

MINUTES

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

Thursday, January 15, 2026

9:02 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kristin Janssen, Executive Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, called the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence and Remembrance of Linda Hyslop

The executive director called for a moment of silence during which she highlighted Linda Hyslop's service to the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School community.

Linda Hyslop-Hopewell School Board Serving MLWGS 2015-2016 and July 1, 2019 – December 2025

Linda Elaine Hyslop dedicated nearly 60 years to serving Hopewell's students and families as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, school board member, and statewide education leader. Her deep sense of community was reflected in her lifelong commitment to Hopewell through her service on local and regional boards, her church, and her unwavering support of Hopewell High School. Her work with the Virginia Department of Education, William & Mary, Virginia ASCD, CodeRVA, and the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School demonstrated true collaboration across institutions to strengthen public education. She showed remarkable courage by repeatedly stepping forward to lead, including returning from retirement to continue advocating for schools and young people when her community needed her most. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at Hopewell High School, 400 S. Mesa Drive, Hopewell, Virginia, to honor her life of compassion, service, and devotion to others.

Ms. Janssen said, "We are deeply grateful for her service and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and her Hopewell community."

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The board and audience stood for the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Board members and superintendents are listed by locality in alphabetical order.

Present:

Ms. Lisa Hudgins, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools

Ms. Debbie Walwer, **School Board**, Colonial Heights Public Schools

Ms. Barbara Pittman for Ms. Mary Benjamin, **School Board**, Dinwiddie Public Schools

Ms. Meredith Moses, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools

Ms. Whitney Welsh, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools (*late arrival*)
Ms. Alicia Atkins, **School Board**, Henrico County Public
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. Katina Otey, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. George Fohl for 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 County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. La-Donna Mills for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Yozmin Gay for Ms. Yolanda Brown **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Ms. Kristin Janssen, **Executive Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams and Dr. Max Smith – MLWGS Administration
Ms. Wendy DeGroat and Mr. David Bortz – MLWGS Staff
Ms. Ginger O'Neil, MW Foundation

Absent:

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

Dr. Wayne Lyle, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools

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

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

- A. The Regional School Board may conduct any meeting wherein the public business is discussed or transacted through electronic communication means if 1) on or before the day of a meeting, a member of the Regional School Board notifies the chair that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the

member's physical attendance or that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter; and **2) the Regional School Board approves the member's participation by a majority vote of the members present at the primary or central meeting location.**

No requests were made for board members to participate remotely.

V.b Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Election of the Chair

Nomination: Heather Donbrosky was nominated by Meredith Moses. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by Meredith Moses was seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, resulting in Heather Donbrosky being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2026 Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. After congratulations, the executive director turned the gavel over to Ms. Donbrosky.

Ms. Donbrosky thanked the board for tasking her with this responsibility.

VII. Election of the Vice-Chair

Nomination: Kathryn Ricard was nominated by Heather Donbrosky. There being no other nominations from the floor; the nomination motion by Heather Donbrosky was seconded by James Taylor, resulting in Kathryn Ricard being unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2026 Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board. The chair thanked Ms. Ricard for her willingness to service.

VIII. Election of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Nomination: Barbara Marshall was nominated for Board Clerk by Kristin Janssen. There being no other nominations; on a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by James Taylor; Barbara Marshall was unanimously elected to serve as the 2026 Clerk of the Maggie L Walker Governor's School Regional Board.

Nomination: Lucas Veale was nominated for Deputy Board Clerk by Kristin Janssen. There being no other nominations; on a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by James Taylor; Lucas Veale was unanimously elected to serve as the 2026 Deputy Clerk of the Maggie L Walker Governor's School Regional Board.

IX. Election of the Executive Board 2026

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

An Executive Committee (the Executive Board), shall have the full authority of the Regional Board in all matters except the amendment of the constitution and bylaws, approval of policy,

modifications to the approved budget, issues that would require a closed session, or employment of the Director. The Executive Board shall consist of five Regional Board members: the Chair or Vice-Chair and four other Regional Board members to be elected from its membership at the January reorganizational meeting for a term of one year.

After discussion, the following slate was offered:

2025 Membership	2026 Membership
Meredith Moses, Goochland	Meredith Moses, Goochland
James Taylor, Powhatan	James Taylor, Powhatan
Kathryn Ricard, Richmond	Kathryn Ricard, Richmond
Heather Donbrosky, New Kent	Heather Donbrosky, New Kent
Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg	Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg

Meredith Moses made a motion to approve the slate of Moses, Taylor, Ricard, Donbrosky, and Pritchett for the 2026 Executive Board, seconded by Harwood Hall, this slate was unanimously approved on a voice vote for the 2026 Executive Board membership.

X. Assignment of the Executive Director’s Designee 2026

The executive director recommended Dr. Michael Smith as the 2026 executive director’s designee.

On a motion by James Taylor, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, Michael Smith was unanimously elected on a voice vote to serve as the 2026 executive director’s designee to the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board.

XI. The announcement of the Superintendent’s 2026 Steering Committee Leadership

Per agreement among the superintendents, Dr. Brian Nichols will serve as chair for 2026 of the Superintendent’s Steering Committee.

XII. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Debbie Walwer, minutes for the November 13, 2025, Executive School Board meeting were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

On a separate motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Debbie Walwer, minutes for the October 16, 2025 Regional School Board meeting were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

Note: The board clerk was on medical leave of absence during the October meeting and the deputy clerk was unable to record or transcribe at this meeting. We are substituting the parallel notes that were taken by the faculty liaison, Ms. Wendy DeGroat, who attended the meeting.

XIII. Recognitions

- **MLWGS Sophomore (Henrico), Serine Oh, Winner of the International Literature Olympiad**

Serine Oh and teacher Erin MacPherson were on hand for recognition of her winning Essay “Manuscripts Don’t Burn: Satire in 20th and 21st Century Literature.”

Here are some bits of information from the International Literature Olympiad website:

Regions are broken up into the following:

1. East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania
2. Europe, Russia, and Central Asia
3. Middle East, North Africa, Central and South Africa
4. South America, Central America, Mexico, and the islands of the Caribbean
5. North America

Serine was named the North America regional winner at the end of October before advancing to the international round, where she faced a brand-new prompt and only seven days to craft a response of no more than 1,500 words. **AND SHE WON!**

- **MLWGS Junior (Hanover), Sydney Fitzgerald, Named Russian Scholar Laureate**

Sydney Fitzgerald and teacher Michael White, were on hand for Sydney’s recognition as a 2025 National Russian Scholar Laureate, one of only 30 students recognized nationwide by the American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR).

This prestigious award spotlights outstanding high school-level Russian students whose outstanding academic performance and passion for Slavic languages and cultures distinguish them in programs across the country.

Both Sydney and her Russian teacher, Mr. Michael White, will be featured in a special edition of the ACTR Newsletter shared with Russian educators nationwide.

XIV. Public Comments

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

No comments were received online or presented in person.

XV. Director’s Report

- A. Verbal Update – (Note: not all topics listed here were verbally highlighted at the table but were included in the board’s packet of information)***

- **Thoughts on Losing Pat Taylor, Governor’s School Founding Teacher/ Administrator by Kristin Janssen**

I (*Ms. Janssen*) only knew Pat Taylor as a legend. An incredible math teacher and part of the small but mighty team who helped put our Governor’s School on the map. She was so skilled at her craft that she inspired students to become educators and colleagues to stretch themselves, and the Foundation’s *Pat Taylor Award* exists because of the impact she made here.

Pat shaped students, staff, families, and communities, including during her years in Chesterfield before joining Maggie Walker. She had a way of imagining what was possible instead of dwelling on what was not. Brilliance is not diminished by someone’s passing. It carries on in the people they taught, supported, and loved. Her light is still here. As soon as more information is shared with us, we will pass it along.

Obituary Information

- **Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School will be featured this year in a PBS video series.** Filming will occur on campus on February 11, 2026. The segment will include two teachers, one director, one student, and one parent.

- **German 4 and AP German Installation on Monday, November 17th, 6:00 p.m.**

The German 4 and AP German Installation was held on Monday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m. We met at the exhibit, which was located under the stairwell on the ground floor closest to the student parking lot. The students welcomed Max Gruenig from Pocacito, and visitors from the German Embassy (the sponsors of our project) and Ms. Janssen. Finally, the event included a panel discussion with students, Max Gruenig, and the artist, R. Stein Wexler, who guided the project.

This has been quite a learning experience for us all and the students hope you will enjoy what they have created.

- **Mech Tech Dragons: FRC 422 Annual Tournament at MLWGS, November 16, 2025**

On November 16, the MLWGS Mech Tech Dragons hosted our annual FLL Tournament! We invited FLL teams from the surrounding areas to compete in this year’s game—“Unearthed!” We had so much fun watching the teams show off their programming skills and all the amazing projects they created. Thank you so much to 10224 Mav Mechanics for volunteering to help ref the matches, as well as to FTC Teams 16067 and 24977 Retronic Lions for showing off their robot! Huge shoutout to all of the alumni, mentors, and volunteers who came out to judge. We could not have hosted this event without the help of all of these amazing people!

We also invited Autism Society Central VA to our event to introduce the world of FLL to students of all abilities. It was so much fun watching them explore the game and problem-solve to complete the various challenges. We are so grateful for our partnership with ASCV, and we cannot wait to invite them back.

- **Virtual Instruction Days on November 24 and 25 (NOTE: SEE SNOW DAYS ANNOUNCEMENT BELOW)**, we want to note to our community that these served as an important practice opportunity for potential inclement-weather closures later in the year—one

synchronous day and one asynchronous day will allow us to ensure instructional continuity no matter the conditions. The building will be closed on November 24th and 25th. We will return to school on Monday, December 1st.

- The **We the People** class visited the ***Give Me Liberty: Virginia and the Revolution, UnBound: Free Black Virginians Before the Civil War***, on Tuesday, December 2nd, including visiting with the newly established civics education center at the museum as part of their research.
- **Honor Assembly on Thursday, December 4th**, attended by Ms. Alicia Atkins, Henrico School Board member, and Ms. Heather Donbrosky, New Kent School Board member. The following information is provided by Dr. Lisa Williams:

Deepanshi Kumar ('26-Henrico)-Honor Council Chair, Priya Kumar ('27-Henrico)-Honor Council Vice-Chair, and Devansh Kumar ('28-Henrico) were instrumental in making the event successful. All Honor Council members and student ambassadors volunteered to assist in various capacities, and we are appreciative of their efforts as well.

The presentation included a [Town Hall Video.mov](#) and a panel of teachers (Connie Hill, Alecia Nichols, and Sam Ulmschneider), students (Deepanshi Kumar and Priya Kumar), alumnae (Judge Stacy Lee and Ms. Kendra Wergin), and administrators (Dr. Max Smith and Dr. Lisa Williams). Here are the [Honor Town Hall Notes 3Dec2025 - Google Docs](#) from the event, taken by Wendy DeGroat.

Here is today's [Message from the Executive Director](#) to all students and faculty who participated in organizing and facilitating the event. *"I want to share my sincere thanks for the thoughtful and timely forum you brought to our community last night. I keep coming back to the Walker Way and the themes of honor and integrity that were lifted up throughout the entire evening. What we explored together goes far beyond a single act of cheating. Mrs. Hill emphasized that point at the end of the night. It reminded us that honor is not a rule to follow, but a way of living in community with one another.*

One of our panelists captured the same sentiment when she shared that being a Maggie Walker graduate remains one of her greatest honors. Mr. U also reminded us of the heart of this place when he spoke about the joy he finds in the learning volley that goes back and forth between student and educator, and that his work is rooted in teaching, not policing. There were so many nuggets to think through and digest.

The video, the framing of the conversation, the questions asked, and the honest voices in the room reflected how deeply people care about this work. It struck me again and again that Maggie Walker is at its best when we talk openly about what we value, when we listen closely, and when we hold ourselves accountable.

Thank you to the Honor Council, Dr. Williams, Mrs. Hill, to our staff, our students, our alumnae, and to everyone who helped bring this forum to life. It was meaningful and important, and I look forward to the ongoing conversation.

Well done."

- **Snow Days Used:** Friday, December 5, Monday, December 8; and Tuesday, December 9. Also, the two virtual days in November on the 22nd and the 23rd are considered snow days. Legislation requires that virtual days cannot be pre-planned. MLWGS has used its allotted snow days.

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

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

- A. At least one public forum will be held before December 30 to solicit public input.
- B. The budget work-session date in January will be published as part of the Regional School Board’s meeting schedule and will be informative for fiscal planning purposes only.
- C. The proposed operating budget and capital improvement plan will be presented by the third Thursday in February.
- D. After the February presentation of the operating budget and capital improvement plan, a brief public synopsis of the operating budget and capital improvement plan will be published at least seven days before the date set for the hearing, at which any citizen shall have the right to attend and state his or her views thereon.
- E. A public hearing will be held before budget adoption in March.
- F. The budget can be adopted at its earliest in March.
- G. The Regional School Board shall annually publish the approved budget on the school's website or make the approved budget available in hard copy as needed to citizens for inspection.

- **Budget Development Public Input:** The Executive Director will provide verbal feedback from the virtual town hall held on December 9th.

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

[Zoom Recording of Town Hall](#) [Passcode: Y?WP%H1q](#)

[Public Comments Received Online Here](#)

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ONLINE RELATED TO THE FY27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT TOWN HALL				
Timestamp	Stakeholder Name	Affiliation	Home Division	Key School Priorities for Academic Year 2026-2027
12/1/2025 11:22:12	Abby Barnett	Student	Henrico	Functional internet, mental health services (not just putting the suicide help line on things and calling it a day), drama program funding
12/1/2025 14:55:01	Anaiah Broadnax	Applying for the 26/27 year	Henrico	Technology, community outreach events, and college opportunities for students
12/1/2025 22:43:01	Frederick Plaisted	Parent	Richmond	Secure funding to fully support the 2026-2027 budget

- **Mech Tech Dragons Legislative Open House at MLWGS, December 19th**

FIRST Team 422's Legislative Open House was December 19th from 5:30–7:30 PM at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.

Guests had the opportunity to meet our students, tour our robotics facilities, and see how our program is preparing Virginia's next generation of engineers, programmers, and technical innovators.

- **Professional Development Relationship with VCU**

Last year, the MLWGS Professional Development Subcommittee renewed the school's relationship with the VCU Clinical Faculty Program through the School of Education's Center for Teacher Leadership. From their website: The VCU Clinical Faculty Program, supported by the Metropolitan Educational Training Alliance (META), is a collaborative initiative involving Chesterfield County Public Schools, Hanover County Public Schools, Henrico County Public Schools, Powhatan County Public Schools, Richmond Public Schools, and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Clinical Faculty professional learning provides teacher leaders with coaching skills and formative assessment tools to enhance the teaching practices of novice teachers and foster the professional growth of mentor teachers.

If you are interested in improving your skills as a teacher mentor, or are perhaps considering one day having a Student Teacher, then please consider this great professional development opportunity! You can get more information from the [Clinical Faculty website](#).

- **Legal Representation**

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

- **Message to the school community on December 15, 2025**

From the Executive Director:

How do we determine whether to delay or close school due to inclement weather

Dear MLWGS community,

As we move into the time of year when weather can disrupt the school day, I want to share how we make decisions regarding delays and closures at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. Our school serves a large geographic region, and weather often affects one part of that region very differently from another. It is also important to remember that each of our fourteen participating divisions provides its own transportation, and they only transport students when they are operating on their own schedule. When a division closes, they do not run buses to MLWGS.

When a weather event is possible, we begin monitoring forecasts early. I stay in close communication with superintendents and regional directors so that we have a clear sense of their plans and what conditions look like across the area. In general, we look to our four largest divisions, Richmond, Chesterfield, Henrico, and Hanover. Together, these divisions account for

most of our students. If three of the four delay or close, we follow their lead. If there is a split among them, we typically follow Richmond because our building is located within the city.

We aim to make decisions before 9:00 PM. There are times when the timing of the storm requires us to wait until morning for accurate information. Once a decision is made, we send an email to families, update our website, and notify the local television stations.

If MLWGS is open but your home division is closed, you should stay home. Your absence will be excused, and you will be able to make up any missed work. If you choose to come to school on your own, that is your choice, but your safety should guide your decision. No student should feel pressured to drive on unsafe roads. Your division closed for a reason.

I hope this helps clarify the process behind these decisions. Academic time is important, but the safety of our students, staff, and families always comes first.

Thank you for your partnership, your flexibility, and the care you show one another. This community is remarkable, and I am grateful every day to serve alongside you.

- **Community Service Announcement to the community on December 16, 2025**

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

- **Dragon Advisory Program Update**

The Dragon Advisory program is now in its second year. We have made some changes to the program that I think have improved it considerably, and we are getting tremendous support from our student co-coordinators (Eleanor Heslinga, Samhith Sarva, and Jake Nelson), our Faculty Advisors, our room leaders (seniors who participated as mentors last year), and our mentors. Kelly, Rachel, and I are pleased with the direction the program is taking, so I'll share some information with you.

With meetings on Friday 11/14, and Friday 12/5 (run by Robinette and the Diversity Advocates) and Friday 12/12 (a class meeting that I will hold in preparation for lock-in), we will have had 10 Dragon Advisory meetings S1. Last year, we had 12 in the first semester. Due to short weeks and activities impacting our schedule, we only had one meeting last month, our Workroom Trick-or-Treat event. Thanks to all who participated in that!

Our goal was to reduce the number of meetings and to concentrate them in S1, when we're really helping freshmen transition; S2 will have even fewer meetings with the assumption that kids are mostly adjusted by then. There are only 6 meetings scheduled for S2, but mentors will be encouraged to keep in touch with the freshmen on a social and informal basis.

Last Friday, 11/14, in Advisory, we conducted a program and belonging **survey with the freshmen** to see how their Q1 experience in Dragon Advisory has been. (We did the same survey last year, so we should generate some comparative data.) Based on the results of this, we may have

some more concrete answers to the faculty questions about “Why are we spending so much time on the freshmen?” I will ask the A-Team if I can have five minutes at our December faculty meeting to share the results of this survey with you all.

Until then, thank you all for your tolerance, for your willingness to support our newest students, and for all that you do on a daily basis for the Maggie Walker community.

Ed Coleman, English Department Faculty

- **New Student Assessments January 24, 2026**

This year, the school received 1,207 applicants (+33 over last year) for the Class of 2030, with most assessments administered on January 24th. Regional Evaluations will be conducted at the Brightpoint - Chester campus on February 6th.

Per our testing coordinator, these are the rough numbers of applicants per division:

- Henrico - 431
- Richmond - 384
- Chesterfield - 217
- Hanover - 72
- Goochland - 17
- New Kent - 16
- Powhatan - 16
- Colonial Heights - 15
- Petersburg - 11
- Hopewell - 9
- Prince George - 7
- Dinwiddie - 5
- Charles City - 4
- K&Q - 3

- **Japanese Exchange, February 28 - March 14, 2026**

Students from our partner school in Japan are visiting Maggie L. Walker next March. The planned dates for the visit are **February 28th (Sat)– March 14th, 2026 (Sat)**, with a group of 12 students.

Our partner school, Chiben Gakuen, is in Wakayama, Japan, about 2 hours and 30 minutes south of Kyoto via train. The exchange is supported by our school. We have successfully hosted their visits for the past two years, and we are planning to visit them in the summer of 2027.

- **Save the Date: Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, February 28, 2026**

Plans are shaping up in a wonderful way for the 24th Annual Night of the Dragon, being held **February 26, 2026**, at the Faison Center. This year's theme is Green and Gold Masquerade! Make your plans now to join us for this hallmark social event and the largest MLWGS fundraiser of the year. Tickets go on sale in January.

- **Teacher-Generated Senior Seminar Proposals for the Class of 2027**

Teacher	Seminar Title
Benesh	Moneyball: The History and Sabermetrics of Baseball
Brown	Military History
Coleman	NEW: American Childhood: A Cultural and Literary Exploration
Cross	NEW: Community Impact & Advocacy
LeCroy-Whitworth	The Power of Story—Teaching Narrative through Travel Writing
Love	Jane Austen and Her Cultural Legacy: From Regency England to Modern Media
Merillat	Music Composition and Recording
Raviotta	Digital Video
Reed	NEW: Inspired by DaVinci: Mathematics and the Arts
Rotche	NEW: Ecology of the James
Sheppard	Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers
Stinnett	Photojournalism in the Digital Age
Stinnett	Fashion and Style: Implications of the Clothes on Our Backs
Utterback	NEW: Art Activision: How Artists Create Change
White	Slavic Folklore

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

This year’s theme for Black History Month is Women’s Voices: Truth and Triumph, and activities will include:

- Eliza Mickens, gender champion and storyteller, and the great-great-great granddaughter of Maggie Lena Walker, will be presenting on women’s resilience and their evolving roles in society.
- Mrs. Angela Patten, founder of Girls for a Change, will lead a discussion on a documentary viewing of *Daughters*, a film she produced that is now on Netflix. *Daughters* focuses on the experiences of African American girls who have fathers in prison, and the larger discussion of the impact of incarceration on the Black family.
- We will also offer a Truth and Triumph Tour for students to view the VMFA exhibit *Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys*.

B. Coming Events

January 15, 2026, through February 19, 2026

Thursday, January 15 th	Reorganization Meeting for the Regional School Board and Budget Work Session, starting at 9 am, Room 153
Friday, January 16 th	Winter Pep Rally, 2:00 pm Gymnasium
	AY27 Course Registration Assembly for Underclassmen, 11:55 am – 12:25 pm, Auditorium
Monday, January 19 th	HOLIDAY
Wednesday, January 21 st	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm–5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, January 22 nd	Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4 pm–7 pm
Saturday, January 24 th	New Student Evaluation Day for the Class of 2030, 2-Sessions, morning and afternoon, 8 am–4:30 pm, MLWGS

Wednesday, January 28 th	Day 1 of College Kick-Off, 9 am–11:30 am, Auditorium
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm–5:30 pm, Room 104
	TJ History Honor Society Induction, 5 pm–8:30 pm, Auditorium
Thursday, January 29 th	Day 2 of College Kick-Off, 10 am–3:30 pm, Auditorium
Friday, January 30 th	Day 1 Junior Regional Orchestra at Randolph Macon
	District Chorus at JR Tucker HS, 8 am-5 pm
Saturday, January 31 st	Day 2 Junior Regional Orchestra at Randolph Macon
	Day 2 District Chorus at JR Tucker HS
	We the People State Championship
	New Student Assessment Snow Date if Needed, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, or 8 am-4:30 pm if a full-day is needed
Tuesday, February 3 rd	Monthly Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm, Forum
Wednesday, February 4 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm–5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, February 5 th	Regional Application Evaluation Day, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Brightpoint CC, Chester
Thursday, February 5 th – Saturday, February 7 th	District Band Event at Highland Springs HS
Wednesday, February 11 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm–5:30 pm, Room 104
Friday, February 13 th	Band Assessment Clinic, 4 pm-6 pm, Room 124
Monday, February 16 th	HOLIDAY
Wednesday, February 18 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, February 19 th	Regular Meeting of the Regional School Board and Budget Public Hearing, starting at 9:00 am, Room 153

C. Regional School Board Protocols Manual 2026

Pursuant to Policy 1007-P the Regional School Board is issued at the reorganizational meeting its Protocols Manual. Board members received their manual via online link and a copy at their table.

D. Officers of Model UN for GSMUN XXVIII, February 20-21, 2026

Based out of Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies in Richmond, Virginia, the Governor’s School Model United Nations Conference (GSMUN) is one of the longest-running and largest high school Model UN conferences on the East Coast.

- 500+ delegates in attendance each year
- \$10,000+ raised in donation to our charity partner
- 100+ student chairs, staffers, and volunteers
- 100% student-led

GSMUN hopes to raise \$10,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation, the 2026 chosen charity.

Officers: Deepanshi Kumar (Secretary General), Sanaya Bothra (Director General), and Ms. Jaelyn Szerokman (Sponsor)

XVI. Unfinished Business

- a. **Strategic Plan Implementation Report** (no update available as the team is focusing on the development of the new plan).

XVII. Consent Items

On a motion by Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a block on a voice vote: personnel actions for January 2026, fiscal status reports of November 30, 2025, and December 31, 2025, and the donations reports of November 30, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

During the executive director’s verbal presentation, she discussed the status of the outstanding fiscal reports, stating a more realistic goal now for their completion is the end of June as some items have not moved along as quickly as she had hoped.

XVIII. Action Items

- a. **2026 Code of Conduct for Board Members (Second Read)**

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

On a motion from Meredith Moses, seconded by Alicia Atkins, the 2026 Code of Conduct for Regional School Board Members was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

- b. **2026 Code of Conduct for Clerks (Second Read)**

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

On a motion from Kathryn Ricard, seconded by James Taylor, the 2026 Code of Conduct for Clerks was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

- c. **2026 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings (Second Read)**

Ms. Janssen discussed the board’s schedule proposal for (5) Regional School Board meetings and (5) Executive Board meetings in 2026.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026-2027

January 8, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
January 13, 2026	Board Orientation for New Members if Needed
January 15, 2026	Reorganization Regional Board Meeting & Budget Work Session
February 5, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
February 19, 2026	Regional Board Meeting & Public Hearing for Input on Budget Proposal
March 5, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting

March 19, 2026	Regional Board Meeting Budget and New Strategic Plan Adoption
April 9, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
April 16, 2026	Executive Board Meeting
	<i>No May Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
May 21, 2026	Executive Board Meeting
June 4, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
June 11, 2026	Executive Board Meeting (Accommodates Holiday)
	<i>No July Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
July 2026	No Regional or Executive Board Meeting
	<i>No August Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
August 20, 2026	Executive Board Meeting
	<i>No September Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
September 17, 2026	Regional Board Meeting
October 8, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
October 15, 2026	Regional Board Meeting
November 5, 2026	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
November 12, 2026	Executive Board Meeting (Accommodates VSBA Conf)
December 8, 2026	FY28 Budget Development Public Town Hall (6:00pm)
	<i>No December Finance Oversight Committee Meeting</i>
December 2026	No December Regional or Executive Board Meeting
January 7, 2027	Finance Oversight Committee Meeting
January 19, 2027	Board Orientation for New Members if Needed
January 21, 2027	Reorganization Regional Board Meeting

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the 2026 Regional School Board Calendar of Meetings was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

d. Policy Committee Membership 2026 (Second Read)

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

2025 Membership	2026 Membership
Ms. Lisa Hudgins, Regional School Board	Ms. Lisa Hudgins, Regional School Board
Ms. Meredith Moses, Regional School Board	Ms. Meredith Moses, Regional School Board
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
Ms. Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk	Ms Barbara Marshall, Board Clerk
Ms. Paige Hawkins, Faculty	Ms. Paige Hawkins, Faculty
Dr. Rachel Loving, Faculty	Dr. Rachel Loving, Faculty

On a motion by Alicia Atkins, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the 2026 policy committee membership was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

e. Wellness Committee Membership 2026 (Second Read)

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

2025 Membership	2026 Membership
Paige Hawkins, Activities Director	Paige Hawkins, Activities Director
Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse	Alisa Shapiro, School Nurse
Erin Ortiz, School Social Worker	Erin Ortiz, School Social Worker
Wendy DeGroat, Librarian	Wendy DeGroat, Librarian
Open – Administrator	Open - Administrator
Open, Student	Open, Student
Open, Student	Open, Student
Open, Parent	Open, Parent
Open, Parent	Open, Parent

Ms. Janssen was asked how students are selected to serve on this committee, do they volunteer? Ms. Janssen said it’s a matter of getting the word out. Once there are additional members, we will bring them forward for the board’s approval.

On a motion by Lisa Hudgins, seconded by Debbie Walwer, the 2026 wellness committee membership was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

f. Finance Committee Membership 2026 (Second Read)

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

2025 Membership	2026 Membership
Ms. Kristin Janssen, Executive Director	Ms. Kristin Janssen, Executive Director
Dr. Max Smith, Asst. Director	Dr. Max Smith, Asst. Director
Dr. Lisa Williams, Asst. Director	Dr. Lisa Williams, 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 Bragga, RPS	Ms. Lynn Bragga, RPS
Ms. Christina Berta, Hanover	Ms. Angela Melton, Hanover
Ms. Paula Aldous, Chesterfield	Ms. Jami Peoples, Chesterfield
Mr. John Wack, Henrico	Mr. John Wack, Henrico
Ms. Debbie Halloway, Powhatan	(will be appointed by Superintendent)

Dr. Tiegen stated that the fifth division officer represents the perspective of the smaller divisions. The superintendents will check with their personnel after this meeting and will inform the board at a later meeting who is available to serve.

On a motion from James Taylor, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the 2026 finance committee members were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

g. Dragons in Japan 2027 Proposal (*Second Read*)

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. Ms. Moses asked if the school covered any part of the student cost, to which Ms. Janssen replied to her, 'no.'

Chaperones: Yoko Eshita and Wendy DeGroat.

On a motion from Alicia Atkins, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the Japan 2027 trip proposal by Ms. Eshita was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

h. AP African American Studies Class Trip Proposal to Charleston, South Carolina, March 2026 (*Second Read*)

The AP African American Studies Class is planning an experiential learning trip to Charleston, South Carolina, March 12, 2026, through March 15, 2026. 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.

The trip is designed for 30 students with a projected student cost is \$535.58 per student for 25 students (this number accommodates students who may not be attending).

Chaperones: NaKita Lee and Dr. Lisa Williams.

Dr. Williams presented a verbal highlight of this proposal for the board in the absence of Ms. Lee.

On a motion from Kathryn Ricard, seconded by Alicia Atkins, the Charleston, South Carolina March 2026 trip proposal by Ms. Lee was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XIX. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. 2026-2027 School Operating Calendar Proposal (*First Read*)

There are no major changes. One minor change is that Senior Showcase was able to be scheduled the week prior to Final Exams due to AP exams falling particularly early in May 2027.

After a few years of an August start, we have a solid foundation to build the yearlong calendar.

Ms. Janssen credited Dr. Smith and his team for the development of this calendar proposal. She mentioned he worked closely with CodeRVA as division transportation departments requested similar operational days.

Ms. Moses noted there was no graduation date or a last day for students listed and further asked if June 4th was the last date. Dr. Smith responded, no date has been established yet for graduation as we still need to lock down a venue. He continued, the week of June 1-4 will be for students who are doing either make-ups or SOL's, otherwise students would not be required to be in attendance.

A revised version of the calendar will be presented to the board in February that will include these dates.

2026-27 MLWGS School Calendar (The Regional School Board retains the right to adjust the calendar as needed.)

July 2026	August 2026	September 2026	October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
1 We	1 Sa	1 Tu	1 Th	1 Su No School for students tomorrow	1 Tu
2 Th School Holiday (Indep. Day (obs.))	2 Su	2 We	2 Fr Alumni Showcase & Fall Fest	2 Mo Parent-Teacher Conferences (12-3, 4-7)	2 We
3 Fr School closed	3 Mo	3 Th	3 Sa	3 Tu School Holiday (Election Day)	3 Th
4 Sa Independence Day	4 Tu	4 Fr School Holiday	4 Su	4 We	4 Fr
5 Su	5 We	5 Sa	5 Mo	5 Th Q1 Report Cards	5 Sa
6 Mo	6 Th Dept Chairs Return	6 Su	6 Tu	6 Fr	6 Su
7 Tu	7 Fr	7 Mo School Holiday (Labor Day)	7 We	7 Sa	7 Mo
8 We	8 Sa	8 Tu	8 Th	8 Su Diwali	8 Tu
9 Th	9 Su	9 We Back to School Night	9 Fr	9 Mo School Holiday (Diwali observed)	9 We
10 Fr School closed	10 Mo	10 Th	10 Sa	10 Tu	10 Th
11 Sa	11 Tu New Teacher Academy	11 Fr	11 Su	11 We Veterans Day	11 Fr
12 Su	12 We New Teacher Academy	12 Sa Rosh Hashanah	12 Mo Teacher Work Day	12 Th	12 Sa
13 Mo	13 Th Teachers Return	13 Su	13 Tu	13 Fr	13 Su
14 Tu	14 Fr Professional Dev	14 Mo	14 We	14 Sa	14 Mo
15 We	15 Sa	15 Tu	15 Th	15 Su	15 Tu
16 Th	16 Su	16 We	16 Fr	16 Mo	16 We
17 Fr School closed	17 Mo Walker Way Welcome Day	17 Th	17 Sa Information Forum	17 Tu	17 Th
18 Sa	18 Tu 9th grade orientation	18 Fr Q1 Interims	18 Su	18 We	18 Fr Winter Concert: End of Quarter 2
19 Su	19 We Professional Dev	19 Sa	19 Mo	19 Th	19 Sa
20 Mo	20 Th	20 Su	20 Tu End of Q1	20 Fr Q2 Interims	20 Su
21 Tu	21 Fr	21 Mo School Holiday (Yom Kippur)	21 We	21 Sa	21 Mo Winter Break
22 We	22 Sa	22 Tu	22 Th	22 Su	22 Tu Winter Break
23 Th	23 Su	23 We	23 Fr PSATs & Field Day	23 Mo	23 We Winter Break
24 Fr School closed	24 Mo First Day of School	24 Th	24 Sa Homecoming	24 Tu	24 Th Winter Break
25 Sa	25 Tu	25 Fr	25 Su	25 We School Holiday	25 Fr Christmas Day
26 Su	26 We	26 Sa	26 Mo	26 Th Thanksgiving Day	26 Sa
27 Mo	27 Th	27 Su	27 Tu	27 Fr School Holiday	27 Su
28 Tu	28 Fr	28 Mo	28 We	28 Sa	28 Mo Winter Break
29 We	29 Sa	29 Tu	29 Th	29 Su	29 Tu Winter Break
30 Th	30 Su	30 We	30 Fr	30 Mo	30 We Winter Break
31 Fr School closed	31 Mo		31 Sa		31 Th Winter Break

January 2027	February 2027	March 2027	April 2027	May 2027	June 2027
1 Fr New Year's Day	1 Mo	1 Mo	1 Th Spring Break	1 Sa	1 Tu SOLs & Make-ups
2 Sa	2 Tu	2 Tu	2 Fr Spring Break	2 Su	2 We SOLs & Make-ups
3 Su	3 We Q3 Interims	3 We	3 Sa	3 Mo AP Testing (see website)	3 Th SOLs & Make-ups
4 Mo	4 Th	4 Th	4 Su	4 Tu AP Testing (see website)	4 Fr SOLs & Make-ups
5 Tu	5 Fr	5 Fr	5 Mo	5 We AP Testing (see website)	5 Sa
6 We	6 Sa Lunar New Year	6 Sa	6 Tu	6 Th AP Testing (see website)	6 Su
7 Th	7 Su	7 Su	7 We	7 Fr AP Testing (see website)	7 Mo Last Day for Teachers
8 Fr	8 Mo	8 Mo	8 Th	8 Sa	8 Tu Final Report Cards
9 Sa	9 Tu	9 Tu End of Quarter 3	9 Fr	9 Su	9 We
10 Su	10 We	10 We School Holiday (Eid al-Fitr)	10 Sa	10 Mo AP Testing (see website)	10 Th
11 Mo	11 Th	11 Th	11 Su	11 Tu AP Testing (see website)	11 Fr
12 Tu Q2 Report Cards	12 Fr	12 Fr	12 Mo	12 We AP Testing (see website)	12 Sa End of VHSL Spring Sports (States)
13 We	13 Sa	13 Sa	13 Tu	13 Th AP Testing (see website)	13 Su
14 Th	14 Su	14 Su	14 We	14 Fr AP Testing (see website)	14 Mo Last Day Dept Chairs
15 Fr	15 Mo School Holiday (Presidents' Day)	15 Mo	15 Th	15 Sa	15 Tu
16 Sa	16 Tu Professional Dev	16 Tu	16 Fr Q4 Interims	16 Su	16 We
17 Su	17 We	17 We	17 Sa	17 Mo	17 Th School Holiday (Juneteenth (obs.))
18 Mo School Holiday (Martin L. King Day)	18 Th	18 Th	18 Su	18 Tu	18 Fr School closed
19 Tu	19 Fr	19 Fr	19 Mo	19 We	19 Sa Juneteenth
20 We	20 Sa	20 Sa	20 Tu	20 Th End of Quarter 4	20 Su
21 Th Parent-Teacher Conferences (4-7pm)	21 Su Lantern Day	21 Su	21 We	21 Fr Senior Showcase	21 Mo
22 Fr	22 Mo	22 Mo	22 Th	22 Sa	22 Tu
23 Sa	23 Tu	23 Tu Q3 Report Cards	23 Fr	23 Su	23 We
24 Su	24 We	24 We	24 Sa	24 Mo Final Exams (1,5)	24 Th
25 Mo	25 Th	25 Th	25 Su	25 Tu Final Exams (2,6)	25 Fr School Closed
26 Tu	26 Fr	26 Fr *see Make-up Plan	26 Mo	26 We Final Exams (3,7)	26 Sa
27 We	27 Sa	27 Sa	27 Tu	27 Th Final Exams (4,8)	27 Su
28 Th	28 Su	28 Su Easter	28 We	28 Fr *see Make-up Plan	28 Mo
29 Fr		29 Mo Spring Break	29 Th	29 Sa	29 Tu
30 Sa		30 Tu Spring Break	30 Fr	30 Su	30 We
31 Su		31 We Spring Break		31 Mo School Holiday (Memorial Day)	© Calendarpedia® www.calendarpedia.com

General Information

Length of Day for Students: 6 hours 30 minutes
 Instructional Days: 175
 Teacher Work Days: 9 (includes two 0.5 evenings on a school day (Back to School Night and S1 conferences))
 Professional Development: 3
 School Closed or School Holiday
 Summer Hours

Make-up Plan (for missed instructional day due to inclement weather, for example):

5 days are built in as banked time.
 If 6-9 days are needed, virtual school days may be employed, if instructional days are lost due to inclement weather. Alternatively, time can be made up through extending each schedule A by 5 minutes and reducing the lunch block to 25 minutes for 5 weeks for each full day required.

Teachers are to make no commitments which will prevent them from fulfilling their contractual obligations. In the event of lost time, teachers are to expect the session calendar to be adjusted.

**If fewer than 5 instructional days are lost, then March 26 and/or May 28 become School Holidays*

Freshman Orientation: August 18, 2026 (9:00A.M.-3:00 P.M.) 9th grade students collect their final schedule.

Report Card Distribution: November 5, January 12, March 23, June 8

2026 Online Summer Economics June 9 – July 2, 2027

2026 Online Summer Personal Finance July 12 – August 2, 2027

Information about both courses' final exam dates and times will be communicated by the instructor.

Teaching Days (by Academic Period)

First Quarter	38
Second Quarter	38
First Semester	76
Third Quarter	44
Fourth Quarter	45
Second Semester	89
Showcase, Exams, & SOLs	10
Year	175

Teaching Days (by month)

August	6
September	19
October	21
November	16
December	14
January	19
February	18
March	18
April	20
May	20
June	4

Approval of the 2026-2027 school operating calendar proposal will be requested at the board's February meeting.

XX. Information Items

- Finance Committee Minutes January 8, 2026
- MLWGS We the People Team Wins Regional Competition
- Speech and Debate Students Take Several Tournament Top Prizes
- MLWGS Quiz Bowl Teams Qualify for Nationals
- Dragons Kick off the Dominion Christmas Parade
- Annual Freshman Dance and Lock-in on December 12
- Annual Winter Concert on December 17
- MW Bhangra Team Performs at the Valentine Museum and the Inaugural Gala in January
- Legendary Track Coach Jim Holdren Retires After 63 Years
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, Jan 5, 2026: Aiden Hess – Chesterfield

Ms. Janssen made remarks on the retirement and legacy of Jim Holdren.

XXI. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Nichols reported the committee met this morning before the RSB meeting and received a high-level overview from Ms. Janssen's first semester along with her thoughts and plans for Maggie Walker.

XXII. Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXIII. Certification of Closed Meeting

- *None.*

XXIV. New Business

- *None.*

XXV. Announcements/Additional Discussion

- Dr. Taylor asked to receive an update or general direction for security plans. Ms. Janssen reported she will turn that question over to Dr. Smith who has taken over leadership on this project. But before she did, she added that RPS and the RPD have both stepped up for assistance and guidance and we are working with them.

Dr. Smith affirmed both RPS and the RDP have been supportive, and we are appreciative of their efforts on campus.

Ms. Ricard added that the RPS Head of Security, Mr. Beasley, visited MW and walked the perimeter of building last week and was concerned about finding exterior doors unlocked. Mr.

Beasley reported his finding to Dr. Smith. Ms. Ricard stated she knows Maggie Walker will make this a top priority to fix.

On another subject, Mr. Pritchett asked, is the divisions present, and Maggie Walker, have protocol should ICE appear on campus. Ms. Janssen responded we do have a protocol. Other divisions representatives also responded they do.

Finally, Dr. Armstrong announced that Goochland will be hosting the state-wide Civics Bee sponsored by the National Chamber of Commerce in April. While it's open to middle school students, Maggie Walker students are invited to assist with the Bee.

XXVI. Adjournment

On a motion by Debbie Walwer, seconded by Meredith Moses, the meeting was adjourned on a voice vote at 10:04 am.

Next Meeting and Budget/Strategic Plan Public Hearing

February 19, 2026, at 9:00 am.

Ms. Heather Donbrosky, Chair

Kristin Janssen, Executive Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

**FY27 BUDGET AND STRATEGIC PLAN PROPOSAL WORK SESSION
MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

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

Thursday, January 15, 2026

10:10 a.m.

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

Present:

Ms. Lisa Hudgins, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Ms. Debbie Walwer, **School Board**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Meredith Moses, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools
Ms. Whitney Welsh, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, **School Board**, New Kent Public Schools
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, **School Board**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. James Taylor, **School Board**, Powhatan Public Schools
Ms. Kathryn Ricard, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools
Dr. Yozmin Gay for Ms. Yolanda Brown **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools

Ms. Kristin Janssen, **Executive Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Ms. Barbara Marshall, **Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Dr. Max Smith, **Assistant Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Dr. Lisa Williams, **Assistant Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Absent:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Ms. Barbara Pittman, **School Board**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, **School Board**, Henrico County Public
Open, **School Board**, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Katina Otey, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. George Fohl for 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 County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools

Ms. La-Donna Mills for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
 Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
 Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Ms. Janssen presented the Executive Director’s Summary of the proposed first-edition draft of the fiscal year 2027 budget based on limited State funding information. She said Maggie Walker receives our majority monies from tuition, but Virginia monies are paid on what they call PPE (Per Pupil Amount), which is different from what the divisions receive with ADM plus their local composite index. The State is saying they will require a mandatory 2% salary increase match for SoQ positions. What they [the State] do not include is the last step on the salary-scale parity, our 1-1 technology which that was started last year to cover the next incoming class, meals, and inflation or needed capital improvements. We are working on the component of meals but if we don’t get any help, there will be separate costs for student meals to be paid by the divisions as incurred.

1

MLWGS Proposed Operating Budget



Fiscal Year
2027

4

REVENUE OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year	Revenue
FY 2026	\$32,615,400
FY 2027	\$33,055,400

Total Increase: \$540,000
This represents required cost growth driven by salary parity, technology, and inflation.

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OVERVIEW

FY 2027 is the first year of the Commonwealth's 2020-2021 State Budget Revision. The Commonwealth increased the Per-Pupil Amount (PPA) to reflect a 2% state-mandated salary increase. The PPA does not include funding for salary scale parity, one-to-one technology, meals, inflation, or capital improvements.

As a result, Maggie L. Walker Division's School must rely on tuition revenue to fund these required costs in order to continue operating at current service levels and to complete its multi-year compensation and technology commitments.

5

REVENUE DETAIL

Description	Amount
Local Tuition (700 students x \$11,200 AD)	\$8,910,000
State Cost/Student	\$2,083,410
Other Local Revenue (meals, fuel reimbursement, book fees, royalties)	\$418,018
Total FY 2027 Revenue	\$11,411,428

Tuition reflects the 4.0% increase approved for FY 2027.
 State increase = \$61,203.

3

REVENUE



6

EXPENSES



7

EXPENSES OVERVIEW



Fiscal Year	Expenses
FY 2026	\$12,515,466
FY 2027	\$13,055,466

FY 2027 remains balanced with revenue.

8

MAJOR EXPENSE DETAIL-ADDITIONS

Description	Amount
Salary Scale Fully (final phase) & 2% raises	\$375,000
One-to-One Technology Rollout	\$180,000
Benefits & inflationary adjustments	\$75,000
Total additions	\$630,000



These costs are reimbursable and offset for state transfers and prior Board commitments.

9

MAJOR EXPENSE DETAIL REDUCTIONS

Description	Amount
Staffing efficiencies & delayed purchases	\$60,000
Technology phasing & timing adjustments	\$55,000
Operating controls	\$25,000
Total Internal Offsets	\$140,000

These reductions allow MLWGS to close the FY 2027 funding gap not covered by the state or tuition.

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CONCLUSION

FY 2027 is a stability year for Mendocino County. While the school continues to provide a rigorous, statewide program, rising costs for staff compensation, technology, and operations limit the ability to absorb additional initiatives without new funding sources.



Over 80% of the operating budget continues to be dedicated to salaries and benefits, leaving limited flexibility.

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THOUGHTS GOING FORWARD

FY 2027 tuition is \$11,297.50 per student (4.0% increase)

Funding for the FY2027 & 2028
 The state PPA increase only funds 2% salary raises, not parity, technology, needs, or inflation.

Funding for the FY2027 & 2028

- MLWGS must continue careful spending control to close the remaining funding gap
- Salary parity commitments are one half into the new budget
- One-to-One implementation will be completed by FY28
- Capital improvements remain unfunded & require a separate funding strategy

12

NEXT STEPS

- February–March: Intent to Return confirmations
- Spring 2026: Final FY 2027 enrollment and tuition reconciliation
- Ongoing: Monitor state budget adoption and PPA changes



13

THANK YOU!

Our strength comes from 14 divisions choosing to think together, plan together, and invest together.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
 Heien Keller



In conclusion, Dr. Smith directed conversation to the development of a real capital improvement plan through the strategic plan. In his recap, he recalled the building’s 13 HVAC units which are from the original redevelopment in 2001, are well aged beyond the typical 20-year lifespan. We have been running them to failure because of funding, and only one has been replaced in the intervening years. Each of these units is quite expensive which is challenging to replace from operating funds, so a separate CIP is vital to maintain this building for the next 25-30 years.

Strategic Plan Proposal

Mrs. Janssen described this document as a glossy public facing proposal but tweaks are still being suggested from our staff that may change its appearance before the February presentation.

The collage displays the following pages from the strategic plan proposal:

- Page 1:** Cover page featuring a portrait of Maggie L. Walker and the text: "Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies", "Strategic Plan 2026-2031", "Investing in Curiosity, Global Learning, and the Leaders of Tomorrow", and "Established 1981 • Refined in 2021 • Poised for 2031 and Beyond".
- Page 2:** Table of Contents listing sections like "A Message from the Executive Director and the Regional School Board Chair", "About the School", "Our Students and Regional Community", "The MLWGS Experience", "Our Mission", "The Walker May and the Strategic Planning Process", and "The MLWGS Strategic Bank".
- Page 3:** "A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR" by David Janssen, Executive Director, and Dr. Stephen G. Smith, Chair, Regional School Board.
- Page 4:** "ABOUT THE SCHOOL" section.
- Page 5:** "OUR STUDENTS AND REGIONAL COMMUNITY" section.
- Page 6:** "THE MLWGS EXPERIENCE" section.
- Page 7:** "OUR MISSION" and "OUR VISION" sections.
- Page 8:** "THE WALKER MAY AND THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS" section.
- Page 9:** "THE MLWGS STRATEGIC BANK" section, titled "Student Success and Regional Impact".
- Page 10:** Strategic Investment Area 1: "ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION".
- Page 11:** Strategic Investment Area 2: "PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND REGIONAL IMPACT".
- Page 12:** Strategic Investment Area 3: "STUDENT WELL-BEING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT".
- Page 13:** Strategic Investment Area 4: "CIVIL ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL IMPACT".
- Page 14:** Strategic Investment Area 5: "TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND REGIONAL IMPACT".
- Page 15:** Strategic Investment Area 6: "CIVIL ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL IMPACT".
- Page 16:** Strategic Investment Area 7: "TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND REGIONAL IMPACT".



Dr. Williams stated that Mrs. Janssen took all of our ideas [committee members] and put them into this beautiful document and wanted her to receive the appropriate credit. Continuing with the review, Dr. Williams and Mrs. Janssen both did a high-level review of the plan proposal for the board.

Mrs. Janssen noted that sections described in the plan are very broad in language scope by design, as the next step is the comprehensive document that is projected to be presented in May.

Dr. Taylor asked for more details on the upcoming comprehensive plan that will implement the “nuts and bolts” of the strategic plan. Mrs. Janssen randomly chose Safety and Security as an example category, saying someone would be assigned to be responsible for this category where you would hypothetically hire two full-time SSO officers and one part-time, or you hire an SRO. These actions would be personnel items to include on a timeline, who is responsible for it, and what is your matrix or measurement, and you would do the same for each category. It’s not a pretty, glossy document, it’s essentially an Excel document and we add or subtract to it. Dr. Taylor said his concern is to see how we fund major needed updates and asked for clarity on if that would be in the comprehensive document. Ms. Janssen responded that it is part of the budget piece, and the school must get the audits cleared first to know how much money we have in Richmond, then we can move forward by putting projects on a priority list.

Ms. Ricard asked if MW was able to tap into State SCAP [School Construction Assistance Program] funding, but the answer is no. Mrs. Janssen said if the State would consider MW in the same arena as a career and technical education center, we would qualify.

Dr. Pennycuff shared that the new State Education Secretary is Dr. Jeffery Smith, a former superintendent, and he understands this problem. Mrs. Marshall noted to the board that Dr. Smith was previously on this board when he represented West Point Public Schools approximately 15 years ago as they were former members of MLWGS.

A general discussion was held by members on legislative advocacy as we are seeking help from the State for financial assistance.

The work session was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Heather Donbrosky, Chair

Kristin Janssen, Executive Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk