

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Regular Meeting, FY2027 Budget Adoption & 2026-2031
Strategic Plan Adoption
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:04 a.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

Mr. Rodney Tyler for Machel 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. Barbara Pittman for Ms. Mary Benjamin, ***School Board***, Dinwiddie Public Schools (late arrival)

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

Ms. Whitney Welsh, ***School Board***, Hanover County Public Schools

Ms. Alicia Atkins, ***School Board***, Henrico County Public Schools (late arrival)

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. Jill Andrews, ***School Board***, Prince George 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. Andy Armstrong, ***Superintendent***, Goochland County Public Schools

Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, ***Superintendent***, Hanover County Public Schools

Mr. Byron Davis for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Mr. Ross Miller for 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. Melanie Barron Ficke for Dr. Douglas Lyle, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools
Mrs. 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

Absent:

Open Seat, **School Board**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Lisa Williams – MLWGS Administration
Wendy DeGroat – MLWGS Staff
Ginger O'Neil – GS Foundation

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

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

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

V.b Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Meredith Moses to approve the published agenda, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by James Taylor, the minutes of the regular meeting including the FY2027 budget public hearing and the 2026-2031 strategic plan public hearing on February 19, 2026, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- *MLWGS Students Win (52) Scholastic Writing Keys in 2026*



The English Department represented by Kerry Sheppard and students from the list below, who received Scholastic Writing Awards, were on hand for board recognition.

This year's regional competition included more than 600 entries across ten writing categories. Below is a list of students whose work has been recognized:

Aaradhya	Shetty	Dad, Why Are You Like This	Poetry	9	Honorable Mention
Abbos	Yusupov	The Summer I Didn't Notice	Poetry	9	Silver
Aditya	Singhal	Hashtags and Herd Immunity: The Anti-Vaccination Movement	Journalism	9	Honorable Mention
Aditya	Singhal	The Loudest Silence	Short Story	9	Silver
Alex	Tan	The Butterfly in the Storm	Personal Essay & Memoir	9	Gold
Amy	Sun	remembering her	Poetry	11	Honorable Mention
Annie	Liu	Porcelain Virtues	Poetry	10	Honorable Mention
Annie	Liu	Orbiting My Own Individuality	Personal Essay & Memoir	10	Honorable Mention
Charvi	Deorah	I Am Snoopy the Dog When It Happens	Personal Essay & Memoir	11	Gold
Charvi	Deorah	Dadi	Poetry	11	Gold
Charvi	Deorah	Joint Venture	Poetry	11	Honorable Mention
Charvi	Deorah	Stumber	Poetry	11	Honorable Mention
Charvi	Deorah	Your Stanley	Personal Essay & Memoir	11	Silver
Charvi	Deorah	american dream	Poetry	11	Silver
Charvi	Deorah	Totes, Tea, and Jeff Buckley: Where Men Fit Into Fourth-Wave Feminism	Critical Essay	11	Silver
Civa	Haverson	The Meaning of Nouns	Poetry	12	Honorable Mention
Della	Bowman	Flower Crowns	Personal Essay & Memoir	10	Silver
Doty	Heyming	On Cannibalism	Personal Essay & Memoir	12	Gold
Doty	Heyming	On Broccoli	Personal Essay & Memoir	12	Silver
Emeline	Zhou	I am an idiom	Poetry	9	Gold
Emeline	Zhou	palindromic rain	Poetry	9	Gold
Emeline	Zhou	The Ants Remember	Flash Fiction	9	Gold
Emeline	Zhou	Roses Are Not Red	Poetry	9	Honorable Mention
Emeline	Zhou	Last Thoughts	Flash Fiction	9	Silver
Emma	Bengtson	The Glorification of Violence in Narco Culture: Reality vs. Romanticization	Journalism	11	Gold
Emma	Bengtson	The Second Coming of Christ, For The Tenth Time.	Journalism	11	Honorable Mention
Emma	Bengtson	Drawing the Lines of Power	Journalism	11	Honorable Mention
Emma	Lindsey	On Thought Daughters and Internet Micro-Aesthetics	Critical Essay	12	Honorable Mention
Emma	Lindsey	Paper Landmarks	Personal Essay & Memoir	12	Honorable Mention

- **Walker Scholastic Bowl 2026 State Champions**

Presented by Adam Rotche, Science Teacher and the team's head coach. Maggie Walker's scholastic bowl team is the 2026 state champion! Eight of our players travelled to Williamsburg on Saturday to compete in the VHSL State Championship, and we came out on top.

Rohan Neelakantan ('27-Henrico) was our team captain, and he led Bladen Kidd ('27-Richmond), David Lins ('26-Chesterfield), Bridget Finley('27-Henrico), Jaanvi Kanda ('28-Henrico), and David Chen ('28-Henrico) to victory. Bladen was also recognized as one of the top five individual scorers at the tournament and was inducted into the All-State team. Freshmen and aspiring future champs Kennedy Greene (Richmond) and Eleanor Chin (Hanover) also joined us to lend their support from the sidelines.

Appreciation was also expressed to Kim Forquer and Juanita Lasswell for their coaching, kind words, and chocolate truffles.

- **(3) Presidential Scholar Candidates from the Class of 2026**

Senior Counselor, Kimberly Forquer, was on hand to present the students to the school board.

The board congratulated the students who have been named Presidential Scholar Candidates. This award recognizes their past accomplishments and challenges them to excel in the coming years.



The board's chair and vice-chair presented certificates to these students recognizing their achievement.

- **Superintendent’s Appreciation**

School division superintendents are responsible for the health, safety, welfare, and education of each child while creating school cultures that serve all children, regardless of their circumstances. This week, we recognize the successes and mutual support of our educational leaders and what they do to bolster our public education system now and for generations to come.

Honoring Our Leaders:

- Mr. Jason Kamras, Superintendent of City of Richmond Schools
- Dr. Wayne Lyle, Superintendent of Prince George County Schools
- Dr. Katina Otey, Superintendent of Charles City County Schools
- Dr. Melody Hackney, Superintendent of Hopewell Public Schools
- Dr. Beth Teigen, Superintendent of Powhatan County Schools
- Dr. Carol B. Carter, Superintendent of King and Queen Schools
- Dr. Amy Cashwell, Superintendent of Henrico County Schools
- Dr. Andrew Armstrong, Superintendent of Goochland County Schools,
- Ms. Yolanda Brown, Superintendent of City of Petersburg Schools
- Dr. John Murray, Superintendent of Chesterfield County Schools
- Dr. Brian Nichols, Superintendent of New Kent County Schools – **Chair**
- Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, Interim Superintendent of Hanover County Schools
- Mr. Travis Ridley, Superintendent, Colonial Heights Public Schools
- Dr. Kari E. Weston, Dinwiddie County Public Schools

Tokens of appreciation were presented to the superintendents.

- **Spontaneous Recognition**

Dr. Williams announced that Mrs. Janssen successfully defended her dissertation this week, making the administration team officially comprised of three doctors. She added, that while Mrs. Janssen doesn’t like the accolades, today is her day to enjoy our admiration,

VIII. Public Comments

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

No public comments were presented live or submitted online.

IX. Consent Items

The executive director stated personnel actions include changing two part-time security positions to full-time positions, and two separations of employment during this fiscal year. Financial statements are generated by RPS, the school’s fiscal agent. The finance committee reviews fiscal status at its regularly scheduled meetings.

Overall, the financial reports indicate the school is on track and consistent to where it was at this time last year.

On a motion by Kathryn Ricard to approve consent items as a slate, seconded by Harwood Hall, the following items were unanimously approved on a voice vote: March personnel actions, fiscal status reports of February 28, 2026, and the donations report of February 28, 2026.

X. Action Items

A. FY2027 Budget Proposal Adoption (Second Read)

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent’s Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY2027.

A draft proposal was presented to the Regional School Board for review and discussion at their budget work session on January 15, 2026.

Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School presented a public hearing on its FY2027 budget on February 29, 2026. Public comment received regarding this proposal was submitted:

PUBLIC COMMENT
FY2027 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

Timestamp	Name (First and Last)	MLWGS Affiliation (Ex: parent, student, teacher)	District you Represent:	Comment
3/13/2026 16:32:48	Lili Luo	Parent	Henrico	Please approve the budget. MLWGS needs the funding to support the students and teachers.

