

WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1982 MEETING

The Board of Trustees convened its meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 1982 at 6:30 p.m. in the Archives Room of the William T. Lander Administration Building. Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Marvin Efron, presiding; Mrs. Patricia Bowers; Ms. Mary Mack; Mrs. Hannah C. Meadors; Dr. James F. Miles; Mr. Clarence S. Rowland; Mr. Karl Segelken; Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill; Mrs. Jack Wilson; and Mr. James McClary. Also present were: Mr. Scott Barnes, Budget Analyst; Dr. Robert C. Fulmer, Secondary Supervisor-State Department of Education; Dr. Milton Kimpson, Executive Assistant-Governor's Office; Ms. Debra Haney, Dean of Women; the officers of the Explorers Club of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Explorers attending were: Jeff Harris, President; Charlie Griffin, Vice President; Tracy Williams, Treasurer; Edgar Jeffery, Newspaper Editor; Bobby LeFever, Student Advisor. In attendance also were: Mr. Pat Smith, Director of Facilities and Supportive Services; Mr. George Smith, Student Recruiter; Dr. Jonnie Spaulding, Director of Student Development; Mrs. Virginia Taylor, School Psychologist; Mrs. Thelma Bailey, Principal; Mr. and Mrs. Clark; Ms. Gloria Lloyd, Personnel Specialist; Mr. Fred Flagg, teacher; Mr. Salvatore A. Fede, Superintendent; and Mrs. Patricia Robbins, Secretary to the Superintendent. Dr. Louise Scott and Mrs. Anne T. Boyce were absent.

Dr. Efron welcomed all to the meeting. Dr. Efron advised the Board that Mr. Fede had requested an executive session at the beginning of the meeting to discuss a personal action. Mrs. Wilson moved, seconded by Mrs. Thrailkill, that an executive session be granted. Approved.

Following the executive session the board ratified a personnel action that would be announced at the appropriate time. (This time was set for 1:30 p.m. Thursday, September 9, 1982 in the school auditorium. The motion was moved by Mrs. Wilson. Seconded by Mrs. Bowers. Approved.

Mr. Fede's letter to the Board and the subsequent news release are attached at conclusion of minutes.

Mrs. Wilson moved that the agenda be adopted as printed by the Board of Trustees. Motion seconded by Mrs. Bowers. Approved.

Dr. Efron asked if there were any changes to the July 28, 1982 board minutes. There were none. Mrs. Meadors moved that the minutes be adopted as printed. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Approved.

Mrs. Bailey introduced Ms. Mary Janicki, teacher; Mrs. Earline Clark, teacher; and Mr. Fred Flagg.

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Ms. Debra Haney introduced the Explorers to the Board of Trustees and other guests.

Dr. Robert Fulmer stated that the State Department of Education had accepted the school's annual report and would be receiving an "All Clear."

Mr. Fede stated that Ms. Linda Windburn, second year graduate student at the University of South Carolina had been approved by General Services to live in an apartment on the campus while she is doing her practicum teaching. She is to pay the utility fee and the maintenance fee and will also work week-ends. Mr. Fede stated when the contract is received from the University of South Carolina it will be presented to the Board.

Ms. Haney informed the board that she and Mrs. Bonnie Foster, a teacher, had been asked to lead the Carolina Health Program to study nutrition and exercise.

Ms. Janicki said that the school canteen has been opened and is being run by the Deans' staffs and faculty to earn money for student trips and activities.

Mr. King, fiscal officer, explained the procedure of running the canteen and obtaining a retail sales license.

Dr. Efron asked if this had to be cleared with the Commission for the Blind? Wasn't there a law requiring all facilities except the public schools and technical schools to have a blind person run the concessions?

Dr. Miles stated that the state auditors should be satisfied with the running of the canteen and our bookkeeping system.

Dr. Milton Kimpson inquired how much money would the school make from running the canteen?

Mr. Rowland moved that the board approve this program after first checking with the Commission for the Blind. Mr. McClary seconded the motion. Approved.

Mr. Fede told the board that the school had purchased and installed the new dishwasher. It seems to be working well.

Mr. Fede stated that Mr. Rhodes, Vocational Rehabilitation, had recruited Ms. Lynn Starnes who will begin working with the Deans' staffs the first part of the coming week.

Mr. Fede suggested to the board that Mrs. Eugenia Bechtler be hired to put the annual banquet together. Mrs. Wilson moved that the motion be accepted.

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Dr. Miles seconded the motion. Mrs. Bowers suggested that the Alumni Association get together and handle this function and save the school the expense of having to hire Mrs. Bechtler. Mr. Fede said the cost of hiring Mrs. Bechtler would be approximately \$500.00. Mrs. Bowers said that if her group had the cards for contacting people, that she and her group could save the school the expense of hiring Mrs. Bechtler. Mrs. Meadors concurred with Mrs. Bowers about spending money. Mrs. Wilson withdrew her motion. The concurrence of the board was to assign the responsibility to the Alumni Association.

Mrs. Haney explained the function of the Explorers Club. President Jeff Harris passed out information about the Explorers and the Explorer's news letter.

Mr. Fede stated that Mrs. Peeples has agreed to continue to serve on the school advisory council and that her letter was in the board packet.

Mr. Pat Smith stated that the ETV people had visited the school and had advised the school that ETV would hook up the ETV system without cost to the school. Mrs. Wilson moved that the Board approve this action. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thrailkill. Approved.

Mrs. Wilson reported that 226 students had enrolled: They include 192 boarding students, 34 day students, 84 black students, 142 white students, 149 male students, 77 female students, 170½ Vocational Rehabilitation sponsored, 32½ pay-own-way, 19 work-scholarship, and 4 other state agencies. Three students are ready to take the GED exam. One student has passed the GED exam.

Mr. Fede reported that Mr. Britt and Mr. Jefferies have been hired as youth counselors. Dr. Spaulding is substituting for Mrs. Chasteen and is also planning to substitute for Mrs. Bosworth. Mr. Fede then repeated the agreement the school has with Ms. Windburn. Mrs. Meadors made the motion to accept the superintendent's personnel recommendations. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Approved.

Mr. Fede indicated that the school's Affirmative Action Plan is being reviewed by the Human Affairs Commission and asked that the Board accept the plan as information until the school receives the Commission's review. Mr. Fede reported that the Board has received two employee grievance and appeal procedures. One plan states that any grievance would go through the board and then to state personnel. The other states the grievance would go directly to personnel without appeal to the board. Dr. Efron stated that the policy manual does not have an appeal to the board first. He further asked when did the board accept the action to get involved? Dr. Efron asked Ms. Lloyd if it had been changed? Dr. Efron then recommended that the board not be involved. Mrs. Meadors made the motion that the board accept the plan that does not involve the board. Dr. Kimpson stated that state employees are protected by state personnel. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Approved.

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Mr. Fede stated that all supervisors rating employees here will be attending the EPMS workshops. Mr. Fede also reported that state personnel will attempt to mediate school grievances and appeals prior to formal presentation to the State Employee and Grievance Committee.

Mr. Fede stated that he would like to attend the School Superintendents' Conference this fall. It is being held from September 19 to 22. Mr. Fede indicated that he did not want the school to reimburse him for travel, motel accommodations and other expenses. The Board felt that Mr. Fede should be reimbursed but Mr. Fede declined the offer.

Dr. Kimpson moved that Mr. Fede go to the School Superintendents' Conference in September. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Approved.

Mrs. Wilson motioned that the school send a representative to the School Boards Annual Convention in October, since Mr. Fede did not wish to attend. Mrs. Meadors seconded the motion. Approved. Mr. Fede requested that his representative be reimbursed. This request was also approved.

Mr. King, fiscal affairs officer, projected that we were in a "bare bones" situation. We had to live very close to our income. Not spend an extra dime that was not necessary to pull through.

Dr. Kimpson recommended that as soon as the freeze was off of hiring that we should hire someone as soon as possible to fill the vacancy in the finance office.

Dr. Efron suggested that the board be informed before, instead of after, of any fund transfers and any financial crisis facing the school.

Mr. Fede stated that JARC had not approved the school's request to retain indirect cost monies. Mr. Fede also said that he hoped that if any of our people meet Senator Nicki Setzler that he should be thanked for trying to help the school retain its indirect cost money. He was our only ally at the JARC meeting.

A copy of the Supreme Courts decision concerning JARC's role, etc. is attached as information.

Mr. Fede then discussed the agency's presentation before the Budget and Control Board concerning the FY83-84 budget, his meeting with Dr. Terry Peterson, Governor's Office and Mr. Joe Dusenberry, Commissioner Vocational Rehabilitation, and other agency heads comprising a functional group within the Budget and Control Board's budgetary process.

Mr. Fede then presented as information the agency's monthly report on current expenditures and the agency's endeavors and recommendations to bring about further cost cutting.

Mr. Scott Barnes, our assigned state budget analyst, spoke on the matter of the \$55,000.00 due to SCE&G company for services in FY1981-82. Mr. Barnes explained the circumstance of the broken meter, the undercharge since 1979, and the \$55,000.00 bill based on the PSC'S 12 month "retroactive charge" limitation. Mr. Barnes outlined his activities concerning the matter along with his in depth and extended communications with the Attorney General's Office and Mike Copeland of General Services. The conclusion was that the bill was indeed valid and payable by Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. It was stated by John King of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School that an incremental payment schedule, interest free, had been arranged with SCE&G. Mr. Barnes closed by stating that there simply was no additional money at this time for fiscal year 1982-83 to help alleviate this situation. Mr. Barnes indicated that he would continue his efforts to find help although the possibility is remote.

Dr. Efron suggested that we ask SCE&G to allow us to pay this amount off over a 5-year period. Mr. Barnes stated hopefully without an interest charge.

Mr. Barnes stated that he works with 61 agencies and that he had enjoyed working with the people at the Opportunity School such as Sal Fede, Mr. Pat Smith, Mr. John King, and Ms. Patricia Robbins.

Mr. McClary stated that everything had already been reported. Ms. Haney stated that the two new dorm counselors had been assigned to Dorm D & E and are doing extremely well. Ms. Bowers stated that the mattress money was to be used only for mattresses and not anywhere else should an emergency arrive. Ms. Bowers stated that we are not to recruit youthful offenders and forget the original purpose of this school. It is not a penal institution and we should not let it become one. Ms. Bowers further requested a listing of the work scholarship students, those that had been turned down and those that had received work scholarships. Dr. Efron further added a listing of those students on work scholarship and their past records.

Education Committee: Mrs. Wilson distributed the Student's Handbook at this time.

Public Relations Committee: Mr. Rowland was not present as he had left earlier in the meeting, therefore, Mr. Segelken asked Mr. George Smith to tell the board what he had been doing as student recruiter. Mr. Smith told the board of his travels to other school districts, the prospect of obtaining money for the school from foundations such as the Abbney Mills and Park Seed and Feed Company. He also told the board of his trips to Midlands Tech and Richland Northeast High School and of their visits to the school.

Fiscal and Personnel: Mrs. Thrailkill stated that everything had already been presented beforehand.

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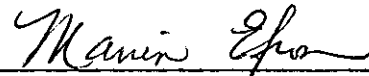
Executive Committee: Dr. Efron explained that the Executive Committee had not met.

Unfinished Business: Dr. Efron stated that since the new members of the staff had been introduced to the board and were on the payroll, it was not necessary to confirm them. Therefore, this issue is resolved.

Ms. Mack stated that she was very much encouraged by what she has heard from Mr. Fede and what she has seen concerning the Explorers Club, what the students are doing, that they are looking so well, and the positive kinds of action that are taking place. She hoped it would be a good school year.

Mr. McClary made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Bowers seconded the motion. Approved. The board adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attachments



Dr. Marvin Efron
Chairman, Board of Trustees

NEWS RELEASE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 9, 1982

DURING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION DEALING WITH PERSONNEL MATTERS, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL, AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1982, RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED A LETTER FROM MR. SALVATORE A. FEDE REQUESTING THAT HE NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR RE-ELECTION FOR THE 1983-84 SCHOOL TERM. MR. FEDE'S REQUEST STATED HIS DESIRE AND INTENT TO SEEK NEW EMPLOYMENT IN THE AREA OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION. HE INDICATED THAT THIS REQUEST WAS BEING SUBMITTED AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE BOARD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADEQUATELY SEARCH FOR AND SCREEN APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION AND TO ALLOW HIM THE FREEDOM TO ACTIVELY PURSUE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, IN ACKNOWLEDGING MR. FEDE'S REQUEST, RE-AFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND PLEDGED TO CONTINUE THEIR QUEST FOR QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE STUDENTS SERVED BY THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL. MR. FEDE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS FISCAL YEAR AND HAS OFFERED TO ASSIST THE BOARD IN ITS SEARCH FOR A REPLACEMENT.

RELEASED BY: DR. MARVIN EFRON
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WIL LOU GRAY
OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
TEL: 794-4444