

MINUTES

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

Thursday, August 20, 2026

9:01 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. 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

Mr. John Griffin, Jr., *School Board*, Hopewell Public Schools

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ms. Joy Cobb, Deputy Clerk, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Dr. Max Smith and Dr. Lisa Williams – Assistant Directors

Wendy DeGroat and David Bortz– MLWGS Staff

Absent:

Ms. Barbara Marshall, Board 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 Public Schools
Ms. Whitney Welsh, *School Board*, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, *School Board*, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, *School Board*, King & Queen Public
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
Ms. Yolanda Brown, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Wayne Lyle, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County 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

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved in a voice vote.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the minutes of June 11, 2026, Executive Board meeting were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. RECOGNITIONS

None.

At approximately 9:30 am during this meeting, the chair welcomed its newest board member from Hopewell, Mr. John Griffin. During his introduction he said he has been serving the Hopewell SB for approximately seven years and was appreciative of the moment of silence to remember the service of Ms. Linda Hyslop.

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

On a motion by Meredith Moses to approve the consent items as a slate, seconded by James Taylor, the following items were unanimously approved by the Executive School Board on a voice vote: August personnel actions, fiscal status reports for June and July 2026, and the donation reports for June and July 2026.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Election Of Deputy Board Clerk for the Remainder of 2026

Mr. Lucas Veale has stepped down as the deputy board clerk effective July 1, 2026. The executive director has nominated Ms. Joy Cobb to serve in this role through the end of 2026.

2026 Clerks	2026 Clerks
Barbara Marshall – Clerk	Barbara Marshall – Clerk
Lucas Veale – Deputy Clerk	Joy Cobb – Deputy Clerk

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, Joy Cobb was unanimously elected as the deputy board clerk for the remainder of 2026 by the Executive School Board on a voice vote.

b. Annual Authorization of DOE Signatures 2026-2027 – Second Read

The executive director recommended authorization for Dr. Michael Smith to be the necessary designee signature utilized in the absence of the executive director for the Virginia Department of Education through August 31, 2027.

On a motion by James Taylor, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, VDOE signature authorization for Dr. Michael Smith in the absence of the executive director was unanimously approved by the Executive School Board on a voice vote.

c. Certification of the 2026-2027 Crisis Manual – *Second Read*

Each school board should 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 (Executive Director) certifies in writing that 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.

Record of Updates* to Plan

Date	Page(s)	Updates to Plan	Reason for Update
6/30/25	Cover	Dates	New Dates
6/30/25	1	Record of Distribution	New Dates
6/30/25	10	Critical Phone Numbers	New Personnel
7/1/25	All	Director to Executive Director	New Title
7/1/25	All	Superintendent to Chairman Regional School Board	Reflects accuracy
7/1/26	All	Security Director	New Personnel

*Minor updates made by the Emergency Manager/Director will be incorporated, as necessary, into annual revision.

Record of Revisions* to Plan

Page(s)	Revisions to Plan	Reason for Revision	Effective Date
35	Unauthorized entry	Safety revision	8/1/2026
36,37	Propped Door/Unsecured entrance	Safety revision	8/1/2026

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Kathryn Ricard, the Executive School Board unanimously approved on a voice vote updates to the adopted MLWGS Crisis Plan for certification to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) by August 31, 2026. The board requests that formatting issues on page 10 be adjusted prior to the executive director's certification to DCJS.

d. 2026-2027 Student Handbook – *Second Read*

The executive director requested approval for updates to the following sections of the Student Handbook as listed below.

The Executive Director asks for board approval of the 2026-2027 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Substantive edits were made and highlighted on the pages below. Students will be assessed online in August-September for their understanding and agreement.

- Page 3: Mission and Vision- Updated to current language for 2026-2031 Strategic Plan
- Page 8: Homework Policy - 'Should not' has been strengthened to 'Will not' regarding expectations for teachers to schedule major assessments on all block days, assign homework due the day of a test, and schedule tests the week before an exam.
- Page 8: Assessment Guidelines- Students with more than two major in-class assessments will be required to request a reschedule for one business day in advance, rather than 24 hours in advance/
- Page 11: Exam Exemption- Religious observance has been added as an absence category that does not count against Exam Exemption. Language has been added to clarify that students who have been suspended (OSS or ISD) are not exempt from any exam.
- Page 14: Phone Usage - Restrictions have been increased to align with [Code of Virginia § 22.1-79.3:1](#). Students will no longer be able to use cellular phones during lunch, between classes, or during study hall.
- Page 23: Tutoring- Language has been updated to reflect current schedules and capacities.
- Throughout, gender-specific pronouns such as his/her have been changed to their/them to degender the text.

On a motion by James Taylor, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the Executive School Board unanimously approved on a voice vote updates to the 2026-27 Student Handbook.

e. Health and Dental Contracts 2026-2027 – *Discussion*

While typically an Action Item in August, we are instead presenting today As a Discussion Item – Action is deferred to the September meeting.

Dr. Janssen requested Dr. Smith address the board regarding his work on our benefits renewal necessitated by a larger than expected premium increase from Anthem. The final healthcare renewal proposed by Anthem came in with a 17% increase. This is above budget projections and well above market trends for an organization of our size (12%).

Dr. Smith indicated his work has involved a survey of our employees for feedback on their preferences and priorities. With their feedback and working with our broker, The Faison Group,

Cigna has proposed two options for our consideration; 1) a traditional PPO that is similar to the traditional PPO we have with Anthem now but would decrease the out-of-pocket costs for employees by about 1/3rd of what they are paying now with the Anthem increased premiums, or 2) savings realized with a high-deductible plan that is paired with an Health Reimbursement plan [HRA] supported by the organization to pick up medical expenses up to a certain threshold. He said the employees seem open to the plans. Further, our broker will be in to discuss with staff within the next two weeks. Both plans will represent savings, both for our employees and the school as opposed to staying with Anthem.

Dr. Taylor asked a budget question of Dr. Smith, seeking to know if the new proposals fall within what was budgeted. Dr. Smith confirmed it would and no budget adjustment will be necessary.

Ms. Moses questioned how this might impact retirees. Dr. Smith said any employees who retire before Medicare eligibility have the option to retain their current coverage but must pay the full premium, MW does not subsidize for retirees. [While not stated, this is COBRA coverage]. *

Generally, 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**. Dr. Nichols related that New Kent also had to do a realignment with their benefits, but it took several years to get to it. He noted the benefits to employees who would know their salary and benefit costs at the same time.

In conclusion, we have been told that moving forward with Cigna will avoid future spikes and valleys in our renewal rates.

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

f. MLWGS Food Services 2026-2027 – Review Vote Results from Online Poll

As part of the annual procurement process, MLWGS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for food service operations for the 2026–2027 school year. Following a review of the proposals submitted, staff recommend awarding the contract to Ordo. While all proposals offered strong programs and valuable enhancements, Ordo provided the best overall fit by balancing quality service, operational needs, and affordability for students and families. The selected proposal allows MLWGS to maintain meal pricing closer to current levels, while other proposals would have required a significant increase in student costs. Our current vendor elected not to submit a proposal after the RFP was issued. Although MLWGS had hoped to transition to a federal meals program through Richmond Public Schools beginning in 2026–2027, that transition has been deferred until 2027–2028. Ordo’s experience supporting schools with federal meal programs will provide a valuable resource as we prepare for that transition. Formal approval of the contract is requested at the August 20, 2026, Regional School Board meeting.

Ms. Ricard asked about the mechanics of how the online ordering will work, especially related to the timing of orders placed. Dr. Smith stated it is done by Wednesday night of the previous week. He shared that parents have received notifications regarding ordering and how to sign up to order, as well as student meal credits. This is a cashless business. Ms. Ricard asked if families have voiced any concerns. Dr. Smith responded it is mixed; some have said it is much more modern and

efficient, and others worry about the no cash option should their students forget to order, but we are working through these details.

The entire Regional School Board was invited to vote on this issue in a digital format. The results were 10-aye votes, 0-nays, and 4 absent, for both the waiting first read request and authorizing Ordo as the 26-27 food service provider.

g. Fiscal Year 2027 Amended Operating Budget with June 30, 2026, State Budget Adoption– Waive First Read Requested

Dr. Janssen stated that the State surprised us at the end of June with a 4% salary increase where we had developed the budget for a 3% increase. She recommends this amended budget be adopted with that additional 1% to go into salaries and recognized that not all divisions were eligible for this benefit due to the matching requirement that Governors' Schools are exempt from as we have no ability to match. She also recognized that we physically must redo contracts and redo VRS updates that will be a lot of backend work for staff.

On a motion from Meredith Moses, seconded by James Taylor, the amended FY2027 operating budget was amended on a unanimous voice vote.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Verbal Updates

- **Summer Youth Camp with Cadence Theatre at MLWGS #1, June 15-26, 2026**
Performances of *Shrek the Musical Kids* and *Footloose - Youth Edition*
- **Summer Youth Camp with Cadence Theatre at MLWGS #2, July 6-17, 2026**
Performances of *Shrek the Musical Kids* (again) and Disney's *High School Musical 2*
- **Converge Learning Camp (VDOE), July 20-23, 2026**
Converge was created through a collaborative effort of the Region 1 Gifted Coordinators to provide an engaging summer learning experience for middle school students. This summer, all 14 partner school divisions had the opportunity to send their middle school students to participate in the program. The 2026 program was a tremendous success and reflected the power of regional collaboration in expanding opportunities for gifted learners. Thank you to Ms. Lee, her staff, our staff, our technology folks, and our regional partners for their leadership and support in making Converge possible. **Ms. NaKita Lee, Director of Converge, will provide a more detailed program update during the September Regional School Board meeting.**
- Congratulations to our PTSA for receiving the **2025-2027 National PTA School of Excellence designation. Dr. Ben Pearson-Nelson and his entire leadership team should feel so incredible about this accomplishment.**
- **A few facility updates.**
 - Added memorial benches and concrete pads at the Bluestone entrance, courtesy of the Classes of 2025 and 2026, honoring former MLWGS Executive Director Dr. Robert Lowerre (2017–2025).
 - Completed exterior window glazing and front façade cleaning along N. Lombardy Street.

