

MINUTES

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

September 17, 2026

9:03 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Kathryn Ricard, Vice-Chair of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board, gaveled the meeting to order.

II. Moment of Silence

The Vice-Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Introductions

Each member present is listed in alphabetical order by locality:

Present:

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. Meredith Moses, ***School Board***, Goochland County Public Schools
Ms. Whitney Welsh, ***School Board***, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, ***School Board***, Henrico County Public Schools
Ms. Harwood Hall, ***School Board***, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Heather Donbrosky, ***School Board***, New Kent Public Schools (*Remote Participation*)
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, ***School Board***, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. James Taylor, ***School Board***, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, ***School Board***, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Kathryn Ricard, ***School Board***, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Katina Otey, ***Superintendent***, Charles City Public Schools
Dr. George Fohl for Dr. John Murray, ***Superintendent***, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Mr. Travis Ridley, ***Superintendent***, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Dr. Kari Weston, ***Superintendent***, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Andrew Armstrong, ***Superintendent***, Goochland County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, ***Superintendent***, Hanover County Public Schools
Dr. Jessica Harris for Dr. Amy Cashwell, ***Superintendent***, Henrico County Public Schools
Mr. Byron Davis for Dr. Melody Hackney, ***Superintendent***, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, ***Superintendent***, New Kent Public Schools
Ms. Yolanda Brown, ***Superintendent***, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, ***Superintendent***, Powhatan County Public Schools
Ms. Melanie Barron-Ficke for Dr. Wayne Lyle, ***Superintendent***, Prince George Public Schools

Ms. Lynn Pleveich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

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

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

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

Absent:

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

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

Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools

Also present:

Dr. Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Lisa Williams – MLWGS Administration

Wendy DeGroat– MLWGS Staff

Devansh Kumar (student) and parents

V. a. Approval for Henrico Board Member to Participate Remotely

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

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

Ms. Heather Donbrosky requested to participate in this meeting remotely.

On a motion made by Meredith Moses to allow Ms. Donbrosky to participate remotely in this meeting, seconded by Jill Andrews, this request was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

V. b. Approval of Agenda

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Lisa Hudgins, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, the minutes of the executive school board meeting of August 20, 2026, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- **Inaugural Green Dragon Award Presented to Junior, Devansh Kumar**

Purpose of the Award

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Green Dragon Award recognizes a student who exemplifies the spirit and legacy of Maggie Lena Walker and the pillars of the Walker Way through a sustained commitment to service, honor, integrity, and character. The recipient is a student who makes a meaningful difference in the school community, willingly gives time and expertise to support others, and consistently demonstrates leadership through actions rather than recognition.

Award Criteria

The Green Dragon Award recipient should demonstrate the following qualities:

1. Commitment to Service

- Consistently contributes time, energy, and talents to the school community.
- Volunteers willingly for school activities, events, initiatives, and special projects.
- Seeks opportunities to serve others without expecting recognition or reward.
- Demonstrates a genuine desire to make MLWGS a stronger and more inclusive community.

2. Honor

- Represents Maggie L. Walker Governor's School with pride and respect.
- Demonstrates respect for classmates, teachers, staff, and the broader community.
- Takes responsibility for contributing positively to the reputation and traditions of the school.
- Leads by example and encourages others to uphold high standards.

3. Integrity

- Consistently does what is right, even when no one is watching.
- Demonstrates honesty, accountability, and trustworthiness.
- Follows through on commitments and accepts responsibility for decisions and actions.
- Treats others fairly and respectfully.

4. Character

- Demonstrates compassion, empathy, resilience, and respect.
- Builds positive relationships and contributes to a welcoming school culture.
- Supports peers and celebrates the accomplishments of others.
- Responds to challenges with maturity, courage, and a growth mindset.

5. Contributions to the School Community

- Makes meaningful contributions in multiple areas of school life.
- Volunteers time and expertise for special projects, programs, events, or initiatives.
- Uses individual strengths and talents to benefit others.
- Demonstrates a sustained impact rather than a single act of service.

Distinguished Green Dragon Standard

The Green Dragon Award is intended for a student whose everyday choices reflect the values of service, honor, integrity, and character. The recipient should be someone who may not always seek the spotlight but whose presence, leadership, generosity, and commitment make MLWGS a better place.

Evidence of Excellence

Nominations should include specific examples demonstrating the student's:

- Service to the school and/or broader community
- Leadership and initiative
- Volunteerism and willingness to contribute
- Positive influence on peers and school culture
- Use of talents or expertise to support special projects

- Integrity, responsibility, and dependability
- Compassion, respect, and character
- Sustained commitment and impact

Selection Statement

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Green Dragon Award honors a student who carries forward the spirit of Maggie Lena Walker by using their talents, time, and character in service to others. The Green Dragon is not simply a symbol of achievement—it represents a student who leaves a lasting positive mark on the MLWGS community through courage, compassion, integrity, and purposeful action.

Recommended Award Frequency: One recipient quarterly, with the possibility of additional recipients when multiple students demonstrate an exceptional level of distinction.

FIRST GREEN DRAGON AWARD RECIPIENT IS: Devansh Kumar, Class of 2028-Henrico.

Dr. Williams recognized Devansh as the school’s videographer since his freshman year with MW. Among his work he has created: School Board Appreciation Month Video (February 2026), Honor Town Hall Event Video (December 2025), Converge Regional Governor’s School Recap Video (July 2026), GSMUN XXVIII Intro Video (February 2026), PTSA State Reflections Event Photos (April 2026), and CSPAN Student CAM Documentary – Shapes of Suppression (March 2026).

Devansh’s parents were also recognized for their contribution to Devansh’s character.great big

VIII. Public Comments

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

No comments were received or presented.

IX. Consent

Dr. Janssen reviewed various items, highlighting the outstanding audits. She noted that the original target date for completion was June, which was later extended to August; however, we are still awaiting finalization. Dr. Janssen mentioned that Maggie Walker has completed its portion of the audit and has asked our Finance team to reach out to RPS to check on their progress. She assured us that the audit will be completed by December, which aligns well with the anticipated lead time for HVAC replacement units. We continue to be satisfied with our fiscal partner.

In conclusion, Dr. Janssen indicated that she plans to present information items requiring capital outlay to the board in January.

Ms. Moses inquired about whether the HVAC failure experienced during the early days of this academic year had been repaired and made operational again. Dr. Janssen confirmed that it has been fixed.

On a motion by Alicia Atkins, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the following consent items were unanimously approved as a slate on a voice vote: September 2026 personnel actions that includes one long-term board substitute for a teacher on military leave, the fiscal status reports of August 31, 2026, and the donations report of August 31, 2026.

X. Action Items

a. Policy and Regulation from Spring 2026 - *Second Read*

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following for Regional School Board consideration.

New Policy: 7003.3-Reporting Per Pupil Costs

Final	RL		New/Amended	Actions
		Foundations		
<u>0015</u>	<u>0015</u>	Community Involvement in Decision Making	Amended	Administrative change.
		School Board Governance		
<u>1003</u>	<u>1003</u>	Board Member Oath of Office	Amended	Updated for clarity.
<u>1020</u>	<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>	<u>1036</u>	Relations with Private Schools	Amended	Administrative change
		Administration		
<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	Administrative Goals	Amended	Cross reference updated
<u>2021.2</u>	<u>2021.2</u>	Electronic Room Partitions	Amended	Legal and cross references updated
<u>2051</u>	<u>2051</u>	Media Relations	Amended	Format changes only
		Instruction		
<u>3000.2</u>	<u>3000.2</u>	Pledge of Allegiance	Amended	Administrative changes
<u>3002.1</u>	<u>3002.1</u>	Class Sizes	Amended	Administrative changes
<u>3003.6</u>	<u>3003.6</u>	Teaching About Controversial Issues	Amended	Revised for clarity and added legal reference
		Student Services		
<u>4006</u>	<u>4006</u>	Field Trips	Amended	Revised for clarity to reflect VA DOE regulatory language; added legal and cross references

<u>4031</u>	<u>4031</u>	Fundraising and Solicitation	Amended	Administrative change
<u>4044</u>	<u>4044</u>	Parental Rights and Responsibilities	Amended	Substantially revised, added legal and cross-references
<u>4075</u>	<u>4075</u>	Student Wellness	Amended	Added legal and cross-references
<u>4091</u>	<u>4091</u>	Student-Athlete Sudden Cardiac Arrest	Amended	Administrative change and added cross-reference
		Human Resources		
<u>5005</u>	<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>	<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>	<u>5016.1</u>	Tutoring or Pay	Amended	VSBA format changes
<u>5017</u>	<u>5017</u>	Staff Salary Schedules	Amended	Legal reference added
<u>5028</u>	<u>5028</u>	Staff Participation in Political Activities	Amended	Policy updated for clarity, legal references added
<u>5050</u>	<u>5050</u>	Virginia Retirement System	Amended	Added legal references
<u>5060</u>	<u>5060</u>	Reduction in Professional Staff Workforce	Amended	VSBA format changes only
<u>5062</u>	<u>5062</u>	Staff Benefits	Amended	Name change of policy. Administrative changes only
<u>5065</u>	<u>5065</u>	Staff Leave and Absences	Amended	Added cross-reference

<u>5089</u>	<u>5089</u>	Staff Weapons in School	Amended	Policy updated to bring into legal compliance; legal reference added
<u>5101</u>	<u>5101</u>	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members	Amended	Revised for clarity
		Community Relations		
<u>6001</u>	<u>6001</u>	Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers	Amended	Added language for clarity, added legal and cross references
<u>6006</u>	<u>6006</u>	Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Information	Amended	Revised for clarity, added cross-reference
<u>6011</u>	<u>6011</u>	School Visitors	Amended	Revised for clarity, added legal and cross-references
<u>6015</u>	<u>6015</u>	Public Conduct on School Property	Amended	Revised to closely mirror statutory language
		Finance & Operations		
<u>7003.3</u>	<u>7003.3</u>	Reporting Per Pupil Costs	NEW	Format changes. Publish cost on website.
		Student Conduct		
<u>8030</u>	<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>	<u>8033</u>	Weapons on School Property	Amended	Name of policy revised. Substantially revised to bring into legal compliance, added legal and cross-references

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, policy and regulation updates from the spring of 2026, submitted for first read at the August meeting, were unanimously approved by the Regional School Board on a voice vote.

b. Policy and Regulation from Summer 2026 - *Second Read*

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following for Regional School Board consideration.

New Policies:

- 0010-Digital Accessibility
- 1010.1-Regional School Board Organizational Meeting
- 2055-Use of Artificial Intelligence
- 2058-Statement on Original Work
- 2064-Internet Safety
- 3001.2- Academic Planning and Course Selection
- 3017- College Board School Day Program
- 4029- Extracurricular Activity Notification
- 4045-P- Procedure for Inspecting and Reviewing Student Education Records
- 4047- Financial Aid Information and /guidance for High School Students
- 6012- Use of School Buses

6016- Weapons on School Property

6018- Parental Notification of Safe Storage of Prescription Drugs and Firearms

8034- Weapons on School Property

Final	RL		New/Amended	Actions
		Foundations		
<u>0001</u>	<u>0001</u>	School Goals and Objectives	Amended	Updated for clarity. Cross-references added (NOTE: update number on one cross ref)
<u>0010</u>	<u>0010</u>	Digital Accessibility	NEW	‘May’ require a digital accessibility coordinator.
		School Board Governance		
<u>1001</u>	<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>	<u>1010.1</u>	Regional School Board Organizational Meeting	NEW	This was/is incorporated in the school constitution, Pol 1010.
<u>1016.2</u>	<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>	<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>	<u>2023</u>	Threat Assessment Teams	Amended	Training is now a requirement. Updated for clarity.
<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	Weapons on School Property	Amended	Change to make policy inclusive of all persons.
<u>2045</u>	<u>2045</u>	Service Animals in School	Amended	Additional language to define three-unit service dog team.
<u>2055</u>	<u>2055</u>	Use of Artificial Intelligence	NEW	ONE PARAGRAPH WAS REWRITTEN ON PAGE 1 AS A RESULT OF A REQUEST FROM THE AI COMMITTEE. IN ITALICS. This policy has undergone a 1-year review by teacher committee.
<u>2058</u>	<u>2058</u>	Statement on Original Work	NEW	This policy has undergone a 1-year review by teacher committee.
<u>2064</u>	<u>2064</u>	Internet Safety	NEW	Tabled in 2025 but brought back with recommended section by the AI teacher committee

<u>2065</u>	<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>	<u>3001</u>	Instructional Goals and Objectives	Amended	Substantial rewrite to remove unnecessary language that is incorporated in other policies.
<u>3001.2</u>	<u>3001.2</u>	Academic Planning and Course Selection	NEW	New 30 day notification required. Require procedure(s).
<u>3003.7</u>	<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>	<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>	<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>	<u>3007</u>	Administration of Surveys and Questionnaires	Amended	Updated to ensure compliance with federal and state law. Added legal citation.
<u>3008</u>	<u>3008</u>	Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records	Amended	Administrative changes only.
<u>3011</u>	<u>3011</u>	School Counseling Program	Amended	Legal reference updated, cross-references added.
<u>3013</u>	<u>3013</u>	Driver Education	Amended	Added reckless driving and required curriculum. There is a question for the committee in comments.
<u>3015</u>	<u>3015</u>	Character Education	Amended	Administrative changes with regular review. Minor edit.
<u>3017</u>	<u>3017</u>	College Board School Day Program	NEW	Requirement in HB410 for SAT/College Day Program
<u>3020</u>	<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>	<u>3031</u>	Virtual Courses	Amended	See Title change. See comments on policy.
<u>3035</u>	<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>	<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>	<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>	<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>	<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>	<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>	<u>4029</u>	Extracurricular Activity Notification	NEW	New requirement from SB245.
<u>4044</u>	<u>4044</u>	Parental Rights and Responsibilities	Amended	Adds new notification requirement. Legal references updated.
<u>4047</u>	<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 aide. The school must develop a 5-yr goal of increasing % of students making application. Requires procedures.
<u>4092</u>	<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>	<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>	<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>	<u>5002</u>	School Employee Conflict of Interest	Amended	Significant rewrite to remove language not required for policy.

<u>5003</u>	<u>5003</u>	Acceptance of Electronic Signatures and Records	Amended	Administrative changes only.
<u>5005</u>	<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>	<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>	<u>5020</u>	Professional Staff Discipline	Amended	Allows employees to decline to deliver health-related services. Added cross-references,
<u>5022</u>	<u>5022</u>	Suspension of Staff Members	Amended	Language clarified, added statute.
<u>5030</u>	<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>	<u>5065-R10.1</u>	Leave Without Pay	Amended	Added new requirement from HB139. 4 years of unpaid leave.
<u>5070</u>	<u>5070</u>	Family and Medical Leave	Amended	Committee tabled review on 4/27 until summer. Substantive update
<u>5075</u>	<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>	<u>6012</u>	Use of School Buses	NEW	New legislation allows for the reimbursement of insurance costs.
<u>6016</u>	<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 persons; it had previously only been in the section which is student policies. See 8034.
<u>6018</u>	<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>	<u>6020</u>	Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials		Administrative changes only.
		Finance & Operations		
<u>7006</u>	<u>7006</u>	Food Services	Amended	Changed from First Read because of late vendor addition information. 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>	<u>7006-R</u>	Meal Credit and Financial Assistance	Amended	Changed from First Read because of late vendor addition information NAME CHANGE.
		Student Conduct		
<u>8010</u>	<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>	<u>8013</u>	Discipline of Students with Disabilities	Amended	Substantially revised to remove language that is procedural/administrative in nature, clarity added.
<u>8015</u>	8015	Teacher Removal of Students from Class	Amended	Administrative changes, added footnote and cross-reference.
<u>8030</u>	<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>	<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>	<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>	<u>4046</u>	Student Transcripts	Amended	
<u>4050</u>	<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>	<u>4050-F</u>	Consent for Release of Student Data/Records Form	NEW	

Dr. Janssen requested that item 1016.2 be set aside for further discussion, which is scheduled for Item XIII.c later in this meeting. This discussion will focus on the board's preferences regarding the presentation of regulations, and the topic will be revisited during the board's meeting in October.

The Food Services Policy 7006 and its accompanying regulation 7006-R have undergone significant revisions since the first reading. These changes aim to better reflect our operations considering the new third-party food service vendor approved by the board last month. The language has been updated to address the food service model, meal credit, and financial assistance. Since this model is still evolving, Dr. Janssen reminded the board that future updates are likely.

Ms. Moses inquired whether it is true that teachers are expected to supervise food service lines. In response, Dr. Janssen clarified that the request was for a temporary volunteer situation, and no teachers are required to undertake this role. If a teacher suggests otherwise, it would be contrary to the spirit of the two-week voluntary request.

Ms. Atkins raised concerns about the procedures outlined in Policy 4092 regarding Student-Athlete Extreme Heat Safety and Protections. She asked whether the procedures are only mentioned in the coach's handbook. Dr. Janssen responded that the school is fortunate to have a long-term trainer affiliated with VCU Health, who serves as our primary resource for these matters. The athletic director and the trainer hold meetings with coaches to review these procedures. Since we have a trainer, decisions regarding these procedures do not fall solely to the school's executive director or the activities director.

However, Ms. Atkins suggested that it might be beneficial to clarify whether the coach's handbook is the only location for these procedures or to document where else they can be found. This clarification would help protect both the school and the trainer.

Ms. Alicia Atkins made a motion to remove Policy 4092 for further editing to incorporate the areas where these procedures are applied. She also proposed to approve the remaining policy and regulation proposals, excluding 1016.2. This motion was seconded by James Taylor. The other policy and regulation updates from the summer of 2026, submitted for a first reading at the August meeting, were unanimously approved by the Regional School Board with a voice vote.

c. International Exchange Proposal – Germany 2027 (*Second Read*)

Presented to the Executive School Board in August, proposed by Kristen Macklin, this trip would occur June 8-24, 2027, to Germany.

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)

On a motion by James Taylor, seconded by Whitney Welsh, Ms. Macklin's 2027 German Exchange was unanimously approved by the Regional School Board on a voice vote.

d. International Travel Proposal in 2027 for Military History Seminar Students *(Second Read)*

Presented to the Executive School Board in August, proposed by Dan Brown, this trip would occur March 26-April 3, 2027 to various European countries.

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 and John Clark (MLWGS Teachers)

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.

On a motion by Alicia Atkins, seconded by Kenneth Pritchett, Mr. Brown's 2027 Military History Seminar European trip was unanimously approved by the Regional School Board on a voice vote.

e. Health and Dental Benefits 2026-27 *(Second Read)*

Anthem, our current health insurance provider, proposed a 17% increase for our 2026-2027 renewal. This exceeds budget projections and market trends for an organization of our size (12%).

The Executive Director proposes transitioning from Anthem to a Cigna-network plan administered by Angle Health, effective October 1, 2026.

The proposed change follows a review of the Anthem renewal, projected costs, alternative plans, and the overall employee benefits package. The Anthem renewal would increase annual costs by approximately \$192,000. After absorbing approximately \$200,000 in additional healthcare costs in the prior year, the administration determined that another significant increase is not sustainable.

The proposed plans maintain access to the Cigna network and provide employees with a choice between a traditional PPO and a high-deductible plan supported by a FirstDollar HRA. MLWGS would fund up to \$7,000 for individual coverage and \$14,000 for employee-plus-dependent coverage.

A review of benefits offered by other participating divisions indicates that the proposed MLWGS benefit remains competitive and, in several areas, more generous. The administration will monitor utilization, costs, and renewal risk given the size of the employee group and will evaluate the process and timing of future healthcare decisions.

The Executive Director recommends approval of the proposed healthcare plan change effective October 1, 2026.

Open enrollment for employees is scheduled for September. Detailed information and group meetings describing the benefit plans will be provided to assist employees in making an informed decision.

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

Dr. Janssen said the school will pursue a course to align our benefit renewals with spring contracts, but it will probably be a three-year process.

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by James Taylor, health benefits with Angle Health and Dental and Vision benefits with Anthem were unanimously approved by the Regional School Board on a voice vote.

f. 2026-27 HQIM Liaisons (Second 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

Ms. Atkins asked if this responsibly would be on top of existing duties? Dr. Janssen said we are already doing this, but we work in clusters here, with each administrator in charge of a department group. We are all comfortable in this role and the model works here.

On a motion by Meredith Moses, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, all three Maggie Walker administrators were unanimously approved as the 2026-27 HQIM Liaisons by the Regional School Board on a voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

• Opening of School

We are off to a good start. It has been a very busy opening, but our students are settling in, and there is a lot happening across the building.

PTSA's *Back to School Night* was September 9. This is one of the best opportunities for our families to come into the building, meet our teachers, see the classrooms, and get a better understanding of what happens here every day. We were treated to Dragon Deli dinners by our PTSA.

We also held class meetings with each grade level. Security, administrators, School Counseling, and class officers talked with students about expectations, safety, school spirit, and upcoming events. We also introduced our students to our new GRASP representative, Yvonne Crenshaw.

School picture days for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and staff were held September 9–10. Students were photographed by CADY, our new official school photography company. Student fee payments are also currently being collected, with payments considered delinquent after September 30.

• Meal Credit and Financial Assistance

We have been working through the meal credit issue for students with demonstrated financial need. Because we do not participate in the federal school meals program, CEP eligibility in a student's home division does not automatically follow the student to Maggie Walker.

A single communication to our superintendents and Regional School Board representatives will be forthcoming and asking each division to identify a designee who can work with us to cover the expense for their students. We will determine demonstrated need here through our confidential application and then work directly with the home division. This application will remain open until September 11. Carryover benefits from last year need to be renewed to avoid a disruption in services. To apply for financial assistance, this link was used:

[Meal Credit and Financial Assistance Request](#)

- **Facilities**

We had some significant HVAC issues during the opening weeks of school. Math and Science were particularly impacted.

What stood out was the way people responded when their colleagues were displaced. People did not treat them as a burden or an inconvenience. Teachers opened their rooms, departments adjusted, and people offered their time and whatever else was needed to make it work.

We have an aging building with years of significant capital needs and no dedicated source of capital funding. Dr. Smith had submitted three versions throughout his tenure. Replacing our aging HVAC systems remains a top priority. This was another reminder that we have to continue working on a long-term capital improvement plan instead of simply reacting to one problem at a time.

Dr. Janssen shared that Dr. Smith has already worked on 3 capital outlay plans [the new one will be #4], but the problem has been access to the money. That is why there was an urgency to get our audits up-to-date on our end and we brought in an additional resource to get it accomplished. We really do see light at the end of the tunnel now.

- **Safety**

We have completed our required fire and lockdown drills for the opening of school. Our Safety Team is now looking at how those drills went, what worked, and where we may need to make adjustments.

A state safety grant was also written on behalf of Maggie Walker. We have submitted that application and have not yet heard whether it has been approved. We are going to keep looking for these opportunities because some of our safety and facility needs are larger than what we can address through the regular operating budget.

- **Academics and Student Support**

Interims will be available September 18, so we are already reaching our first real academic checkpoint of the year.

Our after-school tutoring and testing labs are up and running Monday through Thursday until 5 p.m. Those supports are important, particularly here where students are taking very demanding courses.

The PSAT was given digitally on October 9. That also gives our students another opportunity to practice in the same type of digital environment they will see with the SAT.

We have also applied for funding through the state's Critical National Security Languages Grant Program for both our Chinese and Russian programs. Chinese and Russian are both among the languages currently identified as eligible for this state grant program. The funding can support teaching positions connected to these language programs. We offer a breadth of world languages that is unusual for a public high school, including Chinese through AP Chinese and Russian through level III. When the state has funding available that can help us maintain and strengthen those programs, we should go after it.

- **College Counseling**

College recruitment season is already very busy. We currently have 78 colleges and universities scheduled to visit Maggie Walker this fall. Students in grades 10 through 12 have the opportunity to meet directly with admissions representatives during lunch.

Our counselors have also met with our seniors about the college application process. They are working with students on Naviance, transcripts, letters of recommendation, scholarships, deadlines, and all of the pieces that come with applying to college.

- **Admissions and Recruitment**

Recruitment for our next admissions cycle is underway. Administrators, counselors, Planning Committee members, and student volunteers are representing Maggie Walker at middle school visits, gifted expos, and events throughout our participating divisions.

We are offering both virtual and in-person opportunities to divisions, and our larger in-person information session here at Maggie Walker will be held on October 17.

- **Admissions Handbook** updated by our Admissions Coordinator, Haidee Napier.

[Admissions Handbook 2027](#)

[Application Schedule 2027](#)

- **Athletics**

Our fall sports are off to a good start. Golf, Girls Volleyball, Boys Volleyball, Field Hockey, and Cross Country are all doing well. Kudos to our coaches, DSA, and everyone who supports our student-athletes because there is a lot of work behind the scenes that people do not always see.

We are thankful for our partnership with VCU Health to provide an athletic trainer for our students. Having that professional support on site gives us another layer of care and safety for our student-athletes. We have a draft MOU and are waiting for VCU Health to complete its final approval process.

We also have a change with VHSL regional alignment to Class 3, Region A. Maggie Walker is now competing in Class 3, Region B. We remain in the Colonial District for regular-season competition.

- **Staff**

Our staff is also busy with a lot of the work that happens behind the scenes at the beginning of a school year.

Many of our teachers are working through licensure renewals, professional development points, and required training. We are helping people make sure they have what they need and stay on track with those requirements. We are also doing our committee and subcommittee sign-ups.

The Taylor Teaching Award has also opened through the Foundation. The award provides up to \$7,500 for eligible faculty professional learning and travel. It is a wonderful opportunity for our teachers, and I hope we have a strong group of applicants.

Flu and COVID vaccinations will also be available here at school on September 30.

- **Culture, Belonging, and Professional Learning**

Ms. Robinette Cross attended the Virginia Inclusion Summit. She came back with some good confirmation that much of the work we are doing around belonging, access, and school culture is moving in the right direction, along with some tools and ideas that can be shared with our staff.

Dr. Williams and Ms. Cross represented Maggie Walker in regional and state-level conversations around gifted education and student support at the Virginia Consortium of Gifted Education Administrators.

- **Community and Enrichment**

Thanks to support from our Governor's School Foundation, we are hosting the Virginia Museum of History and Culture traveling exhibition, *Un/Bound: Free Black Virginians, 1619–1865*, through October 16. The exhibit is displayed outside the auditorium. Kudos to school librarian-Ms. Wendy DeGroat.

Our PTSA is also preparing for Fall Festival on October 2. Fall Festival is one of those events that really shows the international character of Maggie Walker. Our students and clubs put a tremendous amount of work into it, and it is always a great afternoon for our school community.

- **PTSA and Foundation**

Our PTSA and Foundation continue to be tremendous partners.

The PTSA has already supported Back to School Night and is now preparing for the Fall Festival and other activities throughout the year.

The Foundation continues to support opportunities that would be very difficult for us to provide through our regular operating budget alone, including student programming, exhibits, teacher opportunities, travel, and other enrichment. There is a grant that we hope to share more about that is focused on updating the auditorium seating and stage curtains.

B. Coming Events

September 17, 2026, through October 15, 2026, Coming Events

Thursday, September 17 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, MLWGS Room 153
	Student Ambassador Meeting, 11:40 am, Auditorium
	Hopewell MS Visit, 7 pm, Woodson MS
Friday, September 18 th	School Advisory Council Meeting, 7:45 am, Rm 153
	Q1 Interims Available
Saturday, September 19 th	Senior Regional Orchestra Auditions @ Hanover HS
Monday, September 21 st	Holiday – Closed
Tuesday, September 22 nd	Senior Make-up Portraits, 8am-4pm, Auditorium

Thursday, September 24 th	Henrico MS Visit, 6 pm, Location TBD
Tuesday, September 29 th	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, 6:30 pm, Auditorium
Wednesday, September 30 th	Staff Flu Shots, 11am-2pm, Clinic
	Chesterfield Education Expo, 6:30 pm, Midlothian HS
Friday, October 2 nd	Bi-Annual Alumni Showcase Sponsored by the MW Foundation, 8:30am – 2pm
	Annual Fall Festival Sponsored by the MW PTSA, 2pm-6pm
Saturday, October 3 rd - Sunday, October 4 th	All Virginia Jazz Auditions, 9 am, Virtual
Tuesday, October 6 th	Monthly Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm
	Hanover Education Expo, 5:30 pm, Hanover HS
Thursday, October 8 th	Virtual Finance Committee Meeting, 9 am
	Chesterfield Education Expo, 6:30 pm, Thomas Dale HS
Friday, October 9 th	PSAT Testing, 8:40 am
	Pep Rally and Field Day, 1:50 pm-3:15 pm
Saturday, October 10 th	Artist Orchestra at VCU, 9 am
Monday, October 12 th	Student Holiday – Teacher Workday
Tuesday, October 13 th	King & Queen MS Visit, 10:15 am, K&S HS
	New Kent MS Visit, 10:45 am, NKMS
	Charles City MS Visit 1 pm, CCMS
	Newtowne Civic Association Community Mtg, 5:30 pm, Rm 153
Wednesday, October 14 th	Virtual PTSA Meeting, 7 pm
Thursday, October 15 th	Regional School Board Meeting, 9:00 am, MLWGS Room 153

C. MOU for Educational Services Between VCU and MLWGS

The executive director provided this agreement for Regional School Board information.

D. 2027-2028 Division Enrollment Planning

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

Letters will be provided for participating school divisions at the October meeting for their 2027-2028 student enrollment commitment. Note that each letter should be executed by the division superintendent and school board member and returned to MLWGS by December 1, 2026.

E. School Advisory Committee (SAC) Membership 2026-27

Provided for Regional School Board information: the following individuals are serving on SAC this year:

Name	Representing	Division	Term
Scott Moe	Parent Group	Chesterfield	2026-2029
Laura Kassner	Parent Group	Goochland	2026-2029
Dan Wolf	Parent Group	Chesterfield	2026-2029
Mushin Knott	Parent Group		2026-2029
Mustufa Zaranwala	Parent Group	Henrico	2026-2029
Kristin Janssen	Administration	MLWGS	2026-2029
Elizabeth Greenwood	Gifted Coordinator	Powhatan	2026-2028
Alecia Nichols	Faculty	MLWGS	2026-2029
Will Cottrell	Faculty	MLWGS	2026-2029
Andrew Maples	Faculty	MLWGS	2026-2029
Alexandria Purifoy	Faculty	MLWGS	2026-2029
Gwyneth Thomas	E.D, Appointee	Chesterfield	2026-2027
William Chen	E.D, Appointee		2026-2027
Simon Moon	E.D, Appointee	Chesterfield	2026-2027
Aanchal Patel	Student Group Gr 11	MLWGS-Henrico	2026-2028
Savya Swaroop	Student Group Gr 11	MLWGS-Chesterfield	2026-2028
Liv Chambers	Student Group Gr 11	MLWGS-Chesterfield	2026-2028
Serine Oh	Student Group Gr 11	MLWGS-Henrico	2026-2028

Mr. Pritchett observed that there was not a wide diverse division representation. Dr. Janssen replied, this membership lists the people who stepped up to volunteer their service as the recruitment notice was out for a few weeks. He followed with a question about student representation, with Dr. Janssen responding we did try and even had counseling push it out to students, but again this was who volunteered. Ms Atkins suggested that going forward consider a student appointment in this position but perhaps changing the by-laws will need to be amended to allow for this.

F. Class of 2027 has (18) National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced on September 9th the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 72nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP). These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$24 million that will be offered next spring.

Over 1.2 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the 2027 NMSP with the PSAT/NMSQT test(s) serving as an initial screen for program entrants. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist

standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2027 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join nearly 389,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

This year, MLWGS has eighteen National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists from the Class of 2027, twelve from Henrico, three from Chesterfield, one from Hanover, and two from Richmond.

Congratulations to our seniors:

- Deorah, Charvi – Henrico
- Dong, David – Henrico
- Joshi, Anubhav – Chesterfield
- Karthikeyan, Neha Yashawini – Henrico
- Kidd, Bladen – Richmond
- Kumar, Priya – Henrico
- Lewis, Sita – Hanover
- Moon, Simon - Chesterfield
- Murthy, Shivank – Henrico
- Neelakantan, Rohan – Henrico
- Nguyen, Camden – Henrico
- Radcliffe, Madeline – Chesterfield
- Sun, Amy – Henrico
- Syed, Aahil – Henrico
- Tong, Grant – Henrico
- Yellin, Nathan – Richmond
- Yu, Yan Angela – Henrico
- Zhang, Olivia – Henrico

G. Un/Bound Exhibit with Wendy DeGroat

The Un/Bound exhibit is up at MLWGS and is located in the second-floor lobby in front of the auditorium! To help you navigate it, here's a map (also attached as a PDF) showing how the panels are organized, including what time frame is covered in each of the six three-panel sets. Hopefully, this information will be helpful for your planning, whether for a student activity or your own visit.

The trickiest transitions are from panels 4 to 5 and 16 to 17. They're the ones marked with dotted lines. There are gray arrows on the floor to guide visitors as well.

Big thanks to Valenta Williams, her student ambassadors, and Sonny Barnes for their assistance setting everything up, and gratitude to Robinette for writing the reflection questions that you'll find on the green flyers in your mailbox and at the exhibit starting point. If you visit the exhibit, consider posting a sticky note response on the reflection column.

XII. Unfinished Business

None.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

a. Regional School Board Annual Self-Evaluation 2026 – (*First Read*)

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board reviews its performance annually to ensure its proper discharge of responsibilities to the community.

The last self-evaluation was completed in October 2025.

A link to the evaluation form was emailed to board members after this meeting.

Survey feedback will be provided at the board’s October meeting.

b. Annual Approval for the VDOE Administrative Procedures Manual MLWGS (*First Read*)

The 2026-2027 MLWGS Annual Administrative Procedures Manual required by the VDOE mandates the school to obtain Regional School Board approval, like the annual approval sought for the Crisis Manual. The manual is due to VDOE on October 9, 2026.

A vote for approval will be requested at the board’s October meeting.

c. Regional School Board Preference on Regulation Voting vs Information Item (*First Read*)

Background: As we reviewed our Policy Implementation policy, a question came up about Virginia Code § 22.1-78. The Code says that a school board may adopt bylaws and regulations. It does not specifically say that the superintendent, or in our case the executive director, can develop regulations.

Our proposed language would have the Regional School Board specifically give the executive director that authority through policy. The language is at the end of the document (1016.2).

If the Regional School Board approves this policy and gives the executive director the authority to develop and update administrative regulations, does every regulation developed still have to go back to the Board for approval before it can take effect?

Or does the Board's approval of this policy give the executive director the authority to develop the administrative regulations needed to carry out Board policy, with regulations going back to the Board when the law requires it, another Board policy requires it, or the Board asks for it?

One of our policy committee members believes § 22.1-78 means that every regulation must be approved by the Board.

Legal feedback received: If the board passes the policy below (1016.2), then you can simply create necessary regulations without additional approval by the board. However, even though this is how it works legally, some boards may still want to be aware of the regulation that you create, so they might want you to bring it as information or presentation. But that is something that you should ask the board about its preference.

Policy 1016
Policy 1016.2

Policy Adoption
Policy Implementation

Ms. Moses provided additional background on this matter. She noted that this question arose during our summer policy review, prompting her to investigate whether the Virginia Code specifies whether the superintendent or the school board is responsible for writing regulations. She was unable to find any relevant information in the Code. However, she mentioned that most school divisions likely follow the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) policies, which state that the school board authorizes the superintendent to create and update regulations necessary to implement its policies.

According to VSBA Policy CH - General School Administration, the school board adopts policies that govern the division, while regulations detail the methods of policy implementation and are subject to revision by the superintendent. It seems that as early as 2002, the VSBA determined that superintendents are responsible for writing regulations, and this is no longer explicitly stated in the Code. The only relevant Code she found was 22.1-78 - Bylaws and Regulations, which states that a school board may adopt bylaws and regulations not inconsistent with state statutes and the regulations set forth by the Board of Education for its governance. Additionally, 8 VAC 20-390-40 - Observing Regulations and Making Annual Special Reports specifies that each division superintendent is responsible for observing the directives and regulations established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and for making special reports as required.

She also received a response from the VSBA regarding who writes regulations. They stated, "There is no single statute in the Virginia Code that fully answers your question. The allocation of authority for both the school board and the superintendent derives from a collection of statutes, Board of Education regulations, and any locally adopted policies. School boards may delegate responsibilities, particularly detailed regulations, to the superintendent and their staff. If you have adopted Policy CH, your board has delegated that authority."

Therefore, the questions are: 1) Does the board wish to delegate authority to the executive director to write regulations? If so, let's proceed with a vote. 2) If the board does not wish to delegate that authority, we should also vote on that.

Ms. Atkins stated that her division trusts their superintendent, who oversees all operations, and believes she should have the authority to implement regulations. Ms. Moses asked her if, when a regulation is changed, the board receives that information. Ms. Atkins replied; no. Other divisions were then asked about their practices regarding various discussions at the table.

Ms. Ricard suggested members discuss what the practice for their division is with a decision to be made next month.

The board will be asked to codify their preference at their October meeting.

XIV. Information

- Required Notifications to the Community
- Required Notification of School Policies to the Community
- Back to School Night Notification
- MW Scores its highest percentage yet of 3s and above on AP Exams in 2026
- SAC is Back!

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Nichols, Committee Chair, reported the group talked about everything that was on the agenda for the board today. Dr. Janssen discussed with us some of the challenges and solutions from the beginning of the year. He added we also received an update on the health insurance benefit and the audit update, which lead us to capital improvement. He referenced a bold chart in the Executive Director's office with over \$13 million dollars of projects that need to be accomplished.

XVI. New Business

XVII. Closed Meeting

The Vice-Chair read the following statement:

"Do I have a motion to enter closed session in accordance with Section (§) 2.2-3711 and/or 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and specifically under Subsection No. 1. - Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the School Board."
[Reference: Case 2026-0001].

Meredith Moses made a motion to enter into a closed meeting, seconded by Jill Andrews, and was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The vice-chair stated the motion had carried and the board is now in closed session. The recorder was turned off, and anyone who was **not** a board member left the meeting at 10:20 am.

Return to Open Session

The vice-chair called for a motion to return to an open meeting.

James Taylor made a motion to enter into an open meeting at 10:48 am that was seconded by Lisa Hudgins and unanimously approved with a voice vote. The vice-chair stated, "The board is now back in open session."

XVIII. Certification of Closed Meeting

The Vice-Chair read the following statement:

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Regional School Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i-**one**) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and (ii-**two**) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. Any member of the Regional School Board or committee who believes that there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place."

The vice-chair asked if any board members believed there was a departure from these requirements. Ms. Moses indicated she believed there was a departure from the stated requirements. The vice-

chair asked her to state the substance of the departure. Ms. Moses responded, “we went into closed to discuss personnel but also discussed students.”

The vice-chair called for a motion to certify the closed session, with said motion previously made by James Taylor, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, and approved on a voice and roll-call vote.

The clerk was directed to record the roll-call vote for closed session certification:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton	Absent
Ms. Lisa Hudgins	Aye
Ms. Debbie Walwer	Aye
Ms. Mary Benjamin	Aye
Ms. Meredith Moses	No
Ms. Whitney Welsh	Aye
Ms. Alicia Atkins	Aye
Mr. John Griffin	Absent
Ms. Harwood Hall	Aye
Ms. Heather Donbrosky	No
Mr. Kenneth Pritchett	Aye
Dr. James Taylor	Aye
Ms. Jill Andrews	Aye
Ms. Kathryn Ricard	Aye
Vote Count: 10 Ayes, 2 Nos, and 2 Absent	

Lastly, the vice-chair called for a motion to approve the closed session action for Case 2026-001 as discussed by the board. A motion by Alicia Atkins, seconded by Whitney Welsh, the closed session action was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

XIX. Announcements

None.

XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

Next Meeting – Regional School Board

October 15, 2026, at 9:00 am. Location: MLWGS Campus, Room 153 804-354-6800.

Ms. Kathryn Ricard, Vice-Chair

Dr. Kristin K. Janssen, Executive Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk