

WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting on January 24, 1979

The Board of Trustees convened for the regular bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 24th. The meeting had been postponed from January 10th. to January 24th. because of the inauguration of the Governor and the State Superintendent of Education. Members in attendance were: Dr. J. C. Holler, presiding; Dr. Marvin Efron; Miss Mary Alice Mack; Dr. James F. Miles; the Reverend James B. Mitchell; Mr. Clarence S. Rowland, Jr.; Dr. Louise Scott; Mr. Karl Segelken; Dr. M. B. Webb; and Mrs. Jack Wilson. Also in attendance was Dr. J. T. Willis. After lunch in the cafeteria, the Board convened in the Archives Room for the business session.

The Reverend Mitchell led in the invocation.

Dr. Holler explained the changes made in the agenda and presented it for adoption. Dr. Efron moved the adoption and Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

The minutes of the November 8, 1978 meeting were presented. Mrs. Wilson moved the adoption as printed. Dr. Miles seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted.

The election of officers was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Holler informed the Board that Board policy File BBAA stated that the election of officers will be in the Fall meeting in the even numbered years. Because of an oversight on his part, other members of the Board, and Dr. Willis, the election was not held at the scheduled time. He expressed his appreciation for the cooperation received during his two years as Chairman. Because of the status of his health, he requested that he not be considered for re-election as Chairman.

Dr. Miles moved that the Board go on record commending Dr. Holler for the leadership that he had provided as Chairman. The motion was passed.

The following officers were elected: Mr. Rowland, Chairman; Mrs. Wilson, Vice-Chairman; Dr. Miles, Secretary; and Miss Mack, Treasurer.

Dr. Holler read letters from Governor Riley, Dr. Williams, and Mrs. Boyce expressing their regrets for being unable to attend the meeting. Mr. McClary had called in his regrets for being unable to attend.

Dr. Willis called on Mrs. Thelma Bailey, Principal, to give a report on the instructional program and the plans for the 1979 summer school. A copy of that report and the plans for the summer school are appended hereto.

Mrs. Bailey recommended the election of all the presently employed teachers for 1979-80 except for Mrs. Doris Jackson and Mr. William Scott. Filed herewith are her reasons for not recommending the re-election of Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Scott.

Dr. Willis stated that he concurred with Mrs. Bailey's recommendation and recommended approval by the Board contingent upon Mrs. Bailey having adequate documentation of the charges that she made against the two teachers. He stated that he would want the school's legal counsel to consider the evidence and advise whether or not, in his opinion, there was adequately documented reasons for not re-electing these two teachers for next year.

Dr. Efron stated that the Education Committee had met immediately before this meeting of the Board of Trustees and had heard Mrs. Bailey's reasons for not recommending the re-election of Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Scott. He moved that the Board approve the election of all of the teachers except Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Scott. Also, that the Administration seek the counsel of the Attorney General's office relative to charges made against these two teachers. The opinion of the Attorney General's office would be presented to the Board at its next regular meeting. At that time, the Board would act upon the recommendation from Mrs. Bailey. Action on the motion was deferred until the time on the agenda for the report of the Education Committee.

Dr. Willis reported that work on the Endowment Campaign was continuing. He recommended that Mr. Marvin Snell be employed to plan and implement the fund raising drive. Mr. Snell was employed by the school in 1970 to conduct such a campaign. Dr. Efron moved that the recommendation be referred to the Endowment Committee of the Board. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion and it passed.

Dr. Holler read a letter that he had written to the South Carolina Retirement System asking that Dr. Willis be permitted to pay a retirement premium on a housing allowance of \$3,000 annually. He stated that this is customary and done each year.

There was not a report from the Building and Grounds Committee. Neither was there a report from the Development Committee.

Dr. Efron called on Dr. Scott to report to the Board some comments that had been made to her by some of the people employed at the State Department of Education. Dr. Scott said that she had been told by at least two State Department of Education professional people that their reception at the Opportunity School by some of the teachers

was less than ideal. Some of the teachers did not give attention to the programs presented by State Department personnel. They said that they (teachers) did not think that the programs would work at the Opportunity School. Because of the reception that these people had received, they felt that their time could be spent better elsewhere. After much discussion, Dr. Scott asked the State Department of Education to assist our teachers one more time. If more interest were not demonstrated on the part of our teachers, we would look elsewhere in the future for consultants for in-service education. The State Department agreed to send Mr. LeGrand Rouse to the school on February 6th. to present the program, "Making A Difference."

Dr. Efron informed the Board that, because of the school's unique policy on enrolling students throughout the school year, problems were being experienced in counting some of the students with handicaps for Title I funding. He moved that Dr. Willis represent the Opportunity School at the National Administration Workshop in Washington on February 14th. through 16th. Also, that Dr. Willis be asked to meet the Dr. Edward Martin, Deputy Commissioner for HEW, for the purpose of requesting a waiver of the requirement that the Title I enrollment be taken on October 1st. of each year. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion and it passed.

Dr. Scott moved that the Chairman of the Board write a letter of commendation to Mrs. Betty Sawyer for having been selected as teacher of the year by the Wil Lou Gray Adult Reading Council. Dr. Efron seconded the motion and it passed.

Mr. Rowland reported that the Personnel Committee met on November 20, 1978 with Mrs. Doris Jackson, Miss Monaree Davis, Mrs. Thelma Bailey and Dr. Willis. Mrs. Bailey informed the Committee of some problems that were being experienced with Mrs. Jackson and Miss Davis. Mrs. Jackson had reported to school on some occasions under the influence of alcohol. Miss Davis had charged students for cashing checks that the school had paid her to cash and she had falsified some attendance records of some students. The consensus of opinion of the Committee was that there was not sufficient evidence to take any action against either of the two but that they be given warnings that their professional behavior must show dramatic improvement.

Dr. Holler presented the present calendar agenda and moved that it be adopted for use this year with the understanding that Chairman Rowland be given the liberty to modify it in any way that he deemed advisable. Dr. Efron seconded the motion and it passed.

Dr. Efron informed the Board that the term of office of three of the Trustees will expire July 2, 1979. He moved that the Board ask the Legislature to place the names of the three in nomination for election to another term of four years. The Trustees are Mrs. Anne T. Boyce, Mr. James McClary, and Dr. Louise Scott. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion and it passed.

Dr. Willis reported that Dr. Margaret Bryant had given a certificate for 100 shares of stock in the Lehman Corporation. The certificate had been deposited with the Trust Department of the Citizens and Southern National Bank to hold until the Trustees gave instructions as to what to do with the stock. The Trust Department had requested that the Board of Trustees adopt a resolution giving the Trust Department authority to sell the stock and invest the proceeds from the sale in investments that would be more beneficial to the Endowment Program. Dr. Webb moved that the resolution be referred to the Endowment Committee for action. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion and it passed.

Dr. Efron moved that the Legislature be asked to amend the statute which incorporated the Opportunity School as an agency of the State to permit the ex-officio members of the Board, the Governor and the State Superintendent of Education, to appoint a person to represent them at the meetings of the Board of Trustees when they could not attend. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Much discussion followed. Dr. Webb moved that the motion be tabled until a later date. The motion to table was adopted with six affirmative votes and two negative votes.

Dr. Willis informed the Trustees that they would be receiving a copy of the auditor's report for 1977 within a few days. He called to their attention the fact that the audit was not made until February 1978. The final report and the management letter were not received in his office until January 4, 1979.

Dr. Efron moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was passed.

1978-1979 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM REPORT

According to statistics and opinions of faculty, students, and parents, this school year has been successful.

We have had 447 students to enroll since August 1978. Of those enrolled, 184 have been withdrawn for various reasons. We have 256 students currently enrolled. Twenty-three students are working in the Unit Credits Program, with five of them expecting to complete units of credit in order to graduate at the close of this school year.

Dr. LeGrand Rouse, a consultant from the State Department of Education, will discuss Making A Difference with the teachers on February 6, 1979, at 1:30 p.m. This workshop is a follow-up of the school's developing a curriculum for our student body. Prior to this, the teachers have been involved in several in-service training workshops.

Physical education, reading, English, and math teachers are writing IEP's on all handicapped students that we have received parents' permission to complete. Several parents have come to committee meetings to help develop a plan for their child.

For the present school year, a Learning Disabilities teacher was added to the faculty to meet the needs of some of our handicapped students. Twelve emotional and dyslexia students are assigned to the LD teacher per class period for five periods daily.

Also this year, the Distributive Education Program was begun with 18 students. Currently, the class has 10 students. Jobs were arranged for students; however, no students are working at the present time.

There are two recommendations I would like to make. First, I recommend that all teachers, except two, be re-hired for the 1979-1980 school year. The two teachers I recommend not to be re-hired are Mr. William Scott and Mrs. Doris Jackson.

Mr. Scott has shown very little experience in teaching his subject area. Most of his time is spent in finding ways to eliminate his duties. Consultants, teachers, and I have explained to Mr. Scott the required materials that must be covered in his area (English). He insists on showing films and taking his classes to the library. I have had several conferences with Mr. Scott, discussing with him his noticeable habit of sleeping during classes and staff meetings; and also, of his teaching all English levels the same materials. I realize that Mr. Scott is on medication for his health. Last year I wrote to his physician concerning the matter of his sleeping during work hours. His doctor stated that he would prescribe a smaller dosage of medicine for Mr. Scott, but he could not guarantee that he would not sleep during class periods. Mr. Scott has allowed students to write his lesson plans, prescriptions for IPI assignments, and permanent records. His grade exchange sheets for progress reports and permanent records, as well as his IEP's, are always completed late. Several students complained of not having anything to do and asked to be changed to another class.

Mrs. Jackson was absent from her classes so much during the first nine weeks that it was impossible to evaluate her assigned students' progress during that period of time. She was recommended to us as an excellent LD teacher. My observations show that she is well trained in her area. There seem to be some personal problems that interfere with her job performance and attendance. I have had several conferences with Mrs. Jackson, concerning her class records, doctors' statements, and appointments made at the CARE Center. Mrs. Jackson did not comply with any of the memorandums I gave to her. Several of her creditors have visited and called the school about her overdue bills. Unless the many problems that Mrs. Jackson maintains are resolved, I have no other alternative but to recommend that she not be re-hired.

Second, I recommend that our 1979 Summer School consists of a 4-weeks GED Seminar and a regular basic subjects curriculum that will help improve basic skills and pre-vocational needs of each student enrolled. Eighteen teachers have signed up to teach in our summer program.

Respectfully submitted,

Thelma W. Bailey

Mrs. Thelma W. Bailey, principal

January 23, 1979