- Created a Universal Learning Lab to support structured study halls, provide additional quizzes and testing spaces, and accommodate in-school suspension.
- Completed a deep cleaning of the kitchen in preparation for a new food service vendor this fall.
- Reconfigured workspaces in the Counseling, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, English, and Visual and Performing Arts departments to accommodate new staff members.
- Updated the overhead lighting in a number of areas throughout the building.
- Resurfaced and waxed all floors, stairwells, and the gymnasium floor.

- **MW Technology Summer Projects 2026**

- **Onboarded new platforms:**

- 1 to 1 Plus: Technology Helpdesk Tickets and Inventory system
- Guardian365: Security Operations Center 24/7 monitoring of user accounts, applications and devices in our Microsoft365 platform
- Supporting launch of Securly Pass and Visitor Registration
- Supporting second year launch of 1:1 school-managed devices for our incoming class of 2030.

- **Systems:**

- EOY Rollover for PowerSchool and Schoology systems
- Supported enrollment, communication and fee management
- School-wide account management for all systems
- Training for department

- **Finance:**

- Summer Procurements
- Annual subscription and licensing renewals
- Audit support

- **Curriculum:**

- MLWGS-101
- Staff Professional Development
- Freshman Orientation
- Digital Citizenship

- **Summer Programs:**

- First year of Converge
- Six weeks on online ECON and Personal Finance
- Four weeks of Cadence Theater Camp

- **Building Projects:**

- Summer maintenance of lighting system in Auditorium and Black Box
- Summer printer maintenance
- Classroom de-installation of legacy equipment
 - Surplus same (ongoing)
- Gym AV system update (ongoing)

- **Infrastructure:**

- Ongoing system maintenance of servers, switches, access points, computers, phones, and other technology equipment

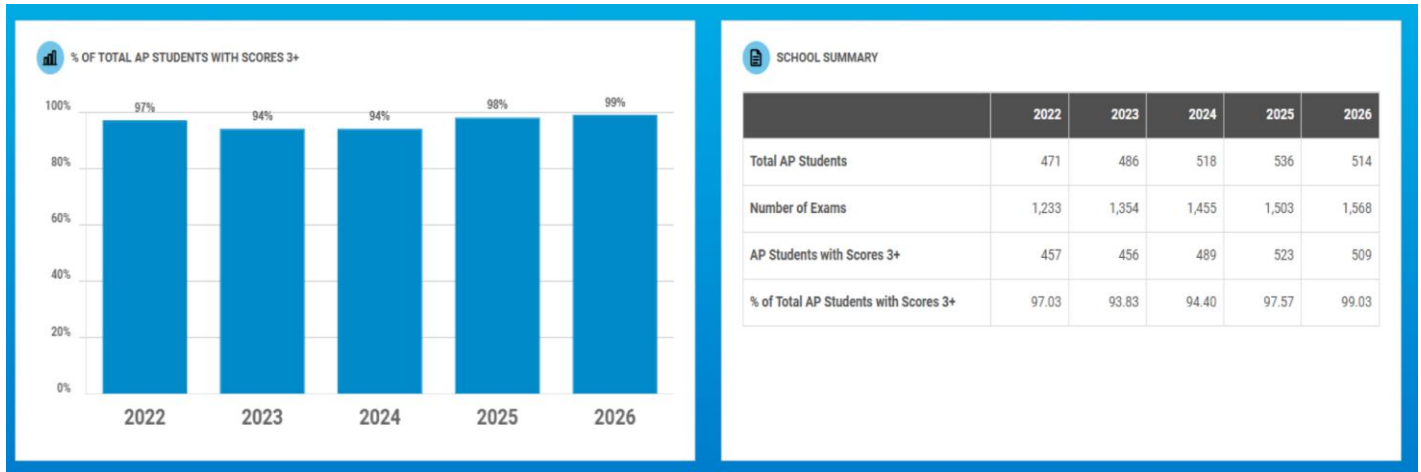
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Ongoing policy work:

- Technology Plan (2026-2031)
- CIP (2026-2031)
- Department Policies for Account Management and System Access Levels for all users

● 2026 AP Scores

We had a record-breaking year in the percent of scores with 3 or higher! Over 99%! (typically, around 96-97%). Plus, we had the highest number of total exams!



● Welcome New Staff AY27



Mr. Michael Hobson, Mathematics



Dr. Kevin Webster, Biopsychology



Ms. Alyson Carroll, Social Studies



Ms. Camille Tucker, Freshman Counselor



Ms. Jasmine Tweedy, Health & PE

- **Activities for Opening**
 - We will welcome 792 students out of 796 slots, including 204 freshmen from 14 school districts.
 - College Boot Camp for Seniors 8-10 through 8-12
 - New Teacher Orientation 8-11 and 8-12
 - All Teachers Return 8-13
 - Walker Way Welcome and Freshman Orientation 8-17 and 8-18
 - Professional Development 8-14 and 8-19
 - Instruction begins 8-24 in-person
 - Back to School Night, Wednesday 9-9
- **Walker Way Welcome for Freshmen, Monday, August 17, and Orientation, Tuesday, August 18**

Revisiting our school branding, **“The Walker Way.”** You may be wondering, what exactly does this mean, and how it is different? Well, it’s not really different—it’s just a heightened sense of awareness about how we, individually and collectively, are able to bring the vibrant and multi-faceted culture of MLWGS to life.

The four pillars of **The Walker Way** are **courage, compassion, community, and collaboration**—all alliterative “C” words. We are using these four pillars to welcome incoming

freshmen and to introduce them to the uniqueness of the school's mission. The framework of The Walker Way is based on the life and legacy of our school's namesake, Maggie L. Walker, trailblazer and the first African American woman bank president used her resources and influence to promote equality. She demonstrated **courage** and **compassion** to inspire **collaboration** that led to a stronger community. We are using the four pillars of The Walker Way to provide both information and encouragement to freshmen as they begin navigating their path and exploring myriad academic and social opportunities.

Courage “The Walker Way” means demonstrating fortitude, persistence, and integrity when confronting challenges.

Compassion “The Walker Way” means possessing a sense of empathy for the plight of others and a willingness to serve in order to improve the circumstances of others.

Community “The Walker Way” means understanding and accepting differences but also acknowledging and celebrating the connectedness of the human experience.

Collaboration “The Walker Way” means harmoniously working together and using critical thinking skills to achieve a common goal.

- **SAC is Back! (School Advisory Council)**

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is back for the 2026-27 academic year. If you are interested in serving the school on the council, please complete this [application](#).

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Advisory Council (SAC) is the Regional School Board's stakeholder advisory committee. The Council brings together **students, parents and guardians, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members** to provide feedback and recommendations that support the school's mission, Strategic Plan, and continuous improvement efforts.

- **Middle School Information Visits Begin Shortly.**

- Participating divisions are beginning to schedule information sessions for their students.

- Currently, we have the following scheduled;

- Henrico Education Expo, September 12
 - Hopewell, September 17
 - Henrico, September 24
 - Chesterfield, September 30
 - Hanover, October 6
 - Chesterfield, October 8
 - King & Queen, October 13
 - New Kent, October 13
 - Charles City, October 13
 - Colonial Height, November 2
 - Dinwiddie, November 2

- Virtual sessions are available to the divisions, but in-person is also an option.

B. Coming Events

August 20, 2026, through September 17, 2026

Thursday, August 20 th	Executive School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153
Monday, August 24 th	First Day of Instruction with Student Classes on Campus
Tuesday, September 1 st	Monthly Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm, Forum
Friday, September 4 th	Holiday – School Closed
Monday, September 7 th	Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday, September 8 th	Newtowne Civic Association Meeting, 5:30 pm, Rm 153
Wednesday, September 9 th	Back-to-School Night, 6:00 pm
Wednesday, September 9 th – Thursday, September 10 th	Underclasses and Staff Portraits
Saturday, September 12 th	Henrico Education Expo at Highland Springs HS, 11 am – 2 pm
Tuesday, September 15 th	Planning Committee Meeting, 10 am, Room 153
Thursday, September 17 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Room 153

C. MOU for Educational Services between MLWGS and VCU

The MOU is not ready for the August School Board meeting.

August 13, 2026:

Unfortunately, all dual enrollment agreements are still under review by University Legal Counsel. I have also followed up with several colleagues returning to the office on the 18th, I'm hopeful we will have a better sense of the timeline then.

I apologize for the inconvenience. The University has implemented new processes this year to ensure all external agreements and partnerships are more closely aligned with University policies, procedures, and requirements. We appreciate your patience as we work through the updated process.

Deferring to the September meeting.

D. MOU for Athletic Trainer Services between MLWGS and VCU Health System

This Athletic Trainer Services Agreement is effective July 1, 2026, by and between Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority (Provider) and Maggie Walker Governor's School (School).

This MOU was provided to the Regional School Board for their information.

E. 1-Year Extension of Custodial Service Provider

This AMENDMENT #1 (the “Amendment”) to the Master Service Agreement for Janitorial Services dated July 1, 2022 (the “Agreement”) by and between Maggie L. Walker Governor's School (“Customer”) and EBM North Carolina Holdings, LLC (“Service Provider”), is entered into as of July 1, 2026 (“First Amendment Effective Date”).

WHEREAS Customer and Service Provider entered into the Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Agreement shall govern this Amendment, and all terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, except to the extent expressly amended herein; and

WHEREAS Customer and Service Provider wish to further amend the Agreement as more particularly set forth herein.

This agreement was provided to the Regional School for their information.

F. Professional Development 2026-27

Dr. Lisa Williams was asked by Dr. Janssen to discuss Professional Development for 2026-27.

Policy 5030

MLWGS Schoolwide Professional Development
Wednesday, August 19th

Our schoolwide professional development day is designed to prepare faculty for a successful school year by strengthening our shared understanding of gifted education, school priorities, safety procedures, professional learning expectations, and technology tools. All activities reinforce our strategic goals of providing resources to support student success, foster a safe and inclusive school community, and continue professional learning.

The day will begin with an overview of the agenda and goals for the year, followed by a keynote presentation on equity and access for gifted students by William and Mary professor, Dr. Chandra Floyd. This session will address the diverse characteristics of gifted learners and explore research-based approaches to supporting advanced students.

Teachers will then participate in a series of rotating learning sessions:

- Strategic Plan and Pillar Overview, Role of the Culturally Responsive Practices Lead – Participants will learn about the school's strategic priorities, the four pillars guiding our work, and how culturally responsive practices support an inclusive learning environment for all students.
- School Safety and Securely Pass – Teachers will review safety expectations, emergency procedures, and the use of Securely Pass to strengthen campus security and ensure consistent visitor management practices.
- VALO and Individualized Professional Development – Teachers will explore Virginia licensure renewal requirements, the VALO system, and strategies for developing individualized professional learning plans that support both licensure and professional growth.
- Microsoft Teams Training – Participants will receive hands-on training to enhance collaboration, communication, and organization using Microsoft Teams throughout the school year.

Additional professional development during this academic year is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2027. Details will be provided on this activity in 2027.

G. New Student Developed Clubs 2026-27

Policy 4030-R

Each new club proposal requires a constitution in which students describe what the new club will do with club activities and what its purpose will be.

***A reconstituted student club** is defined as an active, not on probation, established related student interest club, special interest club, service club, club sports non-VHSL, or performance club that can demonstrate active membership and activities.

Seniors cannot propose a new club. If a junior starts a club, there must be at least half sophomores or freshmen on the initial application. The club will then be on probation for one year. This allows the club to establish any long-term projects or outreach.

Student organizations must be sponsored by one or more faculty members. Sponsorship is considered in the vetting process.

Upon Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administrative approval, club materials will be provided to the Regional School Board for their information.

The following was vetted by Paige Hawkins, AD, and is operating as a new club this year:

Club Name	Sponsor	Stipend
1) <u>Society for Scientific Research</u>	Sponsored by Dickson Benesh	\$0.0

This list was provided to the Regional School Board for their information.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

XIII. ITEMS FOR BOARD REVIEW/DISCUSSION

A. Policy and Regulation – Spring 2026 Updates – First Read

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following red line additions or changes for Regional School Board consideration.

New policies include Reporting Per Pupil Costs (7003.3)

Final	RL		New/Amended	Actions
		Foundations		
	0015	Community Involvement in Decision Making	Amended	Administrative change.

		School Board Governance		
	<u>1003</u>	Board Member Oath of Office	Amended	Updated for clarity.
	<u>1020</u>	Electronic Participation in School Board Meetings from Remote Locations	Amended	Updated for clarity.
<u>1020.1</u>	<u>1020.1</u>	Electronic Participation in Committee Meetings from Remote Locations	DELETE	Recommended that we delete this as we do not use this policy.
	<u>1036</u>	Relations with Private Schools	Amended	Administrative change
		Administration		
	<u>2010</u>	Administrative Goals	Amended	Cross reference updated
	<u>2021.2</u>	Electronic Room Partitions	Amended	Legal and cross references updated
	<u>2051</u>	Media Relations	Amended	Format changes only
		Instruction		
	<u>3000.2</u>	Pledge of Allegiance	Amended	Administrative changes
	<u>3002.1</u>	Class Sizes	Amended	Administrative changes
	<u>3003.6</u>	Teaching About Controversial Issues	Amended	Revised for clarity and added legal reference
		Student Services		
	<u>4006</u>	Field Trips	Amended	Revised for clarity to reflect VA DOE regulatory language; added legal and cross references
	<u>4031</u>	Fundraising and Solicitation	Amended	Administrative change
	<u>4044</u>	Parental Rights and Responsibilities	Amended	Substantially revised, added legal and cross-references
	<u>4075</u>	Student Wellness	Amended	Added legal and cross-references
	<u>4091</u>	Student-Athlete Sudden Cardiac Arrest	Amended	Administrative change and added cross-reference
		Human Resources		
	<u>5005</u>	Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract	Amended	Policy revised for clarity; administrative changes
<u>5006.1</u>	<u>5006.1</u>	Evaluation of Support Staff	Deleted by VSBA, MLWGS will retain	Kristin recommended keeping since it was attorney reviewed in early 2026. Keep if we want to, but the content is now incorporated into 5007

	<u>5007</u>	Support Staff	Amended	Revised to merge 5006.1 and 5007.1 into one policy. Changed language for both clarity and to be consistent with Virginia Code and VA DOE regulations
<u>5007.1</u>	<u>5007.1</u>	Support Staff Probational Period	We just adopted this policy. Deleted by VSBA, MLWGS will retain	Kristin recommended keeping since it was attorney reviewed in early 2026. The content is also incorporated into 5007. Revised to merge 5006.1 and 5007 into one policy. Changed language for both clarity and to be consistent with Virginia Code and VA DOE regulations
	<u>5016.1</u>	Tutoring for Pay	Amended	VSBA format changes
	<u>5017</u>	Staff Salary Schedules	Amended	Legal reference added
	<u>5028</u>	Staff Participation in Political Activities	Amended	Policy updated for clarity, legal references added
	<u>5050</u>	Virginia Retirement System	Amended	Added legal references
	<u>5060</u>	Reduction in Professional Staff Workforce	Amended	VSBA format changes only
	<u>5062</u>	Staff Benefits	Amended	Name change of policy. Administrative changes only
	<u>5065</u>	Staff Leave and Absences	Amended	Added cross-reference
	<u>5089</u>	Staff Weapons in School	Amended	Policy updated to bring into legal compliance; legal reference added
	<u>5101</u>	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members	Amended	Revised for clarity
		Community Relations		
	<u>6001</u>	Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers	Amended	Added language for clarity, added legal and cross references
	<u>6006</u>	Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Information	Amended	Revised for clarity, added cross-reference
	<u>6011</u>	School Visitors	Amended	Revised for clarity, added legal and cross-references
	<u>6015</u>	Public Conduct on School Property	Amended	Revised to closely mirror statutory language
		Finance & Operations		
	<u>7003.3</u>	Reporting Per Pupil Costs	NEW	Format changes. Publish cost on website.

		Student Conduct		
	<u>8030</u>	Gang-Related Activity or Association	Amended	Name of policy revised. Substantially revised to bring into legal compliance, added legal and cross-references
	<u>8033</u>	Weapons on School Property	Amended	Name of policy revised. Substantially revised to bring into legal compliance, added legal and cross-references

A vote for approval of these policy updates will be requested at the Board’s September meeting.

B. Policy and Regulation – Summer 2026 Updates – First Read

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following red line additions or changes for Regional School Board consideration.

A sample of new policies include:

1001 – Digital Accessibility

1010.1-Regional School Board Organizational Meeting

2055-Use of Artificial Intelligence

2058-Statement of Original Work

2064-Internet Safety

3001.2 Academic Planning and Course Selection

3017-College Board School Day Program

Final	RL		New/Amended	Actions
		Foundations		
	<u>0001</u>	School Goals and Objectives	Amended	Updated for clarity. Cross-references added (NOTE: update number on one cross ref)
	<u>0010</u>	Digital Accessibility	NEW	‘May’ require a digital accessibility coordinator.
		School Board Governance		
	<u>1001</u>	School Board Member Conflict of Interests	Amended	SUBSTANTIAL changes for clarity, actually most content was deleted. Title change.
	<u>1010.1</u>	Regional School Board Organizational Meeting	NEW	This was/is incorporated in the school constitution, Pol 1010.
	<u>1016.2</u>	Policy Implementation	Amended	QUESTION. This policy said regulations require board action – but VSBA said to separate them as administrative. Changes for

				clarity. Added legal reference.
	<u>List</u>	List of Current Regulations		Should we make any changes to our current regulations?
	<u>1022</u>	Regular School Board Meetings	Amended	Statement that no final action can be taken on late agenda items (after publishing)
		Administration		
	<u>2023</u>	Threat Assessment Teams	Amended	Training is now a requirement. Updated for clarity.
	<u>2024</u>	Weapons on School Property	Amended	Change to make policy inclusive of all persons.
	<u>2045</u>	Service Animals in School	Amended	Additional language to define three-unit service dog team.
	<u>2055</u>	Use of Artificial Intelligence	NEW	This policy has undergone a 1-year review by teacher committee.
	<u>2058</u>	Statement on Original Work	NEW	This policy has undergone a 1-year review by teacher committee.
	<u>2064</u>	Internet Safety	NEW	Tabled in 2025 but brought back with recommended section by the AI teacher committee
	<u>2065</u>	Acceptable Computer System Use	Amended	Added cross-reference on Use of AI and instruction language on modern digital safety topics.
		Instruction		
	<u>3001</u>	Instructional Goals and Objectives	Amended	Substantial rewrite to remove unnecessary language that is incorporated in other policies.
	<u>3001.2</u>	Academic Planning and Course Selection	NEW	New 30-day notification required. Require procedure(s).
	<u>3003.7</u>	Sexually Explicit Instructional Materials	Amended	Title Change. Changes for clarity, added legal reference and multiple cross-references. Parental notification – could impact student art?
	<u>3004</u>	School Year/School Day	Amended	Added change to allow schools to begin 14 days before September 1; cleaned

				up other language and deleted older footnotes.
	<u>3006</u>	Textbook Selection, Adoption, and Purchase	Amended	Changes pursuant to SB955 (2025). Added language of HQIM for High-Quality Instructional Materials. Adds an HQIM liaison to the board.
	<u>3007</u>	Administration of Surveys and Questionnaires	Amended	Updated to ensure compliance with federal and state law. Added legal citation.
	<u>3008</u>	Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records	Amended	Administrative changes only.
	<u>3011</u>	School Counseling Program	Amended	Legal reference updated, cross- references added.
	<u>3013</u>	Driver Education	Amended	Added reckless driving and required curriculum. There is a question for the committee in comments.
	<u>3015</u>	Character Education	Amended	Administrative changes with regular review. Minor edit.
	<u>3017</u>	College Board School Day Program	NEW	Requirement in HB410 for SAT/College Day Program
	<u>3020</u>	Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Gambling, and Electronic Devices	Amended	Title change – adds gambling and electronic devices. Adds additional requirement to teach about screen time spent on elec devices. Cross-references added.
	<u>3031</u>	Virtual Courses	Amended	See Title change – or maybe not adopt that. See comments on policy.
	<u>3035</u>	Parent and Family Engagement	Amended	Administrative changes but they mostly do not apply to MW, only to Title 1 schools. See one question in comments on policy.
	<u>3045</u>	Acceptable Computer System Use	Amended	Added cross-reference on Use of AI and others. Added instruction language on modern digital safety topics.
		Student Services		
	<u>4008</u>	Suicide Prevention	Amended	Committee tabled review on 4/27 until summer. Revised

				for clarity; added legal and cross-reference
	<u>4012</u>	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting (Also See 5075)	Amended	Added language adding certain personnel to the list of mandatory reporters
	<u>4019</u>	Student Health Service	Amended	Adds new school nurse training in Sickle Cell Disease. Added clarifying language and legal reference.
	<u>4025</u>	Student Cell Phone and Smart Device Possession and Use	Amended	Added changes pursuant to SB108, use of electronics from bell to bell is now a mandatory prohibition.
	<u>4029</u>	Extracurricular Activity Notification	NEW	New requirement from SB245.
	<u>4044</u>	Parental Rights and Responsibilities	Amended	Adds new notification requirement. Legal references updated.
	<u>4047</u>	Financial Aid Information and /guidance for High School Students	NEW	New requirement added by HB1095. The school must post data on its website on financial aid. The school must develop a 5-yr goal of increasing % of students making application. Requires procedures.
	<u>4092</u>	Student-Athlete Extreme Heat Safety and Protection	Amended	Changed legal reference to reflect the updated provision number in Code.
	<u>4095</u>	Administering Medicines to Students	Amended	Develop a school plan for the administration of diabetes medication to students. Cross reference added.
	<u>4095-P</u>	Procedure for Administering Medicines to Students	Amended	Added a section for diabetes medication administration using AI.
		Human Resources		
	<u>5002</u>	School Employee Conflict of Interest	Amended	Significant rewrite to remove language not required for policy.
	<u>5003</u>	Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records	Amended	Administrative changes only.
	<u>5005</u>	Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract	Amended	Changes made in compliance with HB1265, making a change in notification requirements.
	<u>5006</u>	Evaluation of Professional Staff	Amended	Added language consistent with statute, deleted certain

				language that was removed from statute, updated BOE information.
	<u>5020</u>	Professional Staff Discipline	Amended	Allows employees to decline to deliver health-related services. Added cross-references,
	<u>5022</u>	Suspension of Staff Members	Amended	Language clarified, added statute.
	<u>5030</u>	Professional Staff Development	Amended	Reworked to provide clarity. Added requirements for mental health awareness training, added language consistent with statutes.
	<u>5065-R10.1</u>	Leave Without Pay	Amended	Added new requirement from HB139. 4 years of unpaid leave.
	<u>5070</u>	Family and Medical Leave	Amended	Committee tabled review on 4/27 until summer. Substantive update
	<u>5075</u>	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting	Amended	Added language adding certain personnel to the list of mandatory reporters
		Community Relations		
	<u>6012</u>	Use of School Buses	NEW	New legislation allows for the reimbursement of insurance costs.
	<u>6016</u>	Weapons on School Property	NEW	This is a mirror policy to 5089 to add this policy to a section inclusive of all people; it had previously only been in the section which is student policies. See 8034.
	<u>6018</u>	Parental Notification of Safe Storage of Prescription Drugs and Firearms	NEW	Parental Notification within 30 days. Email, SMS message and WEBSITE
	<u>6020</u>	Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials		Administrative changes only.
		Finance & Operations		
	<u>7006</u>	Food Services	Amended	Sent to Lisa for her review. Adds a requirement for annual reporting of school meal debt, substantially revised to remove language that is procedural/administrative in

				nature. Cleaned up for clarity. Cross references added.
	<u>7006-R</u>	Free and Reduced Lunch Regulation	Amended	Not VSBA.
		Student Conduct		
	<u>8010</u>	Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissal	Amended	Added new requirement from HB653. New provision allows for excused absences for military depends in certain situations. Additional edits for clarity, removed language that is procedural/administrative in nature. Updated citations. Bullet list on page 2 does not show in Google but lives in Word.
	<u>8013</u>	Discipline of Students with Disabilities	Amended	Substantially revised to remove language that is procedural/administrative in nature, clarity added.
	8015	Teacher Removal of Students from Class	Amended/DELETE?	Administrative changes, added footnote and cross-reference.
	<u>8030</u>	Gang-Related Activity or Association	Amended	(From 4/27) Name of policy revised. Substantially revised to bring into legal compliance, added legal and cross-references
	<u>8033</u>	Weapons in School	DELETE	Replaced with new version #8034
	<u>8034</u>	Weapons on School Property	NEW	This is a mirror policy to 6016 to add this policy to a section inclusive of all persons; it had previously only been in the section which is student policies.
		VSBA UPDATES JULY		
<u>4045</u>	<u>4045</u>	Student Education Records	Amended	Title changed. Almost a complete rewrite – major update. It's easier to read this document in Final because of the changes.

	<u>4045-P</u>	Procedure for Inspecting and Reviewing Student Education Records	NEW	I used AI to write this procedure which is referenced on page 4 of 4045.
	<u>4046</u>	Student Transcripts	Amended	
	<u>4050</u>	Consent for Release of Student Data/Records	Amended	Removes the consent form from this policy to designate it separately in 4050-F.
	<u>4050-F</u>	Consent for Release of Student Data/Records Form	NEW	

Ms. Moses questioned the remark on the matrix for 1016.2-Policy Implementation about separating policy and regulations. She said in Goochland they discovered that State law requires the board to act on regulations but the VSBA in 2021 or earlier changed, that the superintendents approve regulations. She emphasized that State Code speaks to board approval for regulations even if its creation was delegated to the superintendent.

A vote for approval of these policy updates will be requested at the Board's September meeting.

C. International Exchange Germany 2027 – First Read

Sponsor: Kristen Macklin was on hand for a presentation of this proposal.
June 8-June 24, 2027 (16 days)

Brief description/overview of this trip:

The exchange trip is sponsored by the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), which is part of Germany's foreign cultural and education policy. The program is mainly funded by the German Foreign Ministry but also receives funding from the U.S. Department of State. The program is administered jointly by the Goethe-Institut (New York), GAPP and PAD (Bonn).

GAPP exchanges are set up as school-to-school exchanges with the following goals (source: GAPP Guidelines for Implementation):

- The establishment of a long-lasting interest in the partner country and deepening of the relations between Germany and the USA
- Promotion of German language studies at high schools in the USA
- Expanding students' and teachers' knowledge of the partner country
- Intercultural encounters of participants
- Acquisition and improvement of proficiency in the target language
- Continuing education for exchange coordinators

The maximum number of students = 15-24.

The number of chaperones = 2.

Estimate per Student Cost: \$2,600 (approximation depending on flight cost)

A vote for approval of this trip proposal will be requested at the Board's September meeting.

D. International Travel Proposal for Military History 2027 – First Read

Sponsor: Dan Brown was on hand for a presentation of this proposal.

New Trip Proposal: WW II and the Western Front

Germany

Spring Dates: March 26-April 3, 2027

The focus of this trip will be for military history students, but if any slots are left open then non-military history students may sign up. The locations allow us to focus on the rise of Nazi's in Germany, the Holocaust, and battles leading to the culmination of the war, as well as how events of the war are memorialized today.

Students Attending: Anticipated 14 Maximum

Chaperones:

Dan Brown

John Clark

An EF Tour Guide will be with us throughout the entirety of the trip.

Price of the Tour: Projected total for students is \$3,000.00.

Several fundraising opportunities will be made available to students on this trip as well as a limited request for funds from the Foundation.

A vote for approval of this trip proposal will be requested at the Board's September meeting.

E. 2026-2027 HQIM Liaisons (New) – First Read

Policy 3006=Textbook Selection and Adoption

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional School Board may adopt textbooks, and **high-quality instructional materials (HQIM)**, including print or electronic media, for student use that serves as the primary curriculum basis for a grade-level subject or course from the list of textbooks approved by the Board of Education.

HQIM Liaison

The Regional School Board designates a faculty member to serve as the HQIM liaison. The liaison receives support from the Department of Education to serve as a resource for the school to select and implement textbooks and other HQIM and aligned professional learning resources.

For 2026-27 the Executive Director requests to designate the following as the MLWGS HQIM Liaison:

- Dr. Kristin Janssen
- Dr. Max Smith
- Dr. Lisa Williams

A vote for approval of the HQIM liaisons will be requested at the Board's September meeting.

XIV. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Walker Girls Tennis - Class 3 VHSL State Champions
- MW Wins Its 3rd National Guard Cup for Academic Teams from the VHSL

XV. NEW BUSINESS

- None.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Ricard stated that MLWGS received a public expression of appreciation at the Jackson Ward Downhome Music event, for opening the school's parking lot for this event.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by James Taylor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am.

NEXT MEETING

Regional School Board on September 17, 2026, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Ms. Heather Donbrosky, Chair

Dr. Kristin K. Janssen, Executive Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk