richmond), Alicia Atkins (Henrico), Lisa Hudgins (Chesterfield), Meredith Moses (Goochland), Linda Hyslop (Hopewell), Whitney Welsh (Hanover), Harwood Hall (King & Queen), and Mary Benjamin (Dinwiddie)

Moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions – Dr. Taylor extended a warm welcome to Ms. Welsh (Hanover)

Approval of agenda and minutes

Recognition – none

Public Comments – none

Consent Items

- [Personnel](#)
- Fiscal Status Reports: September 30, 2025 [Revenue](#), [Budget v Obligation](#), [PO's Not Received](#), [Outstanding Requisitions](#), [Outstanding Encumbrances](#) and [Transaction Register](#)
 - MLWGS remains in a strong financial position; tuition payment not yet received from one participating division; Ms. Janssen will follow up with that district
 - School currently closing out Fiscal 2022 audit-wise, awaiting just two items from RPS
- [Donation Report](#) of September 30, 2025

Action Items

- Policy - [Student-Athlete Concussion Update and Cell Phone Policy and Regulations \(Second Read\)](#)
- [New International Trip Proposal to Argentina 2027 \(Second Read\)](#)
- [New International Trip Proposal to England, Spring Break 2026 \(Second Read\)](#)

Executive Director's Report

- [Verbal Updates](#) Ms. Janssen...
 - Thanked Dr. Loving for her work on our school profile
 - Noted 39 MLWGS students commended by National Merit Scholarship program
 - Extended kudos to PTSA for Fall Festival on Friday, Oct. 10
 - Commended Ms. Cross for her work on the Moore Street project
 - Praised Dr. Williams and PD subcommittee for ongoing learning opportunities
- [Coming Events](#) that Ms. Janssen highlighted included...
 - PSAT being administered tomorrow
 - Spirit week in progress; Homecoming Dance this Saturday, Oct. 18
 - Recruiting events in progress; Information Forum on Saturday, Oct. 25
 - Robotics (Mech Tech Dragons) to host a STEM Day on Saturday, Nov. 8
 - Virtual Budget Town Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 9
- [2026-2027 Division Enrollment Commitment Letters](#)
 - Letters reflect a projected 4% tuition increase (3% of which represents funding for raises); letters due back to MLWGS by Dec. 1
 - Dr. Pennycuff suggested that divisions have option to provide lunches to their MLWGS students themselves OR pay MLWGS to provide lunches for students from their division

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- Ms. Janssen noted that many students drive to school or are dropped off by parents, so districts would need to organize pick-up at a central depot or something
- [Additional New Clubs at MLWGS 2025-2026](#)
- [Anthem Medical Loss Ratio \(MLR\) Rebate 2024](#)
 - Anthem returned a little more than \$5K to MLWGS which has been deposited in healthcare account; plan is to pass funds along to employees at a future point
- [MLWGS Foundation Impact Report w/Ginger O'Neil, Director](#)
 - Foundation is a 501c3 organization that fills some of the gaps not covered by tuition
 - Foundation was a bit shy of their annual goal last year but that was largely due to shifting major alumni fundraising campaign from May to September
 - Report highlights included:
 - Provided 67 enhancement grants
 - Covered all student aid fees requested
 - Supported several clubs and teams participating in competitions
 - Supported student traveling to nine states and four countries
 - Helped nine teachers attend conferences, 18 complete graduate coursework
 - Continued to refine student aid request process
 - Hosted a new parent welcome, senior parent sendoff, alumni showcase, and Night of the Dragon (fundraiser which raises \$80-100K per year)
 - Plans to do more fundraising beyond MLWGS community, such as to corporations

Unfinished Business

- Report to the Board: [Current Strategic Plan Implementation Update](#)
- [New Strategic Plan Development Update](#)

Items for Board Review/Discussion

- [New: Annual VDOE Administrative Procedures Approval for MLWGS \(First Read\)](#)
- [International Trip Proposal, Morocco, Spring 2026 \(First Read\)](#)
 - Ms. Cross established the Gender & Culture in MENA seminar in 2016, and this will be her sixth time taking students to Morocco! She described the kinds of texts and topics seminar students study and how this learning integrates with the trip. The 2026 itinerary includes visiting seven cities. She highlighted students' myriad fundraising efforts and thanked the Foundation for their support.

Information

- [Finance Committee Minutes, October 9, 2025](#)
- [MLWGS Students Accepted into Regional Orchestra and Band](#) – 25% of MLWGS have sustained involvement in Fine Arts; the music program has outgrown our auditorium, which is why we began holding our winter concert performance in a larger-capacity off-site auditorium last year
- [MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week, September 22, 2025 -Carson Holbert-'26 Richmond](#)
- [MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week, September 29, 2025-Des Unice-'26 Richmond, Volleyball](#)
- [MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week, October 6, 2025-Alina Laraway-'26 Henrico, XC](#)
- [Webb Announced as Head Track Coach](#)
- Dr. Taylor praised the presentation given by Dr. Williams and her team about MLWGS at his school, a presentation he attended with his 8th-grade daughter

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Superintendents Steering Committee – Dr. Teigen said that the superintendents and Ms. Janssen finalized Ms. Janssen's goals for this year, focusing on the strategic plan and school finances

New Business

- [School Board Self-Evaluation 2025](#)
 - Ms. Janssen provided an overview of the results and suggested that the Board had been a bit hard on themselves.
 - Dr. Taylor said that he's in his second year and only attended five meetings last year due to scheduling conflicts. He encouraged Board members to take their service on this Board seriously, sharing an intention to strengthen his own commitment.
 - Ms. Janssen said that every board member she has reached out to about helping with the strategic plan, or in other ways has said yes, so she is feeling supported.
 - Ms. Atkins said that students involved in activities like Robotics sometimes send her a direct invitation to their events. She wondered if MLWGS leadership could provide Board members with guidance about which events they recommend or for which a Board member's presence would be especially welcome.
 - Ms. Janssen said that Dr. Smith and Dr. Williams are planning the annual on-campus event at which Board members meet with their MLWGS students.

Announcements - None

Adjournment Next RSB meeting on Nov. 13, 2025

My takeaways

Today's Regional School Board meeting was a full board meeting during which results were shared from the Board's recent [self-evaluation](#).

News: In the context of discussing division commitment letters, Ms. Janssen indicated that our admin team will propose a 3% salary increase in the FY2027 budget. Additionally, faculty and staff may receive a small reimbursement from funds that Anthem recently refunded to MLWGS for last year's premiums.

Dragons continued to SHINE in and outside the classroom. A big shout out to Mr. Webb who is now our Head Track Coach! Kudos to all the clubs and sponsors who made Fall Fest so much fun, athletes who earned Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Week accolades, students who earned National Merit Scholarship recognition, musicians selected for regional orchestra and band, and their teachers, Ms. Barnes and Mr. Merillat. Congrats to Ms. Manning and Ms. Love, whose trips to Argentina (June 2027) and England (spring break 2026) were approved today, and to Ms. Cross, who proposed a spring break 2026 trip to Morocco. Gratitude to Mr. Rivera, Mr. Ruskan, Mr. Clark, Ms. Macklin, and Mr. Lehman for agreeing to sponsor our newest student clubs, and to everyone who already sponsors one or more clubs. Thanks to Dr. Loving for her work on the school profile, to Ms. Cobb on her organization of PSAT Day, Ms. Ortiz and SCA officers for Spirit Week and the Pep Rally, Mr. White for planning the Information Forum, and to MW Tech and all the faculty, staff, and students whose contributions make these events possible. Appreciation to the Foundation, to our admin team for keeping the ball rolling on recruitment, the 2026-2031 strategic plan, and projects like funding for student lunches, and to the PD subcommittee for the opportunities they continue to develop and organize for us. Best of luck to Robotics and any other team or group with events in the coming month, including the Homecoming Dance this Saturday. ***Go Dragons!***