In this proposal, tuition is set at approximately \$11,300, which represents a 4% increase. Additionally, we are working to secure a free and reduced lunch program with the assistance of RPS, along with guidance from Henrico and the State. If we cannot secure this program, there will be a meals support add-on of \$1,750. Most of the budget is allocated for personnel, which reflects an approximate 3% increase. Furthermore, an allocation for capital improvements is included in the budget. If needed, an amended budget will be presented to the board once the administration receives actual and/or accurate figures from the State budget approval process, which concludes at the end of April.

Ms. Atkins stated she would like to better understand what the long-range thoughts are about expanding the capital plan. Mrs. Janssen explained all audits are supposed to be completed in August this year. Upon completion of those reports we will see how much money is sitting in Richmond along with monies that are built into the FY2027 budget to work with. There is a new strategic planning group forming that will develop a comprehensive CIP plan for the school, prioritizing items that are needed. HVAC and roofing would be near the top of those needs. The idea is to be proactive and for these needs are structurally built in. Ms. Atkins followed with a question on the timeline for this anticipated CIP. Mrs. Janssen indicated by

August we will have accurate figures from the audits, and then the goal is that by January [2027] to have the CIP document for the board.

Ms. Moses inquired about the decrease in the teacher pay line item and whether that meant teachers would not be receiving a pay increase. Mrs. Janssen clarified that the current line item includes overages that will be eliminated in FY2027. Therefore, although the line item appears lower, teachers will still receive their percentage increases.

On a motion by Lisa Hudgins, seconded by Meredith Moses, the FY2027 MLWGS operating budget proposal was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

B. 2026-2031 Strategic Plan Proposal (Second Read)

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies has long been a place where academic excellence, global learning, and civic responsibility come together in powerful ways. As we look ahead to the next five years, this Strategic Plan reflects our shared commitment to preparing students to thrive in a rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected world.

The 2026–2031 Strategic Plan is guided by a focus on curiosity, global learning, and leadership. It affirms our responsibility to provide rigorous instruction, meaningful opportunities for research and mentorship, and a school culture grounded in The Walker Way—creativity, collaboration, community, and courage. It also recognizes that sustaining this work requires thoughtful stewardship of our resources and strengthened legislative advocacy to support the unique mission of Virginia’s Governor’s Schools.

This plan is the result of a collaborative effort involving faculty, staff, students, families, alumni, administrators, and regional partners. Together, we examined our strengths, reflected on emerging challenges, and identified priorities that will guide our work in the years ahead. Our collective goal is to ensure that Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School continues to serve as a model of innovative, inclusive, and high-quality public education for the region and the Commonwealth.

Ms. Donbrosky stated she looks forward to seeing data from this plan so the board can understand if the school is meeting goals and standards are implemented. She added that Mrs. Janssen indicated that data will be available for the board after the plan is implemented and the work begins.

No public comments were presented live or submitted online regarding the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan proposal.

On a motion by Alicia Atkins seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan proposal was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

C. AY2027 Student Fee Schedule (Second Read)

The proposed student fee schedule has been updated from FY2026 with current projected costs for all subject areas.

The 2026-2027 student fee schedule is presented to the regional school board for the first read. Changes to highlight include increases to dual-enrollment fees, a returned check fee, and a percentage based Online School Payment fee. Cost increases for individual workbooks and specific lab fees in Science, Fine Arts, and International Languages reflect recent trends in inflation on all educational resources. Increases in Dual-Enrollment course fees reflect an increase in the VCU tuition. Overall lab and workbook fees remain near static.

Ms. Atkins inquired about students who are unable to pay their student fees and whether there is a budget line item to cover those costs. Mrs. Janssen responded that, fortunately, there is a Foundation that provides for this need, so a specific budget line item is not necessary. Ms. Atkins then asked how we would know the total amount of student fees that the Foundation is covering and whether that indicates the extent of the assistance offered by the Foundation.

Mrs. O'Neil was asked to elaborate on this issue. She inquired if the concerns from students were coming from those who indicated their fees were not covered. Ms. Atkins confirmed that this was the case, and Mrs. O'Neil suggested that it might be due to a communication issue. She described how the school annually requests funding from the Foundation to support student needs and stated that she has never encountered a situation where a request was not fulfilled by them.

Ms. Atkins then asked for the recommended next step: should families contact the administration or the Foundation directly? Mrs. O'Neil advised that all requests should be directed through the administration to maintain confidentiality, as the Foundation does not know the identities of those making requests.

Going a step further, Ms. Atkins asked if the board could know how much aid is provided to a particular division. Mrs. Janssen mentioned that as it currently exist, we would need to check student registration records, as that information is not currently included in the aid request form. However, she stated that if it is deemed necessary, they can add that question to the form.

On a motion by James Taylor, seconded by Barbara Pittman, the FY2027 student fee schedule was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

D. FY2022 Audit Approval (Second Read)

Cherry, Bekaert CPA's presents the FY2022 audit reports to the Regional School Board that contain the auditor's responsibilities and opinions. Links were provided on the agenda for the report.

Confirming for Mr. Pritchett, Mrs. Janssen said the auditor has targeted August to bundle the remaining three audits of FY2023-FY2025 and be current on all outstanding reports.

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the FY2022 Audit Report was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

E. Amended and New Policy Proposals (Waive First Read Requested)

The Policy Steering Committee offered the following for Regional School Board consideration. These proposals amend how meals related to travel are reimbursed for employees.

With redundancy, these policies were assigned to Finance (7000's) and Human Resources (5000's) categories. As they are identical, we request to delete the policies in Human Resources.

Final	
	5007.1 - Support Staff Probationary Term (New)
	5021.1 – DELETE. Replace with 5021.2
	5021.2 - Procedure for Support Staff Personnel Grievances (New)
	7032-R-Regulation for Expense Reimbursement
	7032.1-R-Regulation for Travel Reimbursement
	5009-R-Regulation for Expense Reimbursement DELETE POLICY - REDUNDENT
	5009.1-R-Regulation for Travel Reimbursement DELETE POLICY -REDUNDENT

Personnel policies 5007.1 5021.1, and 5021.2 were developed in consultation with the school's attorney. These proposals address clarity and removal of duplicate language.

Ms. Moses asked if anything in these policies could impact previous actions with Mrs. Janssen responding, no, we are making policy stronger.

On a motion by Meredith Moses to waive first read and approve new and amended policies presented, seconded by Harwood Hall, new and amended policies were unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

A. Graduation Information with Kerry Sheppard, Sponsor

- Ms. Sheppard was on hand to present the board with their formal invitation information to graduation on May 27th at 6 pm for the Class of 2026 through an email. We are back at the Altria Theater this year. Board RSVP is requested by Ms. Sheppard by April 18th.

B. Verbal Updates

- **National Merit Scholarship Finalists:**

Students and Senior Counselors Dr. Rachel Loving and Ms. Kimberly Forquer were on hand. Students were presented with their official NMS certificate by their board member.

This year MLWGS has seventeen (17) National Merit Scholarship Finalists from the Class of 2026, nine from Henrico, four from Chesterfield, three from Hanover, and one from Richmond. Congratulations to our seniors:

Ali, Asra	Richmond
Barnett, Abby	Henrico
Chen, Elijah	Henrico
Holmes, Lilith	Chesterfield
Kanach, Rowan	Hanover
Laraway, Alina	Henrico
Lin, William	Henrico
Lins, David	Chesterfield
Maurya, Yash	Henrico
Panchagnula, Sriram	Henrico
Roerink, Ethan	Hanover
Sarva, Samhith	Henrico
Schaffernoth, Sophia	Henrico
Teague, Helen Fielding	Chesterfield
Vo, Thienvan	Chesterfield
Wood, Mark	Hanover
Zhang, Daniel	Henrico

Heartfelt appreciation goes to MLWGS Senior Counselors Dr. Rachel Loving and Ms. Kimberly Forquer for their unwavering guidance to our students throughout this program. The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program by taking preliminary SAT /National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests (PSAT/NMSQT®) – a test that serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

- **Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan’s (VA-04) Keynote Speaker at GSMUN XXVIII**

We welcomed a visit from Jennifer McClellan, U.S. representative for Virginia’s 4th congressional district, who delivered an exciting keynote address about the importance of open-minded and cooperative debate. She emphasized the need for young, emerging leaders to continue working towards the Constitution’s ‘pursuit of a more perfect union.’

- **GSMUN XXVIII Raised over \$10k for Charity**

On Friday and Saturday, February 20–21, the Maggie Walker Model United Nations club hosted over 300 visiting students from more than 25 partner schools for our 28th annual conference, **GSMUN XXVIII**. School delegations traveled from as far away as Charlottesville and Chantilly to participate in 17 geographically and temporally diverse committees, ranging

from historical simulations like the Estates General and Pazzi Conspiracy to contemporary committees facing recent issues like the Syrian Civil War or the effects of atomic radiation (SPECPOL).

Fundraising at this year's **GSMUN conference supported Make-A-Wish Greater Virginia**, which works to provide children fighting critical illnesses with life-changing experiences that spark hope within communities. As of Saturday evening, GSMUN XXVIII raised over **\$10,000 to support Make-A-Wish.**

- **The Night of the Dragon Auction was held on February 28 at the Faison Center.**

The 24th Annual Night of the Dragon–Sneaker Ball was held February 28, 2026, at the Guzman Community Center at the Faison Center near Willow Lawn. This event grossed over \$70,000, resulting in a net of a little over \$50,000.

- **Course Registration for Returning Students on March 12th.**

Course Registration for AY2026-27 will take place on Thursday, March 12th, during 2nd period. Students will be called to a registration classroom in 15-minute increments based on the Course Registration Schedule.

- **RSB Approved AP AA Studies Class Field Trip to Charleston, South Carolina, March 19-22**

The AP African American Studies Class 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. The trip is designed for 30 students. Chaperones: NaKita Lee and Dr. Lisa Williams.

- **Skill Assessments for the Class of 2030 on March 21**

Skill assessments for languages, math, and fine arts will be administered at MLWGS on Saturday, March 21. Each 8th-grader present at Future Dragon Days will receive a hard copy of this handout at Future Dragon Days.

- **Multicultural Assembly, March 24**



Celebrating the various cultures and backgrounds of our diverse student body, this year's assembly will be one you don't want to miss! Parents can also enjoy the free event at 6:30 PM in the auditorium.

- **New Student Registration for the Class of 2030, April 8, 2026, 6 pm.**

The New Student Registration Evening is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th, and will be held in person at 6 pm in the auditorium. During Future Dragon Days earlier in March, we distributed a welcome packet to our newest students. The information included in the welcome packet is available at the [school counseling webpage](#) as well.

- **RSB Approved International Travel with Students Around Spring Break 2026**

- Barnes: Belize
- Cross: MENA to Morocco
- Sheppard: Iceland/Denmark
- Love: England

- **Walker Senior is a 'Leadership for the 21st Century Scholarship Recipient.'**

David Lins's ('26-Chesterfield) was awarded this scholarship at Chesterfield's Black History Month Breakfast. Through a partnership among Chesterfield County, Chesterfield County Public Schools, and Virginia State University, all recipients honored received a \$2,500 award tied to this year's theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations."



- **Young History Maker 2026**

Our Regional School board chair, Mrs. Donbrosky, Admin, and Ms. Cross recognized Elijah Lee ('26-Chesterfield) for being selected by the Valentine Museum as the Young History Maker of 2026. Elijah was selected for his "compassionate leadership" and for his contributions to his community, in particular, his nonprofit organization that focuses on protecting the rights of children.



C. Coming Events

March 19, 2026, through April 16, 2026

Thursday, March 19 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus
Thursday, March 19 th – Sunday, March 22 nd	AP AA Studies Field Trip to Charleston, South Carolina, RSB Approved
Friday, March 20 th	Holiday - Closed
Saturday, March 21 st	Skills Assessment for Incoming Freshmen, 8:30 am, MLWGS
Tuesday, March 24 th	Multicultural Assembly for Students, 12:15-2:00 pm (2 sessions), Auditorium
	Admissions Appeal Hearing, 10:00 am, Rm 153
Wednesday, March 25 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, March 26 th – Friday, April 3 rd	Cross MENA Class International Trip to Morocco, RSB Approved
Friday, March 27 th – Friday, April 3 rd	Barnes Science Class International Trip to Belize, RSB Approved
Monday, March 31 st – Friday, April 3 rd	Spring Break. School is closed to students.
Tuesday, March 31 st - Tuesday, April 7 th	Sheppard Class International Trip to Iceland and Denmark, RSB Approved
Tuesday, March 31 st - Tuesday, April 7 th	Love Class (Jane Austen) International Trip to England, RSB Approved
Wednesday, April 8 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
	New Student Registration, 6:00 pm
Thursday, April 9 th	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 9:00 am
	9 th Grade English Field Trip to Gottwald Playhouse for MacBeth
Monday, April 13 th – Friday, April 17 th	Spirit Week, Sponsored by the SCA
Wednesday, April 15 th	Interims Available 2:00 pm
Saturday, April 12 th	VCU Nepalese Student Association Cultural Show at MLWGS, 6-9 pm, Auditorium
Monday, April 14 th – Sunday April 20 th	FIRST Championship (Robotics), Houston, TX
Wednesday, April 16 th	Mu Alpha Theta Guest Speaker, Emily Lutken, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm, Forum
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, April 16 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, On Campus

D. RSB Operating Protocols Manual for 2026 (Revisited)

Minor edits were added to the manual from January 2026 for the board.

E. School Profile

Provided for board information.

XII. Unfinished Business

A. Strategic Plan Implementation Report

No report was presented.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

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

The Regional School Board grants the Executive Director of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School the authority to issue faculty/staff contracts based upon salary scales, clubs/activities, and athletic stipend scales incorporated within the FY2027 Operating Budget.

Approval for this authorization, granting the executive director the authority to apply Human Resource policies and salary scales in issuing contracts to faculty and staff for FY2027 will be requested at the April 16, 2026, meeting of the Executive School Board.

B. Textbook Adoption 2026-2027 Science (First Read)

The MLWGS textbook adoption process for implementation in 2026-2027 is following proper protocol. Recommendations are pending public comment.

- The following for **Science** was posted to mlwgs.com on March 2, 2026, in News:

The Science Departments have selected textbooks, which are available for public view, review, and comment, in our school's library until Monday, April 6th. Evaluation forms and a labeled envelope for completed forms are located next to the books.

Textbook Adoption Committee Members:

David Smail, David Barnes, Adam Rotche, Will Cottrell, Pam Edgerton

Science Department Members:

In addition to the biology teachers listed above, the science faculty include Jennifer Todd (Chair), Tim Donahue, Hillary Gawne, William Ryba, Brandon Gooss, Elise Burke, Josh Lehman, and Heather Kemmerly.

1) TITLE OF COURSE: Human Genetics & Biotechnology

Course Description:

Human genetics is a yearlong course focusing on the study of inherited variations in the human population. The course covers topics ranging from human development, genetically caused disorders, and theoretical genetics to DNA technologies. New research in the field of genetics has implications at the molecular, cellular, body, family, and population levels. Students are exposed to the latest biotech concepts and perform cutting edge labs such as bacterial transformation and DNA fingerprinting. The class includes presentations by field experts, debates of ethical issues and one oral and written project on a topic of interest to the student. As this course addresses sensitive issues, parental informed consent is recommended. Lab fee required.

Rationale for adoption:

With developments in technology and new discoveries, the field of genetics and biotechnology has changed dramatically. The current genetics book has been used for over 10 years. In addition to the content and vocabulary being out of date, the text is in hard copy only. Genetics needs an up-to-date book and Pearson Publishing offers a vast suite of online resources for both teachers and students.

BOOK(S) SELECTED FOR PUBLIC VIEW:

Concepts of Genetics, 13th edition

Authors: Klug

Copyright: 2025

ISBN-13: 9780135323465 (2025 update)

Price: \$174.00

Essentials of Genetics, 10th edition

Authors: Klug

Copyright: 2019

ISBN-13: 9780135588789 (2019 update)

Price: \$174.00

Genetics Analysis: An Integrated Approach, 3rd edition

Authors: Sanders, Bowman

Copyright: 2024

ISBN: 9780135588789 (2021 update)

Price: \$174.00

2) TITLE OF COURSE: Molecular Biology

Course Description:

This course is designed as an honors level, lab-based survey of the broad themes and concepts of biology. The overarching goal of Molecular Biology is to stimulate interest in the study of biology and an understanding of biology at the cellular and molecular level through both discovery-based and teacher-directed laboratory investigations. Molecular Biology is designed with the explicit intention of developing and encouraging these scientific practices: use of representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems; planning and implementing data collection strategies appropriate to a particular scientific question; performing data analysis and evaluation of evidence; connecting and relating knowledge across various scales, concepts and representations in and across domains. Students will be introduced to scientific literature and scientific writing practices through their laboratory activities and analysis of experimental data. The students will be encouraged to think critically about scientific issues and topics that will have a major impact on their lives. Lab fee required.

Rationale for adoption:

With developments in technology and new discoveries, the field of biology has changed dramatically, particularly with respect to genetics. The current biology book has been used for over 7 years. In addition to the content being out of date, the online resources are also antiquated. Biology needs an up-to-date book and Pearson Publishing offers a vast suite of online resources for both teachers and students.

BOOK(S) SELECTED FOR PUBLIC VIEW:

Biological Science, 8th edition

Authors: Freeman

Copyright: 2025

ISBN-13: 9780138276263 (2024 update)

Price: \$235.00 per student for 6 years

Campbell Biology: Concepts & Connections, 10th edition

Authors: Taylor

Copyright: 2021

ISBN-13: 9780136538783 (2020 update)

Price: \$235.00 per student for 6 years

Campbell Biology in Focus, 4th edition

Authors: Urry

Copyright: 2024

ISBN: 9780138272579 (2024 update)

Price: \$235.00 per student for 6 years

The executive director recommends the Regional School Board consider science textbook adoptions for 2026-2027. Approval will be requested at the board's April meeting.

C. RFP for Photography Services (First Read)

An [RFP for Photography Services](#) for the 2026-2027 school year was advertised on mlwgs.com for sealed bids due February 27, 2026.

The purpose of this RFP is to attract written proposals from responsive and responsible vendors to establish a one (1) year term contract with optional one-year renewals to provide Photography Services at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. It is anticipated the contract will be effective July 1, 2026.

A summary of services is listed below (*see RFP for all details*).

Summary of Services

School and Student Photography Summary of Services

Senior Portraits

Freshman, Sophomores, Junior Portraits

Faculty/Staff Portraits

Electronic Reproduction of all pictures

All Dances (3) – Candid Shots

Senior Class Photo with caps and gowns

School Board and Superintendent Photo

Evening events: e.g., concerts, drama, etc

Sports Photography Summary of Services

Team Pictures

Team Action Shots: at least two athletic events per varsity team

Mrs. Janssen is recommending Cady Studios as the winning vendor as they were the only ones to commit to not charging seniors a sitting fee for their portrait. A few board members had questions around if Cady is affiliated with LifeTouch Studios, but someone pointed out that on the Cady Studios website they state they are not affiliated with LifeTouch Studios.

Approval for the recommended vendor [Cady Studios in Virginia Beach] to provide photography services AY2027 will be requested at the April 16, 2026, meeting of the Executive School Board.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026
- MLWGS Math Modeling Competes Against Colleges at SABR Competition
- Dragon Results from SABR Competition
- Walker Speech Earns 1st Place at Super-Regionals
- MW Orchestra Has Again Received Superior Ratings
- Youth Art & Music Event at MLWGS, March 5
- MW International Language Fair, March 14
- MLWGS Scholar-Athlete of the Week, February 23, Jamie Martin, Basketball, '27-New Kent

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Mr. Ridley gave the report for the Superintendents' morning meeting.

The executive director provided updates including broad considerations related to budget alignment, compensation structures, and resource allocation to support consistency and long-term sustainability. The discussion also included general updates on staffing, course scheduling, and enrollment projections, with an emphasis on aligning resources to student needs.

The executive director further shared updates on operational efficiencies, including the strategic use of existing roles and resources. She also shared an update on the federal lunch program work with the state, RPS, and Henrico. The Superintendents noted that audits remain on track and will be current through August 2026.

Continued work aligned to the division's strategic plan was also discussed, including a focus on both departmental and division-wide priorities such as sustainability, organizational culture, advocacy, partnerships with higher education institutions, and ongoing process and policy refinement.

The Superintendents also shared that the executive director identified opportunities for additional support, including potential School Board involvement in Pillar Leads application review processes, coordination of a facilities walkthrough to assess needs, and access to human resources expertise to support staff development and organizational effectiveness.

The executive director asked for updates on any recent state and federal discussions that impact schools, including general information from state-level and financial committee work that may impact the division.

She also inquired about the status of the Region 1 listening tour, including ongoing efforts to gather stakeholder feedback to inform planning and decision-making. Colonial Heights will host an event on April 7 from 6-7:30 pm. Information is on the VDOE website.

XVI. Closed Meeting

None.

XVII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None.

XVIII. Closed Session Action

None.

XIX. New Business

Dr. Williams thanked the eight board members who agreed to stay back after this meeting for a mission and vision presentation and tour followed by a luncheon with a couple of your students.

XX. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Ms. Atkins initiated a conversation about diversity concerns at MLWGS. While there are positive outcomes for both students and staff, she has heard concerns regarding feelings of belonging within the school. One prevalent question is why; despite being established to support Black students, the school has a low number of Black students. Ms. Atkins appreciates the various opportunities available at MLWGS, which are based on character rather than color. By addressing this issue with the board, she is fulfilling her commitment to the students. She expressed that, given the magnificence of Maggie Walker, the time is right for this discussion.

Dr. Williams responded by acknowledging the significant strides that have been made but emphasized that much more work remains. She noted that the focus should not only be on students but also on staff. Efforts are currently underway to improve hiring and retention, with a goal of increasing numbers to support inclusion. She reiterated the importance of continuing this discussion.

Mrs. Janssen added that this is a timely conversation, one that they have regularly as part of their ongoing discussions at the school. She recognized that this work is essential and will be a part of the next strategic plan.

Mr. Pritchett, a long-serving member of the Regional School Board, noted that this has been an ongoing discussion among board members. One key point that emerged was the need for

each board member to return to their home districts and encourage Black students to apply. There is a significant issue in which larger districts are not sending their Black students. We requested that board members discuss this with their districts.

Ms. Atkins agreed, noting that many students do not understand the culture of this school. She mentioned that a practical approach would be to reach out to these students instead of waiting for them to come to us. This feedback is important because leaving a community where they feel they belong for a new and unfamiliar environment can be intimidating for students. However, she believes this is a solvable problem, stating, “You have no idea what is out there until you try.”

Mrs. Janssen expressed her appreciation for the conversation, acknowledging that this is a concern we are aware of. She stated that we do make efforts to engage with schools. However, when she visits and a parent asks, “Why should I send my child to Maggie Walker?” and follows up with a question about demographics, it highlights the work that still needs to be done. She also noted that this discussion is validating.

Ms. Ricard mentioned that a few years ago, Richmond made a significant change to its criteria, which severely limited the number of students admitted from private schools. This change has shifted the focus towards prioritizing students from Richmond, making them more representative of RPS (Richmond Public Schools) students. However, she believes this has also been a community effort, and they have made progress.

Dr. Gay recommended two important resources for further research on this topic: 1) Danny Martin’s book, *Learning Mathematics While Black*, and 2) John Powell, who introduced the term “Targeted Universalism.” Powell discusses how to create an equitable environment and infrastructure that supports achievement. She also offered her assistance to the board as a resource.

XXI. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On a motion to adjourn by Meredith Moses, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, this meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am on a unanimous voice vote.

Next Meeting – Executive School Board

April 16, 2026, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Heather Donbrosky, Chair

Kristin Janssen, Executive Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk