

## **MINUTES**

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

**Thursday, November 13, 2025**

**9:00 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. Closed Session**

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 Kenneth Pritchett, 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 the board relocated to the executive director's office.

#### **Return to Open Session**

Meredith Moses made a motion to enter into an open meeting at 9:50 am that was seconded by Kathryn Ricard and unanimously approved on a voice vote. The vice-chair stated, "The board is now back in open session."

#### **III. Certification of Closed Meeting**

The vice-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."

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 Kathryn Ricard, and the closed meeting certification was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

No executive board action was taken during closed session.

#### **IV. Moment of Silence**

The chair called for a moment of silence.

#### **V. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

#### **VI. Introductions**

Each member present is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Ms. Meredith Moses, ***School Board***, Goochland Public Schools  
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, ***School Board***, New Kent Public Schools  
Dr. James Taylor, ***School Board***, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Ms. Kathryn Ricard, ***School Board***, Richmond Public Schools  
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools  
Mrs. Kristin Janssen – **MLWGS Executive Director**  
Mr. Lucas Veale – **Regional School Board Deputy Clerk**

#### **Also present:**

Dr. Lisa Williams and Dr. Michael Smith – MLWGS Assistant Directors  
Wendy DeGroat - MLWGS Staff

#### **Absent:**

Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, ***School Board***, Petersburg Public Schools  
Ms. Barbara Marshall – **Regional School Board Clerk**

#### **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  
Ms. Whitney Welsh, ***School Board***, Hanover 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 Schools  
Ms. Jill Andrews, ***School Board***, Prince George Public Schools  
Dr. Katina Otey, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools  
Dr. John Murray, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Mr. Travis Ridley, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools  
Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools  
Dr. Andrew Armstrong, **Superintendent**, Goochland 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. Douglas Lyle, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools  
Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

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

No board member(s) requested to participate remotely.

#### **VII.b Approval of Agenda**

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

#### **VIII. Approval of Minutes**

No action was taken on this item because the minutes from October 16, 2025, were not available.

#### **IX. Recognitions**

- **Ms. Connie Hill**, MLWGS mathematics chair, recently won the **R.E.B. Award for Teaching Excellence!** Ms. Hill will travel to Italy to the cities of Venice, Tuscany, and Rome, where she will examine mathematical representations in architecture, art, and design, and explore cultural representations of family and community. Congratulations to Ms. Hill on this noteworthy achievement
- **Both the National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society** hosted their **induction ceremonies**, recognizing students for academic excellence, service, and leadership.
- **Michael White and the Yearbook staff** (THE VAULT)! **VHSL** has released its **Yearbook evaluations**, and Maggie L. Walker's 2025 book, "It's So Worth It," received **Trophy Class honors, earning a superior rating!** This is a huge accomplishment that is in no small part due to Mr. White's unremitting dedication to this program. A special shout-out to Zachary Mazzo and the entire 2024-25 staff-- including current editorial staff members Eleanor Heslinga ('26), Sophia Trinh ('26), Maggie Josefiak ('26), and Nate Carey ('28) -- for their creativity, hard work, and diligence in creating a beautiful historical document that the entire MLWGS community can be proud of.
- Congratulations to **Maggie Walker Quiz Bowl** for their impressive performance at **VCU's Fall Tournament!** Rohan Rajguru led the E team to a second-place finish in the JV bracket, while Jaanvi Kanda's D team placed fourth and Shravan Madurantakam's C team finished sixth. All three captains earned individual awards for high scores, with Jaanvi ranking as the second-highest scorer in the entire tournament. In the top bracket, both the A and B teams qualified for the National Championship in Chicago. Bladen Kidd's A team, which included Rohan Neelakantan, Bridget Finley, and David Chen, finished second. David Lins's B team, which included Serine Oh, Joel Pritchard, and Tayyib Ali, finished fourth. Bladen, Rohan, David, and Serine were all recognized as top individual players. Nine freshmen competed in their first tournament: Eleanor Chin, Emma Stein, Elise Showers, Kennedy Greene, Urvika Bansal, Naomi Yimam, Aarav Saxena, Aditya Singhal, and Melody Qian. Among all freshmen at the tournament, Elise placed fifth, Aditya seventh, and Eleanor ninth. The team would like to thank Adam Rotche, Juanita

Lasswell, and Kim Forquer for working with them in preparation for the competition. They will head back to VCU in December with hopes to qualify for another national championship in Atlanta.

- **Transcribe Event: MLWGS Librarian Wendy DeGroat** reports strong student engagement following the introduction of in-class Transcribe-a-thons in the MLWGS 101 curriculum this year, developed in coordination with the Library of Virginia. Initially, she anticipated that approximately 20 freshmen would join the Transcribe Team after these sessions. To date, 60 students have submitted signed participation agreements representing eight participating school divisions (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King & Queen, Prince George, and Richmond) with additional forms continuing to arrive. In addition to expanding equitable access to this meaningful community service opportunity, DeGroat noted an unexpected benefit: for several students, the Transcribe-a-thon marked their first experience submitting community service hours in x2VOL, introducing them to that process early in their MLWGS experience.
- **The Mech Tech Dragons: FRC 422 held their 9th Annual STEM Event!** It was an incredible success! They loved welcoming students from local schools and encouraging their curiosity about the world of STEM. With 70+ students in attendance, participants explored interactive stations highlighting medical careers, STEM opportunities in the community, and hands-on experiments that made learning exciting and fun! The team would like to thank Rabid RVA, Henrico Library, Dr. Hathaway, Dr. Sarebahi, and Maggie Walker Governor's School for their valuable support in making this event possible. Also a special thank you to Circuitree (FRC 1599) for volunteering to help! Your dedication and collaboration helped our team inspire the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers!

## **X. Public Comments**

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

No comments were submitted.

## **XI. Consent Items**

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

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Heather Donbrosky, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate on a voice vote: November 2025 Personnel Actions (none), the fiscal status reports of October 31, 2025, and the donations report of October 31, 2025.

## **XII. Action Items**

### **a. NEW: 2025-26 MLWGS Administrative Procedures Manual (*Second Read*)**

Beginning with the year 2025-2026, the MLWGS Annual Administrative Procedures Manual required by the VDOE mandates the school to obtain Regional School Board approval, similar to the annual approval sought for the Crisis Manual. The manual was submitted to VDOE on October 6, 2025, due on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The board approval being sought will be submitted under separate cover to VDOE.

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the 2025-2026 MLWGS Administrative Procedures Manual for the VDOE was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**b. International Trip Proposal Senior Seminar to Morocco (*Second Read*)**

**SPONSORS: Robinette Cross and Kelly Ndayizigiye**  
**March 25, 2026, through April 3, 2026**

The “Gender and Culture in the Middle East and North Africa” (MENA) Senior Seminar explores the elements and evolution of cultures in the MENA region in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Morocco provides an excellent cultural pivot point by joining east and west; traditional and non-traditional; and allows students to explore a cultural amalgamation that is unique and shaped by geography, religion, and colonial experience. The seminar made MLWGS history in the 2016 – 2017 Academic Year with a successful trip to Morocco marking the school’s first trip to both the continent of Africa and the MENA region in general. Between 2017 and 2025, the course has taken students to Morocco five times.

On a motion by Heather Donbrosky, seconded by Meredith Moses, the 2026 International Trip to Morocco by Robinette Cross was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**XIII. Director’s Report**

**a. *Verbal Updates***

- The Moore Street Project remains a key part of the long-term facilities conversation, with attention to sustainability, preservation, and the needs of the next 25 years of students and staff.
- The school is also exploring a potential partnership with The Underground Kitchen, working with Michael Sparks, Nancy Koide, and Chef Steve Glenn to evaluate options for enhancing the lunch program in future years. This exploration aligns with our goals around nutrition, community partnerships, and sustainability.
- Athletics and co-curricular activities extended beyond team competition.
- The PTSA Community Service Fair introduced freshmen and upperclassmen to a wide range of service opportunities.
- The annual Information Forum for prospective students and families from all 14 divisions was held in late October. The day featured presentations on academics, student life, and support services, followed by student-led tours and conversations with faculty. The event was widely praised for its organization, warmth, and clear communication. Teacher Michael White and a number of teacher and student volunteers really made that event a success.
- Homecoming Week brought the community together through spirit days, games, and a well-attended dance that showcased student enthusiasm and school pride. Homecoming logistics and programming were coordinated by Erin Ortiz, whose work ensured a safe, engaging, and joyful experience for students. The dance was a wonderful success, thanks to Teacher Amy Maxey.
- Speech and Debate students achieved outstanding individual results at states, and the program continues to represent MLWGS at the highest level.

- Quiz Bowl competed in VCU's fall tournament and successfully fielded five teams, the most of any school at the event. Their performance and sportsmanship reflected strong preparation and teamwork.
- Students also represented MLWGS in the taping of the Battle of the Brains competition on CBS-6. Their quick thinking, teamwork, and sportsmanship were noted.
- In the arts, senior Maddie Bridge presented a solo art showcase in the MLWGS art wing, featuring expressive portraiture and figure studies that highlighted both technical skill and creative voice.
- Teacher Jeff Hall's gallery exhibition on banned books at ArtSpace continues to draw community attention and has been highlighted as a successful example of art engaging with questions of intellectual freedom.
- Student leaders attended the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities Diversity Dialogue Day, engaging in facilitated conversations on equity, identity, and inclusion.
- Pre-AP Spanish classes participated in an in-school film experience in the Forum to extend language and cultural learning beyond the textbook.
- Unity Day was observed with students and staff wearing orange in support of kindness, inclusion, and anti-bullying efforts, reinforcing our commitment to a safe and welcoming environment.
- The Science National Honor Society and the National Honor Society held induction ceremonies recognizing students for academic achievement, leadership, service, and character.
- The Thomas Jefferson Honor Society Speaker Series also continued, providing students with opportunities to hear about civic engagement and leadership.
- Guest speakers have added depth to the student experience. The Heritage Speakers class welcomed guest speaker Alex Guzman, who shared language and cultural perspectives with students.
- Within the Social Studies department, Mr. Sam Ulmschneider, MLWGS teacher, led a lunchtime session on current Supreme Court of the United States cases, focusing on the Court's role and appointments as part of the department's speaker series.
- Diwali was celebrated with a schoolwide luncheon and a multicultural assembly in the Forum and Commons, bringing students, families, and staff together to share food, culture, and storytelling.
- Inclement Weather plan: To strengthen readiness for inclement weather or emergency closures, the school will hold Virtual Instruction Days on November 24 and 25, with one synchronous and one asynchronous day designed to maintain instructional continuity while testing our systems and procedures.
- PSAT: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School successfully administered the PSAT to all sophomores and juniors in October. Lead Counselor, Joy Cobb and Chief Technology Officer,

David Bortz managed all of the logistics for us. The day ran smoothly and reflected careful coordination from counseling, staff proctors, and teachers across the building.

- AP Exam Fee Payment Notice: Advanced Placement (AP) students and their parents: AP exam fees were incorporated into student fees this year. We realize that AP exam fees can be costly and may need additional time for payment. As announced earlier in the school year, families may pace themselves by paying for AP exams through October 24<sup>th</sup>. Beginning October 25<sup>th</sup>, the \$40 College Board late fee will be applied.

- Winter Sports start November 10, 2025.

- Robotics: On Sunday, November 16, 2025, the Mech Tech Dragons will host a FIRST Lego League tournament at MLWGS for local elementary and middle school teams.

- MLWGS Drama presents The High School Musical, November 20-22, 2025, 7:00 pm. *High School Musical* is a 2006 American musical television film produced by and aired on Disney Channel as part of the network's slate of original television films.

Directed by Desiree Dabney

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

Tickets are available at the door or online.

- Virtual FY27 Budget Development Town Hall for Public Input, December 9, 2025, @ 6:00 pm. Results will be shared with the RSB.

- On December 3rd from 6:30-8:00 PM, there will be an Honor Council Town Hall meeting in the MLWGS auditorium. Thank you to Dr. Williams and her committee members for putting this opportunity to discuss the implications of AI and cheating.

- Winter Concert is December 17, 2025

VENUE selection is off campus to accommodate the Maggie Walker Music Program's longstanding tradition of combining band, chorus, and orchestra for the winter concert.

Concert Location: Highland Springs High School, 200 S Airport Dr., Highland Springs, VA 23075  
Concert Date: Friday, December 17, 7:00 pm.

Concert Day Student Assembly is on December 19<sup>th</sup> during assemblies.

***b. Coming Events: November 13, 2025, through January 15, 2026***

November 11 & 12: Annual Signs of Suicide assembly: Opt Out available (Counseling)

November 12: Guest Speaker: Dr. Cohen, Professor of Speech & Theater @ Randolph College

November 13: 9:00 Executive School Board meeting

November 14-16: VAMUN Conference @ UVA

November 16: First Lego League Regional Tournament @ MLWGS

November 17: 6:00 PM Goethe Institute Art Exhibit @ MLWGS

November 20-22: 7-10 PM "High School Musical" @ MLWGS auditorium

November 24: Virtual Synchronous Learning Day

November 25: Virtual Asynchronous Learning Day

November 26-28: Holiday

December 1: Divisional Seat Commitments are due. As of 11/10, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Henrico, Hopewell, Petersburg, & Prince George have submitted this information.

December 3: 6:30-8:00 PM Honor Council Town Hall Meeting @ MLWGS auditorium

December 4: 6:30-8:30 PM Foundation Director's Circle Reception

December 5: 5:00-8:00 PM MENA Winter Holiday Bazaar MLWGS cafeteria & commons  
December 8: 7:00-8:30 PM Richmond City School Board: Districts 2 & 3 Community Meeting  
December 9: 6:00-7:00 PM Virtual FY27 Budget Development Town Hall  
December 12: 5:00-7:00 PM Battle of the Bands @ MLWGS auditorium  
December 12-13: Freshman Dance & Lock-in @ MLWGS Commons  
December 17: 7:00-9:00 PM MLWGS Winter Concert @ Highland Springs HS  
December 22-January 2: Winter Break

**c. *Reminder: 2026-2027 Division Enrollment Due to MLWGS December 1, 2025***

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

Letters have been provided to participating school divisions for their 2026-2027 student enrollment commitment. Note that each letter should be executed by the division superintendent and school board member and returned to MLWGS by December 1, 2025.

**d. *2026 VSBA Policy Renewal Agreement***

MLWGS originally entered into an agreement with the VSBA effective January 1, 2012, at a contract fee of \$1,000 per year. This agreement was renewed with the VSBA. This agreement will be renewed on January 1, 2026, with no pricing increase (\$1,000).

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

#### **XIV. Unfinished Business**

**a. *Strategic Plan Development Update by Kristin Janssen, Executive Director***

**Theme:** *Investing in the Future: Maggie L. Walker Strategic Plan 2026–2031*

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School has completed the development of its new Mission and Vision Statements, which now serve as the foundation for the 2026–2031 Strategic Plan. The school is entering the next phase: building out detailed goals and action steps within five strategic “investment areas.” Each committee includes teachers, students, parents, alumni, and regional stakeholders and will finalize its framework by the March 2026 Regional School Board meeting.

Once this internal work is complete, the finalized plan will be presented as a glossy, public-facing document. We want to capitalize on our namesake’s banking background. (Thank you, Dr. Williams!) *Investing in the Future: The Maggie L. Walker Strategic Plan 2026–2031*. It will be featured on the school’s website. This publication will celebrate the school’s identity and history while serving as a practical guide for future decisions, resource allocation, and continuous improvement.

**Mission**

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies provides rigorous, inclusive, and interdisciplinary educational experiences that cultivate curiosity, creativity, and civic engagement. Within a welcoming and collaborative community, the school cultivates students’ understanding of global perspectives and ethical leadership. Guided by



integrity, empathy, and The Walker Way, we prepare well-rounded learners to think critically, lead with courage, and contribute meaningfully to their communities and the wider world.

### **Vision**

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies will be recognized as a model of innovative, globally minded education. Inspired by the courage and conviction of our school’s namesake, we envision graduates who are lifelong learners, fluent in cultures and languages, and dedicated to service and leadership. They will be bold thinkers and compassionate citizens who strengthen their communities and shape a more connected world through creativity, collaboration, and integrity.

The full plan should be finished by March, 2026.

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

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

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the chair and vice-chair at the January 15, 2026, meeting.

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
James Taylor – Chair	
Heather Donbrosky– Vice-Chair	

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

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, elections shall occur for the board clerk(s) at the January 15, 2026, meeting.

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Barbara Marshall – Clerk	
Lucas Veale – Deputy Clerk	

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

As stipulated in the MLWGS Constitution, Article IV, Section 3, the election of the annual Executive Committee members shall be held during the January 15, 2026, reorganization meeting.

<b>2025 Membership</b>	<b>2026 Membership</b>
Meredith Moses, Goochland	
James Taylor, Powhatan	
Heather Donbrosky – New Kent	
Kathryn Ricard - Richmond	
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg	

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

**Policy 1012.b** The committee includes the MLWGS Director and up to two members of the Regional School Board. Other members may include the assistant director(s), faculty member(s), staff member, and a PTSA representative. The committee will review, amend, and make recommendations to the Regional School Board for policy approval or updates as initiated by the VSBA.

<b>2025 Membership</b>	<b>2026 Membership</b>
Ms. Lisa Hudgins, Regional School Board	TBD
Ms. Meredith Moses, Regional School Board	TBD
Ms. Kristin Janssen, Executive Director	Ms. Kristin Janssen, Executive Director
Dr. Lisa Williams, Assistant Director	Dr. Lisa Williams, Assistant Director
Dr. Max Smith, Assistant Director	Dr. Max Smith, Assistant Director
Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk	Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
Paige Hawkins - Faculty	Paige Hawkins - Faculty
Dr. Rachel Loving - Faculty	Dr. Rachel Loving - Faculty
Open - Parent	Open - Parent

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

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

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

<b>2025 Membership</b>	<b>2026 Membership</b>
Paige Hawkins, Activities Director	Paige Hawkins, Activities Director
Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse	Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse
Erin Ortiz, Faculty-Social Worker	Erin Ortiz, Faculty-Social Worker
Wendy DeGroat, Librarian	Wendy DeGroat, Librarian
Open – Administration	TBD
Open, Student	TBD
Open, Student	TBD
Open, Parent	TBD
Open, Parent	TBD

**f. 2026 Assignment of the Director's Designee (*First Read*)**

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

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

<b>2025 Designee</b>	<b>2026 Designee</b>
Dr. Max Smith – Assistant Director	Dr. Max Smith – Assistant Director

**g. Announcement of Superintendent's Steering Committee Leadership 2026 (*First Read*)**

The Superintendent's Steering Committee will announce their Chair and Vice-Chair selections for 2026.

2025 Leadership	2026 Leadership
Dr. Beth Teigen-Powhatan, Chair	
Open, Vice-Chair	

**h. 2026 Election of the Finance Committee Members (*First Read*)**

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

2025 Membership	2026 Membership
Ms. Kristin Janssen, MLWGS Ex. Director	Ms. Kristin Janssen, MLWGS Ex. Director
Dr. Max Smith, MLWGS Asst. Director	Dr. Max Smith, MLWGS Asst. Director
Dr. Lisa Williams, MLWGS Asst. Director	Dr. Lisa Williams, MLWGS Asst. Director
Ms. Karen Hoover, MLWGS Bus. Mgr.	Ms. Karen Hoover, MLWGS Bus. Mgr.
Barbara Marshall, MLWGS Exec. Asst.	Barbara Marshall, MLWGS Exec. Asst.
Ms. Lynn Bragg, RPS	Ms. Lynn Bragg, RPS
Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover	Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover
Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield	Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield
Mr. John Wack, Henrico	Mr. John Wack, Henrico
Ms. Debbie Holloway, Powhatan	TBD

**i. 2026 Code of Conduct for School Board Members (*First Read*)**

Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 15, 2026, meeting.

**j. 2026 Code of Conduct for Clerks (*First Read*)**

Grounded in practice by the VSBA and many participating school divisions, the code will be presented for adoption at the January 15, 2026, meeting.

**k. 2026 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (*First Read*)**

The director recommended a review of the proposed 2026 calendar of meetings and consultation with the member's local calendar for conflicts and/or modifications. Approval will be requested at the January 15, 2026, meeting of the Regional School Board.

**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS  
JANUARY 2026-JANUARY 2027**

January 8, 2026

January 13, 2026

Finance Oversight Committee Meeting

**Board Orientation for New Members if Needed**

January 15, 2026	<b>Reorganization Regional Board Meeting &amp; Budget Work Session</b>
February 5, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
February 19, 2026	<b>Regional Board Meeting &amp; Public Hearing for Input on Budget Proposal</b>
March 5, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
March 19, 2026	<b>Regional Board Meeting Budget and New Strategic Plan Adoption</b>
April 9, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
April 16, 2026	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
	<i>No May Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
May 21, 2026	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
June 5, 2025	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
June 11, 2026	<b>Executive Board Meeting (Accommodates Holiday)</b>
	<i>No July Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
July 2026	<b>No Regional or Executive Board Meeting</b>
	<i>No August Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
August 20, 2026	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
	<i>No September Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
September 17, 2026	<b>Regional Board Meeting</b>
October 8, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
October 15, 2026	<b>Regional Board Meeting</b>
November 5, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
November 12, 2026	<b>Executive Board Meeting (Accommodates VSBA Conf)</b>
December 8, 2026	<b>FY28 Budget Development Public Town Hall (6:00pm)</b>
	<i>No December Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
December 2026	<b>No December Regional or Executive Board Meeting</b>
January 7, 2027	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
January 19, 2027	<b>Board Orientation for New Members if Needed</b>
January 21, 2027	<b>Reorganization Regional Board Meeting</b>

**l. New Course Proposals for AY2026-2027 (*First Read*)**

None submitted.

**m. New International Trip Proposal – Japan, Summer 2027 (*First Read*)**

Ms. Yoko Eshita was in attendance to present this trip proposal to the board.

International Language Teacher Yoko Eshita and Librarian Wendy DeGroat, are proposing an international trip to Japan, including the cities of Tokyo, Wakayama, and Kyoto, during late June 2027, through early July 2027. Dates will be finalized upon confirmation of the number of students attending.

The trip is designed for 8-18 students with a projected cost of \$4,875.00 per student.

Approval will be requested at the boards' January 15, 2026, meeting.

**n. AP African American Studies Class Trip Proposal to Charleston, South Carolina, March 12-16, 2026 (*First Read*)**

Per the executive director, Ms. Lee will be in attendance for a presentation on this trip to the board at their January meeting.

The AP African American Studies Class (taught by NaKita Lee) is planning an experiential learning trip to Charleston, South Carolina. The trip is intended to help students make deep connections to critical moments in African American history and culture concerning race, religion, gender, and equity in the United States. Students will explore the history and culture of the Gullah Geechee people, descendants of enslaved Africans brought through the transatlantic slave trade. Students will examine how their language, traditions, and resilience preserve and highlight the legacy of the African diaspora in the Lowcountry. The curriculum and trip align closely with the mission and vision of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and will serve as one of this year's highlights to help students understand diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice.

Chaperones: Ms. NaKita Lee, Dr. Lisa Williams.

Total cost per student \$535.58 at 25 students (there are 30 students enrolled in the course). This cost may be lowered based on the number of students committing to the trip and fundraising efforts.

Approval will be requested at the boards' January 15, 2026, meeting.

#### **XIV. Information Items**

- Finance Committee Meeting, November 6, 2025, *Not Available*
- MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week Oct 13, 2025 - Savanna Davis, '26-King & Queen
- MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week, October 27, 2025-Kay Hodges, City of Richmond
- MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week, October 20, 2025-Anthony Bastardi, City of Richmond

#### **XV. New Business**

- None.

#### **XVI. Announcements/Additional Discussion**

- None.

#### **XVII. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

There being no other business, this meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

#### **Next Meeting of the Regional School Board**

January 15, 2026, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Richmond, VA 23220.  
804-354-6800 x 2190.

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James Taylor, Chair

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Kristin K. Janssen, Executive Director

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Minutes Recorded by:  
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk