

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF MAY 10, 1989**

The Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting on May 10, 1989, in the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Research and Training Center. Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Louise Scott, Mrs. Olive Wilson, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Mrs. Mickey Lindler, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Hannah Meadors, Mrs. Linda Sledge, and Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill. Staff members present were: Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood, Mr. Bob James, Mr. Pat Smith, Mr. John King, Mrs. Jane Zenger, Mr. George Smith, Mrs. Thelma Bailey, and Ms. Gloria Lloyd. Teachers of the Opportunity School present were: Mr. Bill Whitaker, Mr. Randy Roberts, Mrs. Nancy Stroman, and Ms. Mary Flynn. Mr. John Robinson also attended representing Dr. Charlie Williams.

Dr. Scott called the meeting to order and at this time she stated for the record that notice of the meeting was provided to the public in conformance with the requirements of the S. C. Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80(d) of the S. C. Code of Laws, 1976 as amended. Notice of the meeting was published in The State Newspaper, The Columbia Record in Columbia, The Journal in Lexington, and The Lexington Dispatch in Lexington.

Dr. Scott welcomed everyone including Mr. John Robinson from the State Department of Education. The School Improvement Council was also present and would be welcomed by Dr. Norwood.

Dr. Scott then called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes that the agenda be adopted as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

The next order of business was approval of the minutes of the March 15, 1989 board meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Meadors to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thrailkill. The motion was passed.

At this time Dr. Scott called on Dr. Norwood for the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Norwood said one of the recent activities at the Opportunity School was the Miss Wil Lou Gray Pageant and Prom. She welcomed and introduced the new Miss Wil Lou Gray, Miss Stacey Broadway.

Dr. Norwood commented on how valuable a School Improvement Council is to a school. Dr. Norwood called on Mrs. Bailey to introduce the members of the School Improvement Council. Mrs. Bailey then introduced Mrs. Betty Stevens, Mrs. Katherine Ray, Mr. Kenneth Blakely, Mrs. Ester Easter, Mr. Willie Stevens, and Mr. Lee Romaro. Mrs. Bailey said there are fifteen members on the School Improvement Council. Dr. Norwood also recognized the parents and community members who were present who have an interest in the school. She thanked the members of the council for their work.

At this time presentations were made by vocational teachers and Dr. Norwood called on Mr. James to present information on the present vocational programs and plans for next year. The first presentation was made by Mr. Randy Roberts, teacher of Building Construction. He explained he has thirty one enrolled in wood shop and twenty two in building construction. The students are presently building 12' x 14' storage sheds. Each student will learn all of the basic skills of carpentry work - reading a rule, basic fractions, learning the machinery and hand tools, and learning the layout plan on the floor system for a storage shed. Every student participates in building the shed. Next year, Mr. Roberts said he plans to build at least two sheds every nine weeks.

Mr. James said another program that we are hoping to have in the future is child care. He called on Mrs. Flynn and Mrs. Stroman to present this information. Mrs. Flynn explained we were thinking about a day care center of approximately twelve children on the premises. The cost to set this up would be approximately \$10,000 - \$12,000. The program would require an experienced pre-school

teacher. At this time Mrs. Stroman distributed to the board information she received from the State Department of Education on the curriculum, course outline, and equipment for this child care program.

After some discussion among the board, Dr. Norwood said one of our major opportunities is that the Family Security Act which is being passed and would require teenage mothers who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalency to return to school to get that training and be provided child care. She further explained that our first thrust is to provide this as vocational training for our students because it is a primary area in which people can develop their own small business and be independent. It may also enable young women who are single parents to return to school and get vocational, high school or GED training.

Mrs. Meadors inquired about early childhood programs in the Education Improvement Act. The four year old programs were funded by the State Department of Education including the teacher's salary. The programs were to serve four year olds deemed at risk.

Mr. Robinson informed the board that with five year olds and a kindergarten setting seeking state funds, the class would require a teacher and an aide. Mr. Robinson also said our departmental program specifies that the institution is from grades one through twelve. Therefore, with a kindergarten class an experimental application would have to be submitted to the State Department of Education - Accreditation Office.

Next, Mr. James explained that another program we hope to implement next year is basic computer literacy. Mr. James introduced Mr. Bill Whitaker, Food Service teacher, and at this time Mr. Whitaker made his presentation. Mr. Whitaker said he had been working with a trial modularized self-paced program where students can work independently and it is working very well. He is also designing a hands-on activity so that students could be working on

the computer the first day of class. Mr. Robinson said that Lake City High School has a computer program and he recommended that he contact Mr. Mike Gaskin, Principal, and look at their program.

Dr. Scott thanked everyone for their presentations.

At this time Dr. Norwood explained the board has been receiving information about our efforts to evaluate our OPP Team program and she called on Ms. Weeks to present plans we have undertaken. Ms. Weeks explained that the primary purpose of the OPP Team is to monitor the students' progress. However, due to the continued increase in enrollment and programs here, she felt it was time for internal and external review. Ms. Weeks said she has basically completed the internal review by soliciting input of each individual who works with OPP Teams on a daily basis. In the external review, she felt the ones that would be most helpful to us are the agencies referring students here. Therefore, she sent letters to different agencies and scheduled an external review on May 25 & 26. Ms. Weeks said she is expecting useful recommendations from this review and it should be complete with an updated manual at the beginning of the next school term.

Next, Dr. Norwood called Mr. George Smith. Mr. Smith presented a poster on the Opportunity School to the board which will be posted statewide. He explained that approximately 300 posters will be mailed to municipal and county recreation centers, state agencies - Job Service, Voc. Rehab. and DSS waiting rooms, health departments, etc. The same poster will be printed in counter top form which will be sent to hotels in Myrtle Beach to be posted during Sun Fun week. He will also be talking with managers of fast food restaurants - Hardees, Wendys, Shoneys, Burger King, etc. about posting this poster.

Mr. Smith also explained that the House Education Committee has placed in the Taget 2000 bill to allow the Opportunity School to have

access of names and addresses of dropouts reported to the Highway Department by school districts.

Mr. Smith also informed the board that Mr. Hennie Dawson of Lexington State Bank is now the secretary of the Foundation.

Next, Dr. Norwood called on Mrs. Zenger to report on the Youth Speak-out. Mrs. Zenger said it was very successful. Approximately 110 at-risk youth and 55 counselors attended. Our students attended a one month training session by DYS, Chamber of Commerce Youth Collaborative representatives and Deb Haney. These students led groups and gave reports and she said they did an excellent job. Mrs. Zenger reported the event was taped by ETV and will be edited this summer and broadcast on ETV in September. She further explained that she has arranged to have fifty copies made which will be given to the school districts and collaborative agencies participating.

At this time Dr. Norwood commended Ms. Lloyd. Dr. Norwood said she was notified that Ms. Lloyd will be honored at an American Business Women's Association banquet on May 22 for her outstanding contributions for leadership and scholarship in that organization.

Next, Dr. Norwood brought the board's attention to the copy of the Proposed Schedule for the RAP Dorm for the remainder of 1989 which was provided to them. She explained we presently have 210 students enrolled and will have 224 enrolled on Monday.

Dr. Norwood informed the board that she attended a Management Development Center sponsored by Richland I which is a business/education collaborative for school and business people combined. She felt that the Opportunity School would benefit from this additional training.

Dr. Scott next called for Committee Reports. In reference to Personnel Actions, Dr. Norwood submitted the name of Dr. Mary Lee Platz, Psychologist for board approval. She explained that she had received approval on the salary Dr. Platz would accept. A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve the hiring of Dr. Platz. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meadors. The motion was passed. In reference to other Personnel Actions, a motion was made by Mrs. Wilson for the approval of the hiring of Mr. Starnes, Trades Craftsman. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lindler. The motion was passed.

In reference to Agency Head Performance Appraisals, Dr. Norwood stated it is required by law that anyone evaluating agency heads undergo training. She said a training session has been scheduled with Human Resource Management for June 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Opportunity School.

Dr. Scott then called for a report from the budget committee. Ms. McBride said the budget would be discussed at the board retreat in July.

Next, Dr. Scott called on Mrs. Wilson for the policy committee report. Mrs. Wilson said the board had previously received copies of draft policies BBC (Board Committees) and BBC-E (Board Committees). Mrs. Wilson reviewed these policies with the board. A motion was made by Mrs. Lindler to approve these policies for a first reading. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Dr. Norwood requested clarification on teachers' salary policy. She said the policy currently states the Wil Lou Gray teachers salary schedule will be approved based upon the average of the surrounding Richland and Lexington County school districts. In investigating the issue, Dr. Norwood said she found that when the EIA went into place the board had made some adjustment in terms of the teachers salaries but because of the limitation placed by the Budget and Control Board the required percentage increase could not

be given in one year. It appears the board started a process in getting these salaries in line with other school districts but did not complete it. Mrs. Thrailkill said she felt the teachers salaries should be in line with Richland and Lexington school districts. After some discussion among the board, Mr. Rhodes recommended that Dr. Norwood compile information on the current average salaries for other districts and present this information to the board for their approval. Mrs. McBride said she would also like to study salaries for staff as well as teacher salaries.

At this time Mrs. Wilson asked Mrs. Zenger to review the Research and Training Center operational policy. Mrs. Zenger said she made the revisions suggested at the last meeting and discussed these changes with the board. A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson to approve the operational policy for a second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

Next, Dr. Scott called on Mr. Rhodes for a report on facility recommendations. Mr. Rhodes recommended that Dr. Norwood seek an outside source for appraisals on the value of the housing. The committee will then present this information to the board. A motion was made by Mrs. Meadors to instruct Dr. Norwood to seek appraisals on staff housing. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sledge. The motion was passed.

Under old business, there was some discussion among the board concerning the portraits of the former superintendents Mr. Fede and Mr. Drew. A motion was made by Mrs. Meadors that we commission through the most economical means possible portraits of Mr. Fede and Mr. Drew and that we accept contributions from the Alumni Association towards this event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed. After further discussion, it was the general consensus of the board that Dr. Norwood or staff search for an artist for these portraits.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the Comprehensive Health Education Task Force. Dr. Scott said this task force was required by law. A list of names for this task force was provided to the board. Dr. Norwood reviewed the names with the board. A motion was made by Mrs. Meadors to approve the named individuals for the task force. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

At this time Mrs. Meadors reported on the Foundation. She said she met with Mr. George Smith and Dr. Norwood and she told the board that we have an avenue through the Governor's Office to get them to support us in a request to ask Mrs. Bush if she will be an honorary member of our Foundation. In their discussion, it was the consensus that a full meeting of the foundation was needed. She said Mr. Smith is taking an inventory among the staff to list items to help supplement their respective jobs or to provide needs for staff or students that normally cannot be purchased through state funds. She said there was a great need for books in the Opportunity School library and there was also some previous discussion about consideration for a natatorium on campus. This list will then be presented to the Foundation committee in June.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the Affirmative Action Plan. The policy statement was previously submitted to the board. Dr. Norwood reviewed this policy statement with the board and she said this simply outlines our commitment to affirmative action - setting goals and continuously working to achieve those goals. A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve the policy statement. A motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

At this time there was some discussion among the board on plans for the board retreat. Dr. Scott said the Executive Committee met and this committee is recommending the retreat be held July 27 - 30. The committee is also recommending that the July 12th board meeting be held as scheduled. After further discussion a motion was



made by Mrs. Lindler that the board accept the executive committee's recommendation and hold the board retreat on July 27 - 30. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

Dr. Scott also informed the board that the executive committee had discussed plans for the retreat. They recommended dividing the board into committees and studying the policy manual. Another recommendation was to develop a three year plan and set priorities for next year. She also said Dr. Norwood suggested a team building workshop conducted by Ms. Sissy Henry from the S. C. School Boards Association. The board agreed with these recommendations and Dr. Scott asked the board to give her any other suggestions they may have.

In reference to the location for the board retreat, a list of suggestions was provided for the board. Ms. McBride presented information she received on Wild Dunes and Kiawah Island. Dr. Norwood provided information on the Waccamaw House and the conference center in Camden. At this time the dates of July 20 - 23 was suggested as alternate dates in the event rooms were not available for July 27 - 30. After further discussion among the board, Dr. Scott said she would meet with the Executive Committee to further select a location for the retreat.

At this time Dr. Scott brought the board's attention to a schedule of hearings for the Governor's Council on At-Risk Youth which was provided to the board. She encouraged the board to attend these hearings in their area.

A motion was made at this time by Mr. Rhodes to move into executive session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was seconded.

At this time a motion was made by Mrs. Meadors to authorize Dr. Norwood to proceed with the upgrade of Youth Counselor IIIs to

Clinical Counselors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lindler to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed and the board adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Lindler

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