

MINUTES

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government & International Studies
Regional School Board Regular Meeting & FY25 Budget Public Hearing
1000 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:04 a.m.

Before the start of this meeting, the board enjoyed the work of a student string quartet playing in honor of school board appreciation month. Thank you and appreciation to Ms. Allison Barnes, orchestra director, and her students.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Moment of Silence

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Regional School Board and visitors recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Introductions

Each member is listed in alphabetical order by locality. Newest members Marchelle Hampton and James Taylor were welcomed.

Present:

Ms. Marchelle Hampton, **School Board**, Charles City Public Schools
Mr. Steven Neece, **School Board**, Colonial Heights Public Schools
Ms. Lisa Hudgins, **School Board**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Elaine Pearson, **School Board**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Ms. Meredith Moses, **School Board**, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. Bob May, **School Board**, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Alicia Atkins, **School Board**, Henrico County Public
Ms. Linda Hyslop, **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. Mariah White, **School Board**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Dalphine Joppy, **Superintendent**, Charles City Public Schools
Mr. Travis Ridley for Ms. Haidee Napier, **Superintendent**, Colonial Heights Public Schools

Ms. Michelle Powell for Dr. Kari Weston, **Superintendent**, Dinwiddie Public Schools
Dr. Michael Cromartie, **Superintendent**, Goochland County Public Schools
Mr. Chris Whitley for Dr. Michael Gill, **Superintendent**, Hanover County Public Schools
Ms. Holly Coy for Dr. Amy Cashwell, **Superintendent**, Henrico County Public Schools
Dr. Jay McClain for Dr. Melody Hackney, **Superintendent**, Hopewell Public Schools
Dr. John Farrelly for Dr. Tamara Sterling, **Superintendent**, Petersburg Public Schools
Dr. Beth Teigen, **Superintendent**, Powhatan County Public Schools
Dr. Lisa Pennycuff, **Superintendent**, Prince George Public Schools
Ms. Lynn Plevich for Mr. Jason Kamras, **Superintendent**, Richmond Public Schools

Dr. Robert Lowerre, **Director**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
Mr. Lucas Veale, **Deputy Clerk**, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Also present:

Dr. Michael 'Max' Smith and Dr. Lisa Williams– **MLWGS Administration**
Wendy DeGroat, Aparna Harger, and David Bortz – **MLWGS Staff**
Ginger O'Neil – **GS Foundation**

Absent:

Ms. Harwood Hall, **School Board**, King & Queen Public Schools
Ms. Jill Andrews, **School Board**, Prince George Public Schools

Dr. Carol Carter, **Superintendent**, King & Queen Public Schools
Dr. Merv Daughtery, **Superintendent**, Chesterfield County Public Schools
Dr. Brian Nichols, **Superintendent**, New Kent Public Schools

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

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

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

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

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

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

V.b Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Mariah White, seconded by Bob May, the agenda for this meeting was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VI. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Linda Hyslop, seconded by Marchelle Hampton, the minutes of the reorganizational meeting of January 18, 2024, were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

VII. Recognitions

- *MLWGS visual art students earn 52 total awards at the 2024 Scholastic Art Awards*

The infographic is set against a dark background. At the top left, it reads '2024: 52 TOTAL AWARDS!' in large white letters. Below this, it lists '14 GOLD KEYS' in large yellow letters, followed by '(1 GOLD KEY ART PORTFOLIOS, 10 ART GOLD KEYS, 3 PHOTO GOLD KEYS)' in smaller white text. Next is '13 SILVER KEYS' in large yellow letters, followed by '(7 ART SILVER KEYS, 6 PHOTO SILVER KEYS)'. Finally, it lists '25 HONORABLE MENTIONS' in large yellow letters, followed by '(1 HM ART PORTFOLIO, 12 PHOTO HM, 12 ART HM)'. In the top right corner is the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards logo, which is a yellow circle with a white key icon and the text 'Scholastic Art & Writing Awards' and '90 YEARS OF CREATIVITY'. In the bottom left is the Maggie Walker Arts logo, which is a white stylized 'M' and 'W' with the text 'maggie | walker | arts' below it. On the right side is a photograph of a student, Lucie Bouton, looking up at a display of awards. Below the photo is the caption 'Lucie Bouton, Gold Key Portfolio Winner'.

2024: 52 TOTAL AWARDS!

14 GOLD KEYS
(1 GOLD KEY ART PORTFOLIOS, 10 ART GOLD KEYS, 3 PHOTO GOLD KEYS)

13 SILVER KEYS
(7 ART SILVER KEYS, 6 PHOTO SILVER KEYS)

25 HONORABLE MENTIONS
(1 HM ART PORTFOLIO, 12 PHOTO HM, 12 ART HM)

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
90 YEARS OF CREATIVITY

maggie | walker | arts

Lucie Bouton,
Gold Key Portfolio Winner

Jeff Hall and Georgianne Stinnett, faculty members, were on hand to help recognize their students.

The MLWGS Visual Arts Department is very excited to announce that our creative students were recently honored by having their work selected for awards in the regional 2024 Scholastic Art competition. This is a highly competitive annual art competition which had **2,432 art entries** from around the region. MLWGS students had another great year with **52 total awards**, recognizing Maggie L. Walker Governor's School as one of the region's top schools for the Arts.

Summary: 52 total awards

14 Gold Keys awards including 1 Gold Key Portfolio, 10 Art Gold Keys, 3 Photo Gold Keys

13 Silver Keys awards including 7 Art Silver Keys, 6 Photo Silver Keys

25 Honorable Mentions including 1 HM Art Portfolio, 12 Art HM, 12 Photo HM

Portfolio Awards

A portfolio award is very difficult to achieve as it requires a comprehensive body of work expressing a unique artistic voice. Please join us in congratulating the following SENIORS who received special recognition for their portfolios.

- **Lucie Bouton**- Gold Key Art Portfolio with additional awards of 1 Gold Key in Photography, 1 Gold Key in Mixed Media, and 1 Silver Key in Mixed Media
- **Sadie Hall**- Honorable Mention Art Portfolio

Gold and Silver Key Awards

Gold and Silver Key winners will have their work displayed at the Visual Art Center of Richmond from Feb. 2- Feb. 19th. Gold Key works will be juried in New York for consideration for National Awards.

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized with individual Gold Keys and/or Silver Keys:

- Ananthu Anish - Gold Key in Drawing and Illustration
- Hiya Agrawal - Gold Key in Jewelry
- Madeline Bridges - Gold Key in Drawing and Illustration
- Yeeva Chunnanond - Gold Key in Animation and 1 HM in Animation
- Rachel Dai - Gold Key in Photography, Gold Key in Digital Art, and Silver Key in Animation
- Tyler DeHaven - Gold Key in Digital Art and Silver Key in Animation
- Maddy Dunaway - Silver Key in Photography and HM in Photography
- Maya Hedrick - Silver Key in Photography
- Sahmeah Jamison - Silver Key in Photography
- Vier Julien - Silver Key in Painting
- Lina Khatcheressian - Gold Key in Photography
- Kiera Kinnier - 2 Silver Keys in Photography and HM in Photography
- Will Knutson - Silver Key in Photography
- Stella McCormack - Gold Key in Architecture
- Molly Morrison - Gold Key in Sculpture and HM in Expanded Projects
- Sophia Runberg - Silver Key in Drawing and Illustration
- Sydney Brewer - Silver Key in Sculpture and HM in Sculpture
- Caroline Walton - Gold Key in Drawing and Illustration
- Mysha Zaidi - Silver Key in Mixed Media

Honorable Mention awards

These students will have their work included in a slide show of Honorable Mention winners

- Aaliyah Avent - 2 HMs in Photography

- Josselyn Bonilla - HM in Printmaking
- Elijah Chen - HM in Drawing and Illustration
- Leo Chenoweth - HM in Photography
- Samuel Choi - HM in Photography
- Hadley Driscoll - HM in Digital Art
- Daniel Gabdullin- HM in Printmaking
- Martin Gable - HM in Photography
- Virginia Griffin- HM in Photography
- Charlotte Hill - HM in Drawing and Illustration
- Grace Ku - HM in Digital Art
- Briana Lawson - HM in Photography
- Elena Loy - HM in Painting
- Mercedes Luna - HM in Painting
- Mikaylah McCarthy - HM in Photography
- Avery Redmond - HM in Photography
- Emily Rucker - HM in Photography
- Samantha Schappert - HM in Painting

Congratulations to these students on their well-deserved awards. Congratulations to our outstanding visual art teachers too; Jeff Hall, Georgianne Stinnett, and Delanie Utterback.

Mr. Hall invited board members to the annual Youth Art Exhibition at Maggie Walker on March 6th from 5:45 pm until 9 pm.

- ***2024 Scholastic Writing Earns 14 Awards***



Dr. Christine Anderson, faculty, was on hand to assist with this student recognition.

The English department of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School is honored to announce that once again Scholastics has recognized and awarded several of our talented writers. This year's regional

competition included over 150 entries for writing in ten different categories. Below is a list of winners:

Crash Ackerly	“Cloth; Culture; and Coexistence: Unraveling France’s Headscarf Quandary”	Critical Essay	Gold Key American Voices Medal
Isaiah Hathaway	“On a House”	Short Story	Honorable Mention
Natalie Koehn-Wu	“Baby”	Short Story	Honorable Mention
Lucy Gates	“I Am”	Personal Essay & Memoir	Silver Key
Natalie Koehn-Wu	“My Feminist Journey”	Personal Essay & Memoir	Silver Key
Natalie Koehn-Wu	“Worm Gandhi”	Personal Essay & Memoir	Silver Key
Natalie Koehn-Wu	“Buttercups”	Short Story	Silver Key
Avery Redmond	“On Anxiety”	Personal Essay & Memoir	Silver Key
Brewer Sydney	“Bouquet of Feathers; Flowers; and Fish”	Portfolio Category(Writing)	Silver Key
Priya Kumar	“Hi; My Name Is “Gifted”: The Damage of the Smart Label”	Critical Essay	Honorable Mention
Priya Kumar	“diary of a space freak”	Poetry	Honorable Mention
Mercedes Luna	“I Learned C.R.E.A.M. Before My ABCs”	Personal Essay & Memoir	Honorable Mention
Hareem Mubashar	“On the Importance of Desi Dramas”	Personal Essay & Memoir	Honorable Mention
Yan Angela Yu	“Loving Hell”	Personal Essay & Memoir	Honorable Mention

Gold Key winners will have their submissions sent to the next stage of the competition in New York, and National Awards will be announced later this spring.

Scholastics is the nation's longest-running competitive recognition program for young artists and writers, and MLWGS is proud of every student who shared their love of writing and submitted their work for judgment. Also, a big "thank you" goes to the teachers who sponsored each of these students and to the parents and teachers who encouraged them to compete!

- **Regional School Board Appreciation**

The month of February marks the annual observance of School Board Appreciation Month—a good time to salute the work of school board members and celebrate public education. The board

at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School speaks out for public schools by ensuring our students have the opportunity to benefit from a high-quality education.

To show our appreciation, attached to the agenda was a long list of thank-you notes from the MLWGS community.

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 submitted or presented at this meeting.

IX. Consent Items

On a motion by Mariah White to approve consent items as a slate, seconded by Lisa Hudgins, the following items were unanimously approved on a voice vote: personnel actions, fiscal status reports of January 31, 2024, and the donations report of January 31, 2024.

X. Action Items

A. Amended Regulation 7003.1-Annual Budget Calendar and Guidelines (Second Read)

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following for Regional School Board consideration. This proposal intends to move the annual budget approval from April to March.

On a motion by Lisa Hudgins, seconded by Mariah White, the requested change to Regulation 7003.1 was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

B. AY24 Operating Calendar Change Requested for March 5, 2024 (Waive First Read was Requested)

Tuesday, March 5—School Closed for Student Holiday for VA Presidential Primary

As you may know, the Virginia presidential primary will be held on Tuesday, March 5. As many of our Greater Richmond area schools will serve as polling places, MLWGS being one of them will be open to the public for voting. As voter turnout is expected to be significant, **in the interest of safety and for logistical reasons, March 5 will be a teacher and student holiday.**

Because our focus this school year has been on mindfulness and wellness, we are encouraging students and teachers to use this time to create a list of work or school-related tasks and be mindful of emotional and mental well-being. Being mindful means creating a schedule for the day that includes catching up on assignments, working on projects, and taking breaks. Break time could include going for a walk, journaling, doing breathing exercises, meditating, reading...or anything that will help you relax and decompress to get refueled, refocused, and re-energized.

Our building will remain open on March 5th from 8:30 AM to 4 PM.

On a motion by Elaine Pearson, seconded by Bob May, changing March 5, 2024, from an instructional day to a school holiday was unanimously adopted on a voice vote.

XI. Director's Report

A. Verbal Updates

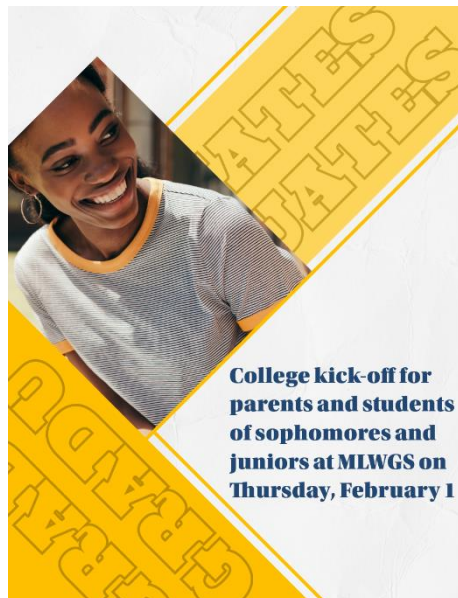
- **Good News!**

Ella Shields, Elijah Lee, and a group of about 20 MLWGS Dragons went to the General Assembly as part of a delegation of Virginia Teen Democrats. They met with the new speaker as well as other members of the General Assembly. It was a great way to spend the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday while engaging in the political process.

- **The Director Supports the Lombardy Street CSX Bridge Replacement BIP Grant Application**

Dr. Lowerre has provided his support for the City of Richmond's application to the FY2023-24 Bridge Investment Program (BIP) regarding the Lombardy Street SCX Bridge Replacement Project. He has corresponded with the US Department of Transportation Secretary, The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, in this regard. The project aims to replace a bridge in poor condition that plays a critical role in the regional transportation network. Its replacement would facilitate freight movement and improve bicycle and pedestrian access in Richmond.

- **College Kick-Off for Parents and Students (Sophomores and Juniors) on February 1st.**



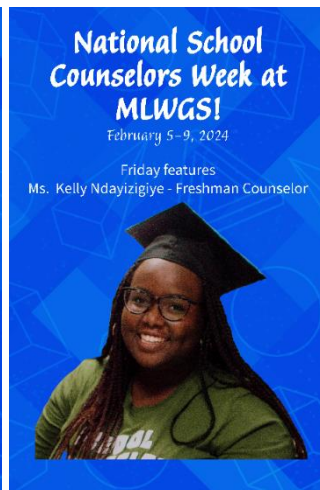
College Kick-Off took place on Thursday, February 1. Its goal is to generate more awareness of college admissions, support students through their college search and application process, and set them up for success!

Senior/college counselors Rachel Loving and Kim Forquer (the planners and moderators of this event) will be joined onstage by college representatives from Old Dominion University, University of Richmond, Virginia Union University, and University of South Carolina, as well as our school's financial aid advisor from GRASP and a representative from the Virginia Army National Guard, and more!

Parents of 10th graders* were invited to join their students in the MLWGS Auditorium from 10:15-11:30 AM.

Parents of 11th graders* were invited to join their students in the MLWGS Auditorium from 1:10-3:10 PM; college reps were available (for 11th-grade parents only) until 3:30 PM for additional Q&A.

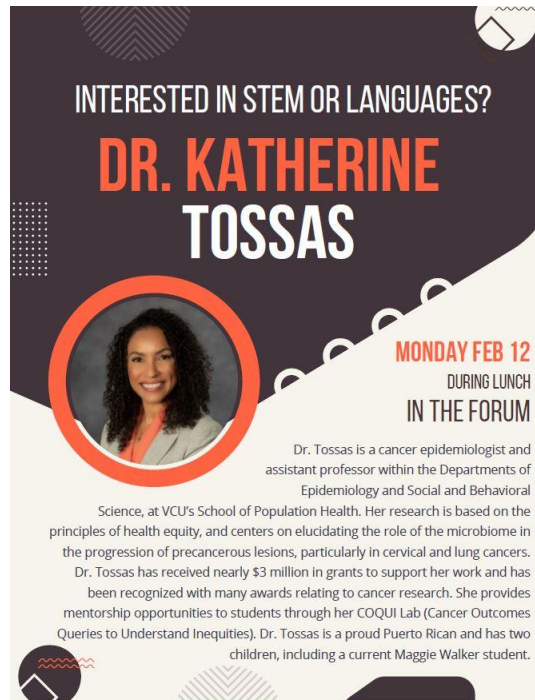
- **Recognition during School Counselors Week, Feb 5-9**



- **MLWGS Valentine's Dance, February 9th**

The Valentine's Dance was held on February 9th from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. All Maggie Walker students were invited to attend. **UPDATE:** this event was canceled on February 9.

- **Guest STEM Speaker, Dr. Katherine Tossas, February 12th**



INTERESTED IN STEM OR LANGUAGES?

DR. KATHERINE TOSSAS

MONDAY FEB 12
DURING LUNCH
IN THE FORUM

Dr. Tossas is a cancer epidemiologist and assistant professor within the Departments of Epidemiology and Social and Behavioral Science, at VCU's School of Population Health. Her research is based on the principles of health equity, and centers on elucidating the role of the microbiome in the progression of precancerous lesions, particularly in cervical and lung cancers. Dr. Tossas has received nearly \$3 million in grants to support her work and has been recognized with many awards relating to cancer research. She provides mentorship opportunities to students through her COQUI Lab (Cancer Outcomes Queries to Understand Inequities). Dr. Tossas is a proud Puerto Rican and has two children, including a current Maggie Walker student.

- **The legendary Tuvan throat-singing ensemble Alash visiting Maggie Walker on Monday, February 12th.**



THROAT SINGERS from the Republic of TUVA

ALASH

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024 * ALASH RETURNS TO THE U.S. * **SCHEDULE**

photo by Wada Fumiko

ALASH ensemble is a trio of master throat singers (xöömeizhi) from Tuva, a tiny republic in the heart of Inner Asia. The ancient art of throat singing (xöömei) developed among the nomadic herdsman of this region. Alash remains grounded in this tradition while expanding its musical vocabulary with new ideas from the West.

The group performed in the Black Box during the 5th block for Mike White's Slavic Folklore senior seminar students.

- **Spring Sports**

Spring sports begin on **Tuesday, February 20th**.

- **MLWGS International Language Fair for Middle School Students, February 24, 2024.**

Similar to our previous International Language Fairs, this fair will have a welcome ceremony, a variety of workshops led and designed by Maggie Walker students before and after a lunch break, a closing ceremony, and an international dessert sampling. Students will choose one language of interest, which will be taken into consideration when assigning workshops and to expose students to all languages, other workshops will be assigned via lottery. Pizza will be provided for students during lunch. Workshops will incorporate the following languages: Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, American Sign Language, and Arabic.

- **Course Registration for Returning Students 2024-2025 on February 29th**

Counselors will be meeting with *all students* about their schedules during February and will be providing students with copies of the necessary forms during this meeting. The Course Registration Form will require parent signatures and possibly teacher signatures for advanced courses. Rising juniors and seniors who plan to take one or more Dual Enrollment courses through Virginia Commonwealth University must complete the VCU Dual Enrollment packet which contains three forms, each requiring a student and parent signature. **Students must turn in their completed/signed forms (including VCU forms, if applicable, to register for classes in PowerSchool that day.**

- **MW Drama Presents Guys and Dolls, February 29 – March 2, 2024, 7:00 pm nightly.**

Guys and Dolls is a musical with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and a book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. It is based on "The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown" (1933) and "Blood Pressure." which are two short stories by Damon Runyon, and also borrows characters and plot elements from other Runyon stories, such as "Pick the Winner." **Wikipedia**

In New York, a gambler is challenged to take a cold female missionary to Havana, but they fall for each other, and the bet has a hidden motive to finance a crap game. **imbd.com Summary**

- **From the Library:**

Are you frustrated by partisanship and division? Want to earn community service while going beyond partisanship to engage in a meaningful conversation? Sign up for One Small Step or attend an info session during lunch, watch a 5-minute intro video at bit.ly/oss24intro, or

check out the 1 to 2-minute student insight videos about OSS in the Resources section of the Library Activities & Reading Hub on Schoology.

- **Night of the Dragon Auction, Saturday, March 9th, Hardywood Brewery, @ 6:30 pm**

Mark your calendar for the annual Night of the Dragon on March 9, 2024! This special event is a whole lot of fun and provides invaluable support to our amazing Dragons. Please let Ginger O'Neil if you would like to attend.

- **Visitation Days for Accepted New Students of the Class of 2028, Monday, March 11th – Thursday, March 14th**

Monday – Chesterfield

Tuesday – Hanover & Henrico

Wednesday – All Smaller Divisions

Thursday – Richmond

- **New Student Assessments Completed – Director's Final Report.**

This year, the school received 1,067 applicants for the Class of 2028 with most assessments administered on January 24th. The make-up assessment day was conducted on February 13th. Regional Evaluations are being conducted today at a site off-campus for the first time. Invited students will be offered an opportunity to shadow at MLWGS from March 11-14, 2024.

- **MLWGS Alum wins Grammy at the 2024 Awards Show, February 4th**



At this point, a new member asked Dr. Lowerre about the process of administering new student assessments. He explained that the assessments take place on campus over one weekend, previously two weekends, and students are divided into two sessions. Applicants are required to

take a standardized aptitude test and write two essays - one persuasive and the other personal. This process serves two purposes: to learn more about the student and to evaluate their writing skills. The aptitude test accounts for about 10% of the application process and includes three sub-tests. It is worth noting that the social studies achievement test is no longer a part of the assessment. Currently, division teams are scoring the writing prompts at a common outside location.

Lynn Plevich recognized Rachel Loving, the school counselor from Maggie Walker, and Karl Zweerink, the admissions coordinator, for their efforts in making this a smooth event.

B. Coming Events

February 15, 2024, through March 21, 2024

Thursday, February 15 th	Regular School Board Meeting and AY25 Budget Public Hearing, 9:00 am, Room 153
	Regional Evaluation Day for the Class of 2028, Off-Campus
Friday, February 16 th	Embassy of Japan School Visit, 1:50 pm – 3:00 pm
Saturday, February 17 th	Rehearsal with Guest Clinician for the Intermediate Band, Advanced Band, and Percussion Ensemble, 10 am, Room 124
Monday, February 19 th	Holiday – Closed
Tuesday, February 20 th	Spring Sports Begin
Wednesday, February 21 st	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Friday, February 23 rd	Black History Month Guest Speaker, 11:35 am, Forum
Saturday, February 24 th	All-State Band and Orchestra Auditions, Off-Campus
	International Language Fair for Middle Schoolers, 8 am – 1 pm, MLWGS
Tuesday, February 27 th	National Art Honor Society Induction, 11:35 am, Black Box
Wednesday, February 28 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, February 29 th	AY25 Course Registration Day
Thursday, February 29 th – Saturday, March 2 nd	MLWGS Drama Presents Guys and Dolls, 7:00 pm nightly, Auditorium
Friday, March 1 st	Students attend VCU Band Clinic at the Singleton Center
Friday, March 1 st – Sunday, March 3 rd	Robotics Team Competition at Patrick Henry HS
Friday, March 1 st – Friday, March 8 th	Spring English Writing SOLs (Sophomores)
Monday, March 4 th – Wednesday, March 13 th	Japan Exchange with MLWGS, visiting students on campus
Monday, March 4 th	Mu Alpha Theta Induction, 7:00 pm, Auditorium
Tuesday, March 5th	Schedule Change Due to Primary Voting
Wednesday, March 6 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
	Youth Art & Music Month Exhibition at MLWGS, 6:00 pm, School Lobby
Thursday, March 7 th	Orchestra Assessment at Glen Allen HS

	End of Q3
Friday, March 8 th – Sunday, March 10 th	Robotics Team Competition at Churchland HS
Saturday, March 9 th	Night of the Dragon Auction sponsored by the GS Foundation, 6:30 pm, at Hardywood Brewing
Monday, March 11 th	Visitation Day for Chesterfield Accepted Students, Class of 2028
Tuesday, March 12 th	Visitation Day for Hanover and Henrico Accepted Students, Class of 2028
	Virginia Math League Contents, 11:35 am, Auditorium
Wednesday, March 13 th	Visitation Day for Small Division Accepted Students, Class of 2028
	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, March 14 th	Visitation Day for Richmond Accepted Students, Class of 2028
Thursday, March 14 th – Sunday, March 17 th	School Board approved Civil Rights Class/Black Literature Black Lives Senior Seminar Travel
Saturday, March 16 th	GSAC XXVI (Governor's School Academic Competition), 8:00 am, MLWGS
Tuesday, March 19 th	Q3 Report Cards Issued
Wednesday, March 20 th	Newtowne Tutoring, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Room 104
Thursday, March 21 st	Regular School Board Meeting and Projected AY25 Budget Approval, 9:00 am, Room 153
	Multicultural Assembly for Students, Time: TBD, Auditorium

- C. **GSMUN Model UN Conference XXVI, March 22-23, 2024**, a presentation by Kyle Rogers, Faculty Sponsor, with Rohini Mudinur ('24-Henrico)-Secretary-General and Devesh Kumar ('24-Henrico)-Director-General.

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

Over the last 26 years, GSMUN has transformed from a humble conference consisting of only 100 delegates from Richmond to a conference of over 500 delegates, who stem from all across the nation. However, from the very beginning, GSMUN has prided itself on creating an unparalleled experience of debate, diplomacy, and engagement for both veteran and novice delegates alike. This year, GSMUN will be composed of 18 committees, diverse in both region and time period, that range from the rise of the Brazilian Empire to the downfall of Standard Oil. In addition to that, we have also brought back the Ad Hoc Committee of the Secretary-General, where delegates are tasked with devising solutions without any prior information on the committee, topics, or positions.

All 18 of our committee represent this year's theme - *United We Stand*. In a world where polarization has reached an all-time high, it's important to remember the original goal of the United Nations: global cooperation. At GSMUN, it is our greatest wish that delegates become

more effective and compassionate leaders, who, through collaboration, can be the catalyst for positive change in their communities.

Charity: Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). GSMUN is excited to be partnering with LLS this year! We hope that you will support our goal of donating \$10,000+ to this incredible organization.

Board members asked these delegates to share information (brochure) with them so that they could pass it on to their schools.

The chair thanked the GSMUN officers for today's presentation.

XII. Unfinished Business

A. The minutes shall contain a report on the Strategic Plan, which can be found at the end of this document.

The director reported there are not many updates from his last report but we are still making progress on meeting all of the goals. He noted we will be creating a new strategic plan within the next year that needs to be in place by the end of the next year and he will be reaching out to board members for their involvement.

B. Announcement of the 2024 Superintendent's Steering Committee Leadership (from January 2024)

Dr. Brian Nichols has agreed to continue to chair this committee for the year.

XIII. Materials for Board Review and/or Discussion

A. *Amended Procedure 1070-Proc. Related to International Travel (First Read)*

The Policy Steering Committee offers the following for Regional School Board consideration, #1070-Procedure Related to International Travel.

Revisions were made for consistency, clarity, modernization, and style coherence. Substantively the procedure did not change. It was an overhaul of layout and design to make it more consistent and concise with a more modern look. Changes brought a 21-page document down to 14 pages.

Approval for amended procedure 1070 will be requested at the board's March 2024 meeting.

B. *FY2025 Budget Proposal Presentation and Public Hearing (First Read)*

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Administration, in conjunction with the Superintendent's Steering Committee and the Finance Steering Committee (comprised of the Chief Financial Officers from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Powhatan, and Richmond) have worked to finalize an operating budget proposal for FY2025.

Dr. Lowerre will be asking for an additional \$1,306,153 (+12.33%) in spending to cover teacher pay raises and building maintenance. The proposed budget aims to lift teacher salaries to a

competitive scale with other partners and includes repairs such as replacing HVAC systems, repairing roofing, and parking lot repavement.

FY2025 is the first year of the State Budget Biennium and revenue numbers are reflective of the current funding level provided by the DOE. The FY2025 State Budget was presented as the first step of the increase in compensation for teachers and staff to better align our scales with our partner districts.

The funding outlook for FY2026 is expected to be somewhat static from the State.

Dr. Lowerre stated we will be opening 2024-2025 with 797 students, which is about our enrollment limit based on the size of this building. Utilities have gone through the roof this year and have been increased accordingly in this proposal. He also noted he expects to be replacing two RTU's in the HVAC system and is hopeful we can obtain a grant from an organization that specializes in building equipment to offset some of the costs.

There is still a line-item request for textbooks, and while we are largely away from using them, some classes still require textbooks.

The director stated we will continue to work on decompression of our salary scales in FY2026 and find a way to fund capital improvement projects.

The public will have three opportunities to comment on the proposed operating budget before the requested approval; 1) public comments at the February meeting, 2) an online public comment form will be open between February and March, and 3) public comments during the March meeting.

Unless otherwise modified, approval for the proposed FY2025 operating budget will be requested at the board's March 2024 meeting.

Mr. May asked a question regarding how long it will take for the salary scale decompression. Dr. Lowerre responded that ideally, it would only take a couple more years but maybe less. However, the problem is that during the fall, Walker receives district-raising information and gets locked in based on that data. Unfortunately, circumstances can and have been changed and we fall behind.

Mr. Pritchett asked which school districts you are looking at regarding scales, and the director mentioned we looked at all our districts and indicated that we are typically competing for teacher talent recruitment from our divisions. Dr. Smith, who did the salary scale research when compiling the data, indicated we are most closely associated with Charles City and King and Queen's pay scale.

Lisa Hudgins left the meeting.

C. AY25 Operating Calendar Proposal (First Read)

The 2024-2025 calendar is presented to the regional school board for the first read.

Changes include pushing back the January P-T conferences so that they are after Q2/S1 report cards. Also, the alumni showcase and Fall Festival will be on the same day, which was a request from the Foundation with the alumni in mind. Further, the calendar ends the first semester before winter break, and the information forum is moved to a Saturday. Election Day and Presidents Day will now be full holidays for students and faculty/staff. Major holidays for our diverse student body continue to be observed. Our first day, winter break, spring break, and last day align with our major participating divisions on a two-week early start calendar.

Unless otherwise modified, approval for the proposed FY2025 school operating calendar will be requested at the board's March 2024 meeting.

XIV. Information Items

- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, February 1, 2024
- We the People Virginia Championship, Saturday, January 27th
- Dragon Results at the 2024 International Physics Research & Debate Tournament
- MLWGS 2023 Yearbook wins 1st Place from American Scholastic Press Association
- Students Attend a Lecture at VCU with Mexico's Ambassador to the United States
- Model UN Students attend the Conference at VA Tech, February 2-4
- Dragons Attend Young Physicists Tournament at NC State, February 2-5
- Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on January 19, includes MWHS and MLWGS
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week (#2) - Yuna Chen, '24-Henrico, Basketball
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week (#3) - Luke Mauzy, '24-Chesterfield, Basketball
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week (#4) - Lauren Blake, '24-Richmond, Indoor Track
- Scholar-Athlete of the Week (#5) - Patrick Doherty, '24-Chesterfield, Indoor Track

XV. Superintendent's Steering Committee Report

Dr. Teigen presented this report. At their morning meeting, the committee discussed the budget and ongoing mechanical needs and their funding. The committee also discussed personnel costs looking forward and the challenges when data is available and working a budget around that. They also discussed the proposed change to the calendar.

XVI. New Business

None.

XVII. Closed Meeting

None.

XVIII. Certification of Closed Meeting

None.

XIX. Announcements/Additional Discussion

Dr. Lowerre reported that our graduation date was moved up by one day to May 29th due to Altria's commitment to an off-Broadway production of Beetlejuice.

XX. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

On a motion to adjourn by Mariah White, seconded by Alicia Atkins, this meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

March 21, 2024, at 9:00 am. MLWGS, 1000 N. Lombardy St., Room 153, Richmond, VA 23220. 804-354-6800 x2190.

Kenneth Pritchett, Chair

Robert Lowerre, Ph.D., Director

Minutes Recorded by:
Barbara Marshall, Regional Board Clerk

MLWGS 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS/OBJECTIVES/ACTION STEPS

DATE: February 15, 2024

Blue Text = Updates

Green = Completed

GOAL 1	MAGGIE L. WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL CREATE A WELCOMING AND RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT THAT CELEBRATES AND REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WE SERVE AND FOSTERS A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR ALL.	Responsible Party	Measurement	Year to begin Implementation	Cost to Budget
OBJ 1.1	MLWGS will engage and educate our school districts about the opportunities available to them in our learning environment.			2020	
1.1.2	Develop and enhance relationships with districts, schools, administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and potential students.	Administration, Counseling, Faculty	We are establishing relationships with local administrators through outreach. A middle school counselor day took place in September of 2022. Dare to be a Dragon Day took place for 5 th grade students in April 2023. We have hired a Coordinator for Strategic Engagement who will assist in implementing strategies for increased community outreach.		
OBJ 1.2	MLWGS will create an environment that provides a sense of belonging and fosters student and family engagement.				
1.2.1	Examine and eliminate structural barriers that prevent students from availing themselves of all the opportunities at MLWGS.	Planning Committee, Administration, Foundation	Fall Festival begins before the end of the school day to eliminate the barrier of transportation. Also, SAC conducted a		

			student survey during Fall Festival to determine ways to eliminate barriers related to accessing and participating in activities		
1.2.2	Access to wraparound services (Identify and fill gaps in student mental health and wellness programs)	School Counseling	A Full-time School Social Worker has been hired. Professional Development efforts for 2023 will focus on wellness and mindfulness.		
1.2.3	Review and reform policies and procedures that impede inclusion (e.g. mental health intake, bathroom policies, club and extra-curricular policies)	Counseling, Administration, AD, School Board	Bathroom policies have been addressed.		
1.2.4	Enhance communications to make sure students have knowledge of and are able to seek resources	Counseling	The Counseling Department has sent out multiple messages regarding mental health resources as well as holding parent training sessions.		
1.2.5	Facilitate student input and feedback	Administration, Counseling	Surveys completed by SAC and VSCS. New Outreach Coordinator will facilitate new surveys.		
1.2.6	Analyze and strengthen the student onboarding process to prepare accepted students for the MLWGS experience	Counseling	Freshman Orientation is being studied as well as the process for registering for classes. Piloting Dragon Dialogues. The Walker Way Welcome Day was implemented in August 2022 and will happen again in 2023. A visit to TJST is taking place in November of 2023 to observe their freshman		

			onboarding program.		
1.2.7	Equip faculty with tools to foster an inclusive environment	Administration, External Trainers	Year one of Cultural Competency PD has been completed. Year two has also been completed culminating in a full-day of PD on belonging led by a DEI expert. Year Three will include resources and activities on equity and inclusion.		
OBJ 1.3	MLWGS will codevelop a plan with its districts to increase enrollment of historically underserved populations.				
1.3.1	In compliance with FY 2021 Budget Item 145, C-27,I, the school will work with the partner districts to collect application and admission data to be used to support a plan to increase the percentage of historically underserved populations at MLWGS.	Dr. Lowerre	We have been working with districts to improve access for underserved minorities. Significant improvement has been made this year. RSB approved removal of Achievement Test as part of admissions process.		
OBJ. 1.4	MLWGS will develop a strategy to increase the demographic diversity of our faculty and staff.				
1.4.1	Examine barriers to hiring and retaining diverse faculty.	Dr. Lowerre, Dr. Williams,	Recruitment sub-committee has been created. A focused effort has been made to recruit minority faculty and staff candidates.		
1.4.2	Strengthen professional development resources for faculty.	Dr. Williams, Dr. Lowerre, Mr. Smith	Comprehensive PD has begun with positive feedback from staff.		
1.4.3	Develop hiring strategy.	Leadership Team	We have actively targeted HBCUs and other colleges with		

			information about employment openings.		
1.4.4	Develop outreach program for recruiting teachers from multiple districts and education graduate schools.	Dr. Lowerre	We have actively targeted HBCUs and other colleges with information about employment openings.		
GOAL 2	MAGGIE L. WALKER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL ENGAGE STUDENTS WITH INNOVATIVE CURRICULA AND RESPONSIVE INSTRUCTION THAT FOCUSES ON STUDENT-CENTERED EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING. INSTRUCTION WILL BE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND ENRICHED BY LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS.	Responsible Party	Measure-ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	Cost to Budget
				2020-2021	
OBJ 2.1	Students will engage in exciting distinctive courses that are designed to deepen students interest.				
2.1.1	Encourage a collaborative environment for ongoing innovation of all course offerings.	Admin, School Counseling	New classes have been offered and recommended for future years		
2.1.2	Expand dual enrollment course offerings and include courses through additional university partners.	Dr. Lowerre	Meetings with VCU are ongoing and we have established a strong dual enrollment program.		
2.1.3	Investigate offering courses with comparatively smaller student enrollment.	Admin and School counseling	We allowed classes to "make" this year with lower enrollments.		
2.1.4	Expand the menu of teacher-created courses that center on experiential learning, interdisciplinary and global awareness.	Admin and Department Chairs	New Seminar courses are being offered including ones that target undertaught areas. Several new courses have been added to the Course Catalog.		
2.1.5	Expand student enrollment in SGC's and teacher-developed courses.	Dr. Lowerre	New Courses have been taken to the Planning Committee and the RSB.		

2.1.6	Augment opportunities for student travel and beyond-the-classroom experiences.	Leadership Team	A partnership with a French school has been established. We have also entered into an exchange program with a school in Germany.		
2.1.7	Develop a reimagined FIRC course to equip freshmen to succeed at MLWGS	Dr. Lowerre and Culture Sub-Committee	A sub-committee has been formed to review FIRC and re-imagine the freshman experience. A new model will be presented to the RSB in the Spring of 2024.		
OBJ 2.2	Teachers will provide engaging, student-centered instruction.				
2.2.1	Encourage teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Leadership Team, Tech Integrators	Following the COVID pandemic, a renewed effort to assess and implement student-centered learning strategies has been taking place.		
2.2.2	Provide opportunities for teachers to participate in training and collegial discussions about enhancing student engagement, embedding community engagement, and integrating instructional technology within their curricula.	Admin	Departments have been reaching out to the community to bring in alumni and others to enhance instruction and learning. A trip to TJ SciTech was completed in November 2023.		
2.2.3	Incentivize teachers to enhance student engagement, embed community engagement, and integrate instructional technology within their curricula.	Admin			
GOAL 3	MAGGIE L. WALER GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL WILL BE A SAFE SCHOOL WITH EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES.	Responsible Party	Measure-Ment	Year to begin Implemen-tation	Cost to Budget
OBJ 3.1	Create and fund a ten-year capital improvement plan.			2023	
3.1.1	Conduct a needs assessment of future needs for the facility and technology.	Facilities and Technology	Project is underway		
3.1.2	Forecast ten-year costs.	Facilities and Technology			

OBJ 3.2	Create a better experience for students, teachers, and parents through available software solutions.			2021	
3.1.3	Implemental funding mechanism separate from the operating budget.	Mr. Smith	The issue has been discussed by the RSB.		
3.2.1	Purchase of on-line teacher receipting program.	Ms. Hoover; Ms. Charity			
3.2.2	Implement field trip request and tracking software.	Mr. Smith	Working to automate forms		
3.2.3	Integrate field trip software with student information system.	Mr. Bortz			
3.2.4	Reduce student fees.	Leadership Team	We have reduced fees where we could, but many of the fees are simply pass-through accounts.		
3.2.5	Incentivize the use of current on-line payment systems.	Dr. Lowerre	Budgeted and Completed.		
OBJ 3.3	Enhance our safe school environment.			2020	
3.3.1	Implement an annual climate survey.	Dr. Lowerre	Participation in the Virginia School Climate Survey. Jan 2022		
3.3.2	Complete a full revision of the safety/crisis plan.	Mr. Smith	Completed Fall 2021		
3.3.3	Further develop relations with local fire, police, and EMS in order to incorporate best practices and facilitate external audits.	Mr. Jordan	Completed Fall 2021		
3.3.4	Train faculty on cyber security and teaching digital literacy.	Library and Technology	New training regarding AI and ChatGBT has been offered.		
OBJ 3.4	Transition the fiscal expectations of MLWGS to a new fiscal agent.			2022	
3.4.1	Research options for future fiscal processing.	Mr. Smith	Discussions have taken place with the superintendents.		
3.4.2	Secure board approval for a new fiscal agent.	Dr. Lowerre	Discussions have begun		
3.4.3	Create a transition plan.	Ms. Hoover			