

MINUTES

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

Thursday, June 11, 2026

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

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality.

Present:

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

Ms. Heather Donbrosky, ***School Board***, New Kent Public Schools

Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, ***School Board***, Petersburg Public Schools

Dr. Kristin Janssen, ***Executive Director***, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Ms. Barbara Marshall, ***Clerk***, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Others Present:

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

Wendy DeGroat, MLWGS Librarian and David Bortz, MLWGS Technology Chief

Ginger O'Neil, MWGS Foundation Director

Absent:

Dr. James Taylor, ***School Board***, Powhatan County Public Schools

Ms. Kathryn Ricard, ***School Board***, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Brian Nichols, ***Superintendent***, New Kent Public Schools

Mr. Lucas Veale, ***Deputy Clerk***, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Not Required to be in Attendance:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, ***School Board***, Charles City Public Schools

Ms. Lisa Hudgins, ***School Board***, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Ms. Debbie Walwer, ***School Board***, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Mary Benjamin, ***School Board***, Dinwiddie County Public Schools
Ms. Whitney Welsh, ***School Board***, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, ***School Board***, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, ***School Board***, Henrico County Public Schools
Open, ***School Board***, Hopewell Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, ***School Board***, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Katina Otey, ***Superintendent***, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. John Murray, ***Superintendent***, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Travis Ridley, ***Superintendent***, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Dr. Kari Weston, ***Superintendent***, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Andrew Armstrong, ***Superintendent***, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, ***Superintendent***, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Amy Cashwell, ***Superintendent***, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Melody Hackney, ***Superintendent***, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Carol Carter, ***Superintendent***, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Yolanda Brown, ***Superintendent***, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Wayne Lyle, ***Superintendent***, Prince George Public Schools
Mr. Jason Kamras, ***Superintendent***, Richmond Public Schools

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

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

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

V.b Approval of Agenda

Kenneth Pritchett made a motion to approve the agenda for the June 11, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded by Meredith Moses and was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the minutes of the executive board meeting of May 21, 2026, were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- None.

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.

There were no public comments for this meeting.

IX. Consent Items

Dr. Janssen offered the following report on consent items.

Madam Chair, we are now entering the consent agenda. The first consent item is Personnel. The personnel report includes the separation of a part-time Foreign Language teacher and a seasonal JV Volleyball coach, as well as the hiring of a full-time Global Studies teacher and a seasonal Field Hockey coach for the 2026–2027 school year. There are no part-time to full-time personnel actions this month.

The second consent item is Finance. As we approach the close of Fiscal Year 2026, the school remains in a stable financial position. Our focus at this time is on year-end closeout activities, monitoring outstanding obligations, and preparing for the transition into FY27.

Board Member Meredith Moses had requested that the full financial reports reviewed by the Finance Committee be included in the board packet. In response, we direct board members to the transaction register, that we believe illustrates that information.

Several key points from those reports include:

- Revenue remains consistent with expectations for this point in the fiscal year.
- Personnel expenditures continue to represent the largest portion of the budget and remain within budgeted levels.
- Outstanding encumbrances are primarily related to instructional resources, technology support and maintenance agreements, facilities projects, and library resources that have been approved but not yet fully paid.
- Outstanding requisitions are limited and reflect routine operational purchases currently moving through the approval process.
- Purchase orders not yet received largely represent year-end technology, facilities, library, and instructional resource purchases that are either pending delivery or awaiting final receiving documentation.
- Staff bonus payments were successfully processed during June through our partnership with Richmond Public Schools.

- We continue to await final action on the state budget, which remains the largest variable affecting FY27 planning and future revenue projections.

Overall, the reports indicate that the school is ending FY26 in a stable financial position while continuing to monitor outstanding obligations and state funding decisions.

Donation Report: During Fiscal Year 2026, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School received \$54,067.50 in donations supporting a wide range of student programs and school initiatives.

Contributions supported robotics, athletics, visual arts, student activities, academic competitions, and scholarship opportunities. Notable gifts included support for the Robotics Team and MW Tech Dragons, athletic facility and equipment improvements, the Pogue Scholarship, student recognition programs, and discretionary funds that allow the school to respond to emerging needs and opportunities.

These donations reflect the continued commitment of our parents, alumni, community organizations, local businesses, and philanthropic partners to the success of our students. Their generosity enhances educational opportunities beyond what can be funded through the operating budget alone.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Dr. Janssen thanked all donors for their continued investment in our school community.

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the following consent agenda items were unanimously approved as a slate on a voice vote: June personnel actions, fiscal status reports for May 25, 2026, and the donation report of May 31, 2026.

X. Action Items

a. FY2026 Assignment of Reserve Funds (Second Read)

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

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

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

It is estimated that on June 30, 2026, the General Fund balance will be \$217,998.00 and the Capital Improvement Fund balance will be \$0.00.

I propose that by June 30, 2026, we move \$50,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund which will bring the Capital Improvement Fund to \$50,000.00, leaving \$167,998.00 in the General Fund, \$50,000.00 of which will be assigned to benefit reserve. That will leave a balance of \$117,998.00 in unassigned reserve in the General Fund.

Ms Donbrosky asked if year end funds had ever before been moved into the capital improvement line item. Dr. Janssen did not know the history necessary to answer and asked Dr. Smith to respond. He stated, “we didn’t create a separate line item for capital improvement, but want to move the monies into building contingency, which is a pre-existing line item. Adding, his preference would be to create/have a line item for this that is more specific to its purpose.

Ms. Moses asked how the school ended with such a large balance of unspent funds. Dr. Janssen, responded it is similar in most divisions to carry over unspent funding. Once we have cleared all of our audits, we will have a better understanding of how much of those funds are available to start critical facility improvements.

On a motion from Meredith Moses, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the FY2026 assignment of reserve funds as recommended by the administration was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

b. Business Insurance Renewal with VACorp (Second Read)

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

VACorp works diligently to provide coverage our members need throughout the year. We are proud of the program in place specifically to protect you. Here are a few enhancements provided this year:

- Rate Credit has been provided and is shown reducing your total cost on the Contribution Summary page;
- Cyber Liability options are included for your consideration. When purchasing an increased limit, your coverage limit is not subject to sublimits or a pooled aggregate. Please consider the options provided and mark your preference on the Coverage Intent Form.
- Supplemental Defense Increased Limit option is included for your consideration. This option will increase this coverage limit to a total of \$250,000.

	FY2026 Rates		FY2027 Rates
General liability, educator’s liability, environmental liability, cyber, crime, business auto, equipment breakdown, property, increased limits, inland marine, and security risk management	\$27,141.00	General liability, educator’s liability, environmental liability, cyber, crime, business auto, equipment breakdown, property, increased limits, inland marine, and security risk management	\$28,045.00
Worker’s Comp	\$14,729.00	Worker’s Comp	\$15,936.00
TOTAL	\$41,870.00	TOTAL	\$43,981.00

Dual Program Discount and Rate Credit	-\$503.00	Rate Credit	\$442.00
TOTAL DUE	\$41,367.00	TOTAL DUE	\$43,539.00

On a motion from Meredith Moses, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, renewal of business insurance with VACorp was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

c. MW Foundation Board of Directors and Officers for 2026-27 (Second Read)

Candidates for Director of The Foundation shall be nominated by members of the Board of Directors or by the Governance and Nominations Committee. The names of the nominees shall then be submitted to the ***Regional School Board for review***. Subject to the approval of such candidates by the Regional School Board, candidates for Director shall be elected by the Board of Directors. No individual shall be named or elected as a Director without his or her prior consent.

The Board of Directors of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Foundation is pleased to recommend to the MLWGS Regional School Board the following individuals for Director of the Foundation. If approved, they will each serve a term of 3 years, beginning on July 1, 2026.

Board of Director Nominees

Michael J. McClure, Ph.D. (Parent, Richmond)

Michael McClure, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Engineering and Medicine, where his long-term research goal is to understand the roles and underlying mechanisms by which biophysical constraints and mechanical forces regulate muscle structure, function, and innervation. He is a member of the Society for Biomaterials, Orthopaedic Research Society, Biomedical Engineering Society, and Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Society. He and his wife Erin live in Richmond City with their four wonderful children, the oldest of whom, Audrey, is a freshman at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.

Qi Liu (Parent, Chesterfield)

Qi Liu is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with over a decade of hands-on experience in accounting and financial management. She has served on the Foundation Finance committee for the past two years. She currently works as an Accounting Manager at Habitat for Humanity in Richmond, supporting budgeting, payroll and financial operations. With more than 12 years experience in accounting, she previously held positions as Senior Associate/Accounting Manager for Robert Half and Controller for Cornerstone Architects, among other accounting and tax preparations positions. She holds a Master's of Accountancy from VCU and is an active member of Virginia Society of CPA. Qi is the proud mother of twin Dragons in the Class of 2028 of MLWGS, Gavin and Grace.

Mary Nedell (Parent, Chesterfield)

Mary Nedell is a dedicated parent, volunteer, and former human services professional with a longstanding commitment to children, families, and schools. Over the past 15 years, she has focused on raising her four children, including her oldest son, Conor, a member of the Maggie L.

Walker Governor's School Class of 2029, while also serving in countless volunteer roles in the communities that have shaped their lives.

At St. Michael's Episcopal School, she spent 11 years actively involved as a volunteer and served as President of the Parents Association during the final two years when all four of her children attended together. She has also served as a Girl Scout leader, Boy Scout volunteer, team parent, Bible school teacher, and Sunday school teacher.

Earlier in her career, she worked for the Commonwealth of Virginia in Human Services, contributing to foster care reform alongside Anne Holton during the Kaine Administration. Prior to this she worked for No Kid Hungry, a national organization dedicated to ending child hunger in America. She earned her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and her M.S.W. from Virginia Commonwealth University. As a longtime admirer and now parent at MLWGS, she is excited by the opportunity to give back to a school community that has already meant so much to her family.

Kendra Wergin (Alumna, Class of 2003)

Kendra Wergin is the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Valneva, a Nasdaq-listed specialty vaccines company based in France. She joined Valneva in 2020 and became General Counsel in August 2024, and she was based in Paris before returning to Richmond in 2025. Prior to joining Valneva, Kendra worked in-house at Intuit and as an Associate in the London and Paris offices of Latham & Watkins LLP, where she practiced corporate law. She is admitted to practice law in four jurisdictions, including Virginia.

Earlier in her career, Kendra taught high school Spanish as a Teach For America corps member, supported implementation of an innovative teacher evaluation system in the Office of Human Capital of D.C. Public Schools, and worked as a strategic communications consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton.

Kendra graduated from MLWGS in 2003 and earned her B.A. in International Relations and Hispanic Studies from the College of William & Mary, a Master of Arts in Teaching from American University, a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law, and Master in Economic Law from the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po).

(Fun fact: She worked in the central office of D.C. Public Schools with Jason Kamras, the current superintendent of Richmond Public Schools and a MLWGS parent.)

Board Officer Nominations

The following Directors have agreed to serve as officers of the Board in 2026-2027. They will be officially elected at the Foundation's May Annual Meeting and officially begin their duties on July 1, 2026.

Chair–Olen CraneDo
Vice Chair–Lindsay Horning
Treasurer– Karen Setzer '99*
Secretary– Julie Seitz*

Committee Chairs/Director Members

The following Directors have agreed to serve as committee chairs/Director members for Board committees in 2026-2027. They will officially begin their terms on July 1, 2026.

Alumni Steering

Current (2025-2026): Erin Ortiz '06

2026-2027: Erin Ortiz '06*

2026-2027 Directors Serving the Committee: Erin Ortiz '06, Kendra Wergin '03

Development

Current (2025-2026): Julie Seitz

2026-2027: Julie Seitz*

2026-2027 Directors Serving the Committee: Anikka Moore, Julie Seitz

Events

Current (2025-2026): Lindsay Horning

2026-2027: Co-chairs: Lindsay Horning*

2026-2027 Directors Serving the Committee: Lindsay Horning, Anne Hoffler

Finance

Current (2025-2026): Adam Powers '10

2026-2027: Qi Liu (pending appointment to the Board)

2026-2027 Directors Serving the Committee: Qi Liu (pending appointment to the Board)

Governance and Nominations

Current (2025-2026): Olen Crane

2026-2027: Olen Crane*

2026-2027 Directors Appointed to the Committee: Monique Johnson, Stinson Mundy

Directors Rolling Off the Board

Three Directors will be rolling off the Foundation Board following the close of the Foundation's May 2026 meeting, having each served two consecutive 3-year terms:

Brian Baird, parent, Richmond
Adam Powers '10, Richmond
Emily Stegaier Winbigler '00, Chesterfield

Resigning this year for personal reasons:

Tyler Gibson '10, alum, NYC

Resigned to accept position as Foundation Assistant

Veronica Chornodolksy, Chesterfield

** returning*

On a motion from Kenneth Pritchett, seconded by Meredith Moses, the MW Foundation Board of Directors and officers for 2026-27 were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

a. Verbal Update

- **The MLWGS Class of 2026**

- As a class, they have performed a total of 39,277.75 community service hours. This is an average of approximately 211 hours per student.
- Robert (RJ) Matos (Chesterfield) earned 1119.5 hours of service.
- As a class, they have been offered over \$15 million in scholarships of June 1st, and that number continues to grow.
- The average GPA was 4.205 (mid-year).
- The average SAT score was 1395 and ACT is 31 (preliminary numbers; the official averages for this cohort will be released by the testing agencies in the fall).
- They are going to 75 different colleges, 99 are staying in-state, 82 are going out-of-state, and 4 are attending college outside the United States. One student, Henry Erda (Charles City) is planning to take a gap year before attending Georgetown. One student, Ananthu Anish (Chesterfield) is joining the United States Navy. One student, Bronson Fleming (Hanover) will attend the United States Naval Academy. Three students--Aiden Hess (Chesterfield), Alina Laraway (Henrico), and Joseph Van Drew (Hanover)--have accepted Army ROTC Scholarships.
- 17 were National Merit Finalists, and 39 received Commendations in the National Merit Program.
- 3 were Presidential Scholar candidates.
- In total, the Class of 2026 was recognized with 358 honors, awards, and scholarships!

- **Dragon Advisory (for Freshmen) Year-End Report by Ed Coleman**

Thank you to all who made Dragon Advisory such a success this year. First and foremost, thanks to **Rachel Loving**, who has taken the lion's share of the work with students in her capacity as NHS co-coordinator. She has been with the program every step of the way since its inception, selecting mentors and artfully pairing them up with Advisory groups and working with our fantastic student Co-Coordinators, Eleanor Heslinga, Samhith Sarva, and Jake Nelson, to ensure that our program is implemented with fidelity.

Thanks especially to the teachers who stepped up to serve as Advisors: **Dickson Benesh, John Clark, Will Cottrell, Andrew Maples, Kara Love, Amanda Lemco, Lindsey LeCroy, Allison**

Manning, Erin MacPherson, Tyler, Goldberger, and Adam Rotche. You 11 (some of whom have been serving as Advisors for two years now) gave up your time to supervise our student groups, evaluate our Room Leaders and Mentors, and cheer the freshmen on as they signed our honor pledge or built towers with toothpicks and marshmallows. Many of these teachers don't teach 9th grade but volunteer because they know how crucial a warm and supportive environment is for our youngest students.

Last year, we met 18 times: ten in the fall, eight in the spring. During that time, upperclassmen developed leadership skills as our Room Leaders supervised their peers, our Mentors partnered with freshmen, and our Advisory groups bonded in a variety of activities. In addition to our fall Honor Pledge Signing Ceremony, students participated in presentations from the Diversity Advocates and the Honor Council; they also received a lesson from Rachel Kincaid on digital citizenship in the spring. For Halloween (Kristin was right: we really do seem to perk up for that holiday), they trick-or-treated through the workrooms to get to know where their teachers are. Our December class meeting set the tone for a successful Freshman Lock-in. As a culminating activity, they painted rocks with inspirational quotes; these stones will eventually surround the memorial benches for Bob Lowerre that the Class of '26 has donated. We ended our year with an ice-cream party in the Courtyard, right before all the May madness began.

I'm pleased to announce next year's Advisors. Many will be returning from this year, but we have a few new faces who are stepping up to fill the spots left by those rotating off. Our 2026-2027 team will consist of **Dickson Benesh, Elise Burke, Will Cottrell, Andrew Maples, Kara Love, Lindsey LeCroy, Amanda Lemco, Erin MacPherson, Tyler Goldberger, Adam Rotche, Kristin Macklin, and Delanie Utterback.** These teachers continually demonstrate their dedication to our ninth-grade students, and I'm really excited about our team.

Our student Co-Coordinator have big shoes to fill, but we are hopeful that Seyi Hester, Julia Jones, Indira Mudinur, and Miranda Zhang can keep our momentum going, build on the changes we made to the program last year, and have an even stronger 2026-2027.

Dragon Advisory will be entering its third-year next year. Much of the school is affected by it in one way or another, and I know that all of you, whether you are directly connected to the program or not, are influenced by the slight change in our Friday schedules. Many of you teach and support and encourage freshmen in your classes, your clubs, and your teams, both academic and athletic. We always have work to do to ensure that the newest Dragons acculturate to our school, and each and every one of you plays a role in that process. Thank you for your support of the Dragon Advisory program. I wish you all a restorative and restful summer.

Ed Coleman
English Teacher & Freshman Class Sponsor
NBCT, English Language Arts - AYA
Milken Educator (IN '09)

- **Regional School Board approved international student travel: 1) Military History through England, France, Belgium, and Germany** – June 20 through July 1 with Mr. Dan Brown, and 2) **Spain**, June 29 through July 8 with Ms. Alecia Nichols.
- **Two summer camps with Cadence Theater:**

- o Two summer camps with Cadence Theater:
 - □ Camp 1 – June 15th – June 26th, Jammin in June with performances of Shrek the Musical Kids and Footloose - Youth Edition
 - □ Camp 2 – July 6th – July 17th, Jammin in July with performances of Shrek the Musical Kids (again) and Disney’s High School Musical 2
- **One summer camp associated with the VDOE for middle schoolers. Converge, July 20-24, 2026.**

Dr. Williams announced that one of our Social Studies teachers, Ms. NaKita Lee, is the principal of this first ever camp. There are 200 identified gifted students that are slated to attend this program for exposure to different subjects and activities and to get motivated for critical thinking and problem solving, similar to what we have at MLWGS. The camp could potentially be considered a recruitment tool for MLWGS.

Dr. Janssen stated this was an initiative that Dr. Bob Lowerre had agreed to during his tenure.

Ms. Lee will make a future presentation to the board after the camp’s successful conclusion.

- **The policy committee** will review the March and May VSBA updates for the board's first read in August.

In addition, *Technical edits* may be made to all existing regulations and procedures to distinguish them from school board policies.

- **Finance** will be busy closing out on FY26 and starting FY27 with initial textbook orders and supplies. Audits for FY23, FY24, and FY25 should be wrapped up soon.
- **Human Resources** will be processing new employees into payroll and benefit systems. VRS and insurance group rates will be updated with new salaries. The Staff Handbook and Staff Resources website will also be updated.
- **MWtech is working on:**

Mr. Bortz briefly reported we had a successful first year deployment of the 1:1 initiative with freshmen, receiving good feedback received from their teachers. Year two devices have been delivered, and we are working on their buildout with deployment in August. Other department work is being performed as listed below:

- General User Account Management
- General System Review
- Inventory - Update, Repairs and Surplus
- New Data Center (Server and SAN hardware upgrades)
- Network system (version and firmware updates for firewalls, edge switches, wireless access points and wireless onboarding/management)
- Onboarding 2 new technology department hires
- Preparations for the new 1:1 Initiative for the Class of 2029

- AUP and Device Loaner Policy Review
 - Device builds and testing
 - Content Filter testing
 - Deployment planning
 - Freshmen Orientation planning
 - Preparations for August PD for Staff
 - Preparations for new general staff hires and workroom moves
 - Strategic Planning Review
 - CIP Planning
 - Online Testing Review
 - 2025 Staff App Survey Review
 - Supporting Online Econ and Personal Finance Courses
 - Technology Integrator Meeting for Fall events
 - VOIP phone system (firmware updates)
 - Website Maintenance and Review
- **Department of Education** web-based materials will be updated, including the school operating schedule and contact details, and the administrative manual.
 - **Counseling** will receive records from the home divisions on incoming freshmen for updates in the MLWGS database. Student scheduling is still being tweaked and SOL scores will be updated.
 - **MW Security** is working on:
 - Working to implement a new ID Card System (Tech)
 - Implementing new parking placards
 - Working on updating graphics for the marquee (Impact Cloud)
 - Working on 3 SSO recertifications (Jeffreys, Jenkins, Smith)
 - Updating the Threat Management processes (Erin Ortiz)
 - Updating the Crisis Manual (Jeffreys)
 - **The Facilities team** is working on:
 - will be busy on summer maintenance items, including cleaning and lubricating rooftop units, painting and repairs to classrooms and furniture, replacing damaged ceiling tiles, and replacing lighting as needed.
 - Window reglazing on Lombardy St. side
 - Refinishing of the gym floor
 - Waxing of all classrooms, halls, and common areas
 - Installation of benches
 - Fix and/or replace lights and ceiling tiles where needed in classrooms, offices, and hallways.
 - Repair and paint walls in several rooms and offices.
 - Fix or replace all broken student chairs.
 - Replace door closers on multiple doors throughout the building.
 - Coordinate with security and add "prop open" door alarms to several areas around the building.

- **The Sanitation team** will perform its annual deep clean and floor waxing of the entire facility.
- **College Boot Camp for seniors will be held August 10th - 12th** with two sessions each day, 9 am–noon, and 1 pm–4 pm.
- **Walker Way Welcome Day** is open to all freshmen. Walker Way Welcome Day will occur on Monday, August 17th, the day before freshman orientation. This event for incoming freshmen is a “fun” time for students to meet each other and make new friends in Freshman Advisory groups and explore and understand Maggie L. Walker Governor School’s values. Freshmen will attend workshops that focus on the four pillars of the Walker Way: courage, compassion, community, and collaboration. These pillars align with our focus on school culture and wellness and with the goals of the Freshman Advisory curriculum.
- **Reopening of School Preparations:**
 - Normal Operating Hours Resume August 3 (changed to August 10 after this meeting)
 - Fall Sports Start on August 3
 - Primary Election Day on August 4
 - Department Chairs return on August 6
 - Senior Portraits on August 7
 - College Boot Camp, August 10-12
 - New Teacher Academy on August 11-12
 - Teachers return August 13
 - Professional Development August 14
 - Walker Way Welcome Day on August 17 (description above)
 - 9th Grade Orientation Day on August 18
 - Professional Development August 19
 - Instruction for students begins August 24

b. Coming Events June – August 21st, 2025

Tuesday, June 2nd	AY26 Final Report Cards Issued
Wednesday, June 3rd	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 9:00 am
Thursday, June 4th	Leadership Retreat
Monday, June 8th - Thursday, July 30th	Summer Operating Hours, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday - Thursday. Building is closed each Friday.
Monday, June 8th	Last day for department chairs
Tuesday, June 9th	NEW: Newtowne Civic Association Monthly meeting, 5:30 pm, Room 153
Tuesday, June 9th - Thursday, June 11th	National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards in NYC
Wednesday, June 10th - Sunday, June 28th	Gymnasium floor resurfacing
Thursday, June 11th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153

Saturday, June 13 th	End of Year Track and Field and Cross Country Banquet, 8:00 am - Noon, Cafeteria
Monday, June 15 th – Friday July 26 th	Cadence Theater Summer Camp #1 of 2. 8:15 am – 3 pm daily. Black Box, Commons, + 2 classrooms, occasional use of Auditorium.
Thursday, June 18 th	MLWGS Staff Holiday (Cadence Theater is Open)
Saturday, June 20 th – Wednesday, July 1 st	Board Approved Student Travel for Military History (Dan Brown, Sponsor) to England/France/Belgium, and Germany
Friday, June 26 th	Cadence Theater Evening Performance @ 6:00 pm, Auditorium
Monday, June 29 th - Wednesday, July 8 th	Board Approved Student Travel for Spanish Language and Culture (Alecia Nichols) to Spain
Thursday, July 2 nd	Holiday – Office Closed
Monday, July 6 th – Friday, July 17 th	Cadence Theater Summer Camp #2 of 2, 8:15 am – 3 pm, Black Box, Commons, + 2 classrooms, occasional use of Auditorium.
Wednesday, July 8 th	New Resident Testing, 9:00 am, Room 153
Friday, July 17 th	Cadence Theater Evening Performance @ 6:00 pm, Auditorium
Monday, July 20 th - Thursday, July 23 rd	Converge Camp for Middle Schoolers, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Selected Classrooms
Monday, August 3 rd	Normal Operating Schedule Resumes
	Fall Sports Begin
Tuesday, August 4 th	Primary Elections, 6:00 am - 7:00 pm, Rooms 104 and 105
Thursday, August 6 th	Department Chairs Return
Friday, August 7 th	Senior Portraits by Cady, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Commons
Monday, August 10 th – Wednesday, August 12 th	College Boot Camp for Rising Seniors, two sessions daily, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
Tuesday, August 11 th - Wednesday, August 12 th	New Teacher Academy, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, Room 153
Thursday, August 13 th	First Day for Teachers
Friday, August 14 th	Professional Development for Faculty
Monday, August 17 th	Walker Way Welcome Day for freshmen, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Tuesday, August 18 th	Freshman Orientation, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Wednesday, August 19 th	Professional Development for Faculty
Thursday, August 20 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
Monday, August 24 th	Instruction of Students for AY2027 Begins

c. Annual Field Trip Report to the Board for AY2026

Presented for board information required by policy 4006. Students participated in a variety of local, regional, national, and international learning experiences aligned to our curriculum and mission. Opportunities included academic competitions, college visits, museum and historical site

experiences, language and cultural immersion programs, STEM research and ecology studies, and seminar-based travel connected to course content. Destinations ranged from Richmond-area institutions to Philadelphia, Arizona, Massachusetts, Morocco, Belize, Denmark, Iceland, and England. These experiences provided students with meaningful opportunities to extend classroom learning through hands-on engagement, research, cultural exchange, and academic competition.

Field Trip Report 2025 - 2026

Date:	Organization:	Sponsor:	Location:	Purpose:	~Student Cost
9/18/2025	We The People	S. Ulmschneider	James Madison's Montpelier	Constitution Day	\$0
9/30/2025	Yearbook	M. White	Chesterfield Tech Center	Workshop	\$0
10/1/2025	AP German	K. Macklin	James River	Art & sustainability w/Goche Institute	\$0
10/6/2025	AP US	J. Clark	VMFA, St. John's Church	American Revolution studies	\$12
10/28/2025	Heritage Spanish	A. Nichols	Kuba Kuba	Caribbean Hispanic traditions	\$0
11/14-11/16/2025	VAMUN	J. Szerokman	Charlottesville, VA	VAMUN conference	\$235
11/11-11/13/2025	We The People	S. Ulmschneider	Philadelphia, PA	Visit Historical & constitutional sites	\$285
1/30/2026	Physics	J. Lehman	Andover, MA	Scientific research experience	\$690
2/25-3/1/2026	Math	D. Benesh	Phoenix, AZ	SABR Analytics conference	\$650
2/26/2026	History	N. Lee/C. Anderson	VMFA, VMHC	Truth & Triumph Tour	\$8
2/27/2026	Fine Arts	J. Hall, Utterback	VMFA	Fine Arts exhibit	\$8
3/6/2026	GPC Seminar	C. Anderson	Museum of Lorton Prison	Gender, Politics, and Consumerism in a Global	\$0
3/9/2026	Japanese Exchange	Y. Eshita	VMFA	Guiding the Japanese exchange students	\$0
3/10/2026	Hispanic Heritage	A. Nichols	VCU Student Commons Ballroom	conference for Hispanic Heritage students	\$0
3/25/2026	AP French	M. Paturel	William & Mary College	campus visit for college level french	\$0
3/25 - 4/1/2026	MENA Seminar	R. Cross	Morocco	Study Middle Eastern culture	\$2,900
3/27-4/1/2026	STEM	D. Barnes	Belize	STEM history & Ecology	\$4,500
3/31-4/7/2026	VRTSSeminar	K. Sheppard	Denmark & Iceland	Study history of Vikings	\$3,000
3/31-4/7/2026	Jane Austin Sr Semina	K. Lovee	England	Explore sites connected to Jane Austin	\$2,800
4/17-19/2026	Japanese Classes	Y. Eshito	John Hopkins (SAIS) Washington, DC	Quiz Bowl of Japanese language high sch	\$0

d. Annual Student Wellness Report to the Board for AY2026

Presented for board information required by policy 4075. This year, the Wellness Committee continued to support student and staff well-being through health education, mental health programming, employee wellness initiatives, and school climate efforts. Highlights include annual Signs of Suicide training, Dragon Advisory wellness lessons, expanded social-emotional supports through our school social worker, schoolwide anti-vaping education, mindfulness programming, and partnerships with organizations such as Caring Canines and VCU Sports Medicine. The committee also supported employee wellness through vaccination clinics, CPR training, wellness reimbursements, and staff wellness activities. Many of these efforts are reflected in the goals adopted in our 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, particularly those focused on student wellness, belonging, school culture, staff support, and safe learning environments. Administration appreciates the work of the Wellness Committee.

Chair Donbrosky and Members of the MLWGS Regional School Board,

On behalf of the **MLWGS Wellness Committee**, I submit this report outlining the work of the committee during the 2025-2026 School Year.

Review of Practices

Within each component, we identified MLWGS practices that benefit the health and wellness of our students, faculty, and community. Examples of applicable practices this school year include:

Health Education

- Health/PE 9 and 10
- Mindfulness Month, endorsed and organized by Bring Change 2 Mind (club)
- Signs of Suicide training for all 9th and 11th-grade students annually
- Four-session Mind and Body Awareness for Better Wellbeing in AP Psychology
- One-on-one meetings with students in consultation with the nurse and school social worker to discuss health issues and provide recommendations, as well as follow up
- Dragon Advisory content includes proper sleep habits
- Nurse Shapiro obtained Physiology First certification - continues to educate students and gives occasional presentations to students and staff or educational offerings such as breathwork classes.

Nutrition Environment and Services

- Free in-school meals for qualified students
- Healthy choice meals are available at all meals
- Healthy options are available in vending machines
- Dragon Advisory content includes proper nutrition
- Exploring alternatives for providing lunch, such as partnering with other schools such as Richmond Public Schools and researching whether we can qualify for at least partial reimbursement through federal funding

Employee Wellness

- Flu and COVID vaccine clinics for staff
- COVID-19 testing when needed for employees
- COVID-19 home test kits provided for staff and students as needed
- In-house TB risk assessments for all new staff
- In-house CPR training
- AED equipment remains available on all three floors of the building as well as on the outdoor track and portable unit for sports off campus
- Narcan available with AEDs as well as in the clinic
- LifeVac choking rescue devices purchased for the cafeteria and will be placed with the AEDs
- One-on-one meetings with faculty and staff members in consultation with the nurse and school social worker to discuss issues and provide recommendations/resources
- One-on-one meetings with faculty and staff members in consultation with the nurse and school social worker to discuss issues and provide recommendations/resources

- Revise & expand teacher mentorship program developed by teachers for teachers
- Reimbursement for up to \$50 per employee for wellness activities/resources
- Professional Development with rotations on wellness
- Admin encouragement of walking for wellness with participant chart
- The 2026-2031 Strategic Plan adopted in March 2026 includes the following goal:
 - Goal 3.1 focused on inclusive and high-quality staffing: *Recruit, support, and retain outstanding educators through fair, inclusive, and effective hiring and retention practices that foster a professional culture where faculty are valued, supported, and able to thrive.*
 - Goal 3.3 focused on belonging and school climate: *Foster a school environment where all members feel supported, respected, and connected.*

Social and Emotional School Climate

- Periodic mindfulness programs and ongoing access to mindfulness room
- Collaborated with Caring Canines and RPD Mounted Patrol to provide therapy dogs as well as an afternoon with two horses, respectively
- Opportunities for ongoing and/or acute sessions with the school social worker
- Monthly staff social activities organized by the Teacher Welcome subcommittee
- Opt-in secret pal partners for monthly exchange of gifts and affirming notes
- The Wellness Committee established monthly activities, created an online help document, and organized a faculty fun run, indoor cycle class, and a walk at Hollywood Cemetery
- School-Wide Anti-Vaping presentation led by student council leaders, admins, athletic director, school nurse, and school social worker
- Library resources for wellness continue to include mindfulness coloring books and fidget toys for in-library use by students
- PTSA facilitated several additional community socials during the school day that included lunch for all staff
- SCA planned an additional spirit week to conclude the instructional year with a school and staff-wide popsicle social on the last day of class
- The One Small Step program (OSS) continues to teach and promote active listening and foster connection among students with policy/political differences through both an extracurricular spring program and a program integrated into non-AP U.S. Government. The program also added a drop-in lunchtime program in Fall 2025.
- Ms. Ortiz is working toward obtaining her LCSW and continues to provide tier II and III supports for students through the lens of mental health and socio-emotional wellness
- Dragon Advisory content included time management, healthy competition
- Collectively, MLWGS 101 Foundations and Dragon Advisory continue to provide more time for freshmen to make connections with their classmates
- Utilizing Anonymous Alerts reporting system
- Continue transition to bell-to-bell smartphone-free school day

- The 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, adopted in March 2026, includes the following goals:
 - Goal 4.1 focused on student wellness and support systems: *Ensure that students have access to comprehensive academic, mental health, and social-emotional supports.*
 - Goal 4.4 focused on belonging and school culture: *Foster a school environment where all students feel valued, connected, and respected.*

Physical Environment

- HEPA filters remain in classrooms as well as offices and larger school spaces
- Ongoing Contract with building custodial company
- In process of replacing HVAC units on the roof; RTU 2 scheduled for 2026
- The 2026-2031 Strategic Plan adopted in March 2026 includes the following goal:
 - Goal 5.1 focused on safe, functional, and accessible facilities: *Maintain buildings and systems that support student safety, accessibility, and daily operations*

Health Services

- Concussion Return to Play program (VCU)
- Ongoing partnership with VCU Sports Medicine
- Emergency Narcan is now stocked in-house in the clinic and will be available with AEDs
- LifeVac choking rescue devices purchased for the cafeteria will be placed with the AEDs.
- The 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, adopted in March 2026, includes the following goal:
 - Goal 4.2 focused on family and community partnerships: *Strengthen relationships with families, partner divisions, and community organizations*

Family Engagement

- Continued to consult with community-based providers to support students returning to school from hospitalization
- PTSA MLWGS Advocacy and Public Education in Virginia at the 2026 General Assembly - MLWGS had the largest cohort of representatives!
- Held a Town Hall organized and facilitated by the Honor Council to discuss honor and integrity with a panel of alumni and outside constituents
- The 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, adopted in March 2026, includes the following goal:
 - Goal 4.2 focused on family and community partnerships: *Strengthen relationships with families, partner divisions, and community organizations*

Conclusion

Thank you for your support of the MLWGS Wellness Committee and for your care and attention to the health and welfare of all students and staff of the Maggie L Walker Governor's School.

Sincerely,
Wellness Committee
Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Ms. Donbrosky asked if these initiatives are well received by the students. Dr. Janssen responded, yes, they are, and in fact students have been advocating expanding these and/or increase our work in this area.

e. Annual Fund-Raising Report AY26 (Policy 4031)

As required by Policy [#4031](#) - The executive director makes an annual report to the Regional School Board on food-based fundraisers. This report reflects 15 approved fundraising activities conducted by student organizations during the 2025-2026 school year. These activities generated approximately \$1,412 to support student programs and club activities. Administration is pleased to report that all fundraising activities were conducted in accordance with board policy.

Dr. Janssen noted that MW is only required by its policy to report this information to the board, and it is not required as in other divisions who receive federal funding for their student meals.

MLWGS 2025-2026 FUNDRAISING REPORT					
Name of Club	Date	Items sold	Confirmed	Total Days	Revenue
MUN	Sept 16-18	Baked goods	Yes	3	\$ 220.00
	Oct 21-23	Baked goods	Yes	3	\$ 146.00
	Dec 16-18	Baked goods	Yes	3	\$ 37.00
	Jan 13-15	Baked goods	Yes	3	\$ 128.00
Bring Change to Min	March 12	Baked goods	Yes	1	Cancelled
SCA	Jan 21	Pizza	Yes	1	Cancelled
FCA	Nov 17-19	Pancakes	Yes	3	\$ 55.00
MuAlphaTheta	March 4-10	Orders pies	Yes	1	\$ 202.00
Baking Club	Dec 8	Baked goods	Yes	1	\$ 23.50
	April 20	Baked goods	Yes	1	\$ 23.50
Russian Club	Feb 10 & 11	Coffee	Yes	2	\$ 83.00
MENA Seminar	Nov 12	Lee's Chicken	Yes	1	\$ 50.00
	Feb 18	Lee's Chicken	Yes	1	Canceled
Fashion Seminar	Dec 11	cookies	Yes	1	\$ 90.00
	Dec 12	cookies	Yes	1	\$ 90.00
Fringe	March 16-20	Coffee/cookies	Yes	3	\$ 78.00
FBLA/DECA	February 9-13	Candy grams	Yes	1	\$ 186.00
TOTAL				30	\$ 1,412.00

f. GS Foundation FY2027 Enhancement Grant Information

The Foundation has approved a FY27 enhancement request totaling \$191,500. The request supports teacher professional development, student financial assistance, academic teams and competitions, seminar experiences, classroom enhancements, and other enrichment opportunities that extend beyond the operating budget. We are grateful for the Foundation's continued partnership and investment in our students and staff.

This AY2027 Enhancement Grant request was submitted to the Governor's School Foundation for the 2026-2027 school year and approved by the Foundation Board at its May meeting. It reflects a decrease from last year's (AY26) approved request (\$200,000 to \$191,500), which is distributed between anticipated teacher and student needs.

This year's request is based on what was actually disbursed last year and requests placed by teachers for next year. This request reflects the lowering of expenditures in AY26 as the school

has worked to more accurately allocate financial aid for travel to families with expressed or documented need versus broader subsidies as had been the practice for many years.

MLWGS FY27 Foundation Request	
(Approved 5.6.26)	
TEACHERS	
GRADUATE COURSEWORK (GC)	\$12,000.00
CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS (CON)	\$20,000.00
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (PM)	\$4,000.00
TEACHERS TOTAL	\$36,000.00
STUDENTS	
CLASSROOM/INSTRUCTIONAL ENHANCEMENTS (IE)	\$5,000.00
ACADEMIC CLUBS AND TEAMS (AC)	\$25,000.00
STUDENT AID (SA)	\$25,000.00
WE THE PEOPLE (WTP)	\$21,000.00
MILITARY HISTORY SEMINAR (MH)	\$12,000.00
MONEYBALL: THE HISTORY AND SABERMETRICS OF BASEBALL SEMINAR (BS)	\$17,000.00
MATH MODELING: SABR DIAMOND DOLLARS COMPETITIONS (M)	\$16,000.00
JANE AUSTEN AND HER CULTURAL LEGACY: FROM REGENCY ENGLAND TO MODERN MEDIA SEMINAR (JA)	\$10,000.00
COMMUNITY IMPACT & ADVOCACY (CA):	\$6,000.00
AMERICAN CHILDHOOD: A CULTURAL & LITERARY EXPLORATION (AC)	\$1,000.00
FASHION & STYLE : IMPLICATIONS OF THE CLOTHES ON OUR BACKS (FS)	\$7,500.00
OTHER STUDENT TRAVEL (OST)	\$10,000.00
STUDENTS TOTAL	\$155,500.00
TOTAL FOUNDATION REQUEST	\$191,500.00

XII. Unfinished Business

a. 2020-2026 Strategic Plan Final Report

Madam Chair, this report closes the 2020–2026 Strategic Plan and recognizes the significant work completed in the areas of belonging, academic innovation, student support, safety, operations, technology, and regional partnerships. The accomplishments outlined in this report now serve as the foundation for implementation of our 2026–2031 Strategic Plan and its five strategic pillars. Administration appreciates the contributions of our students, staff, families, and regional partners who helped make this work possible.

There were no questions from the board.

XIII. Items for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Annual Authorization of DOE Signatures 2026-2027 (*First Read*)

At the August 2026 meeting, the executive director will request that the Executive School Board choose Dr. Max Smith as the designated signature when the executive director is unavailable for the Department of Education.

b. Annual Certification of the MLWGS Crisis Manual 2026-2027 (*First Read*)

Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section. MLWGS has developed such a plan and it describes the components of a medical emergency response plan in coordination with local emergency medical

services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The Regional School Board shall review this plan annually and has the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of §2.2-3705.2. The Superintendent (Director) shall certify in writing that the review has taken place no later than August 31 of each year to the Virginia Center for School Safety VCSS.

The existing Crisis Plan was originally approved by the Regional School Board on August 21, 2008. The updated manual will be available for Board viewing at the August 2026 meeting.

Approval will be sought at the Board's August 2026 meeting.

c. 2026-2027 Student Handbook (*First Read*)

Updates to the student handbook will be provided in August, and changes highlighted in the document. The handbook is currently under construction for AY2027.

Approval will be sought at the Board's August 2026 meeting.

d. Health and Dental Benefit Rates 2026-2027 (*First Read*)

Renewal rates are typically updated in late July or early August. The Regional School Board will be asked to review and approve new rates at their August meeting.

Open enrollment for employees is scheduled for September. Detailed information, as well as group meetings describing the benefit plans, will be available to our employees to assist them in making an informed decision.

The new plan year begins October 1, 2026.

*No school-paid subsidy is provided for retirees who contribute 100% premium.

XIV. Information

- Finance Committee Minutes June 3, 2026
- Faculty Retirees of MLWGS 2026
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week, May 18 – Quinn Redwine, '26-Richmond, Baseball
- Girls 4x800 Relay VHSL State Champions from MW

XV. New Business

None.

XVI. Announcements

Dr. Janssen reminded members that there is no July meeting of the board and said, on behalf of all here, we wish you a good summer.

Ms. Donbrosky asked for an update on the school's AI policy development. Dr. Janssen asked for Wendy DeGroat to provide her with the update. Ms. DeGroat was a member of the school's Generative AI committee who has worked on policy development all year.

Ms. DeGroat stated last fall when the policy committee intended to bring a template policy to the board, she noted it was different than what her committee had been working to develop and asked that we take a step back and allow them time for future study on how the template policy might work at Maggie Walker.

Continuing, Ms. DeGroat summarized the Generative AI committee developed a 2-prong approach to policy, one would be a statement that applied to the entire school that would highlight principles and values on AI use, and two, actual specifics on usage could vary by departments, but each department would be expected to have one. She added, given how different Maggie Walker is with its focus on discipline specific work and citation styling, it followed that our policy would be different.

Giving additional credit to Sam Ulmschneider (Social Studies) and Nick Merillat (Fine Arts), Ms. DeGroat mentioned how both teachers had led an AI Guidelines session on last February's staff professional development that was well received. With their efforts, we have updated the AI policies that are being presented to the board in August.

In conclusion, Ms. DeGroat hopes the board will be pleased with the product. She added it is aligned with the broader policy expectations but tweaked to work at Maggie Walker.

Ms. Donbrosky asked if there was anything we [*the board*] can do to help students better understand how to use AI? Ms. DeGroat stated she believes the content will reflect board concerns and that it lifts up the importance of instructional goals in terms of how it is appropriate with teaching and learning.

Dr. Smith noted that major upcoming changes in the Student Handbook relate to the use of AI.

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kenneth Pritchell, this meeting was adjourned at 9:48 am.

The next scheduled meeting is the Executive School Board, on August 20, 2026.

Heather Donbrosky, Chair

Kristin Janssen, Ed.D., Executive Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk