

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 1989**

The Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. on November 8, 1989, in the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Research and Training Center. Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Louise Scott, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Olive Wilson, Mrs. Hannah Meadors, Dr. Marvin Efron, and Mr. Frank Hart. Mr. John Robinson was present representing the State Department of Education. Staff members present were: Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood, Mr. Pat Smith, Dr. Mary Lee Platz, Ms. Gloria Lloyd, Mr. George Smith, Ms. Alvone Bouknight, Ms. Elizabeth Bartlett, and Mrs. Brenda Stork. A quorum was not present, therefore no official action was taken.

Dr. Scott called the meeting to order and at this time she stated for the record that the 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 of Lexington, and The Lexington Dispatch in Lexington.

Dr. Scott welcomed everyone and at this time Dr. Norwood introduced a new employee, Elizabeth Bartlett, serving as our LPN providing evening medical coverage. The board welcomed her to the Opportunity School and they look forward to her services here.

Next, Dr. Scott introduced the Opportunity School's employee of the month, Ms. Alvone Bouknight, Youth Counselor. The employee of the month plaque was presented to her at this time and the board congratulated her.

The Minutes of the September 13, 1989, board meeting will be approved at the next board meeting in January. However, two pages of these minutes were amended as follows: 1) the time of the board

meeting was added to page one; 2) the purpose of the executive session (to discuss temporary reorganization in the Psychological/Social Services Department) was added to page 9. Dr. Scott explained these minutes were reviewed by the S. C. School Boards Association and they recommended these revisions.

Dr. Scott informed the board that Dr. Norwood has been superintendent of the Opportunity School for one year. She said under Dr. Norwood's leadership we have made great strides in accomplishing our present mission of meeting the needs of youth in the State.

At this time Dr. Scott called on Dr. Norwood for the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Norwood said the board had received an update on the Discipline Policy. Dr. Efron said he felt this updated policy was improved from the previous discipline policy. There were no further comments concerning this policy.

Dr. Norwood also informed the board that we have two male students on our waiting list for space in the dormitories. There are 25 beds available for females. We presently have 222 students enrolled.

She also informed the board a group of our Peer Counselors did some volunteer work with the Harvest Hope Food Bank. A group of building construction students will also be helping with rebuilding the town of Eastover as soon as we receive an assignment.

Dr. Norwood said we were on target with both the enrollment and activities we had launched in terms of improving our program. We have completed the greatest portion of the year's staff development effort and we are seeing good results. In terms of finances, we developed an internal budget that dealt only with our institutional revenue from general appropriations. She said we are in a good position financially and we have not considered institutional or earmarked funds.

Mr. George Smith said he had mailed approximately 27 wall posters to school districts on the Opportunity School. This concluded the Superintendent's Report.

At this time Dr. Scott thanked the staff for their work in preparing the students for Hurricane Hugo.

Next, Dr. Scott called for committee reports. In reference to Personnel Actions, Dr. Efron explained the board received a list of Personnel Actions in the mail and he reviewed this report with the board. There was not a quorum present therefore Dr. Efron recommended this report be carried over to the next board meeting. However, Dr. Efron moved that the board ratify these Personnel Actions. It was the general consensus of the board that these actions be ratified.

In reference to board policies, a revised set of policies were provided to the board and Dr. Norwood said these policies could be reviewed at the next board meeting. She said she would forward a list of the revisions to the board. Policies AEAB-E and AEB were also provided to the board.

Mr. Robinson requested a copy of the School Calendar which was approved by the board in May.

The next order of business was a report from the Policy Committee and Dr. Scott called on Mrs. Wilson for this report. At this time policies in Section A of the Policy Manual were reviewed by the board and several revisions were made. These revised policies will be provided to the board.

In reference to the Budget Committee report, due to the absence of Ms. McBride, Dr. Scott called on Dr. Norwood. Dr. Norwood said she had no additional budget information other than in the Superintendent's Report.

The Foundation Report was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Scott called on Mrs. Meadors for this report. Mrs. Meadors. She said the last Foundation Meeting was cancelled by the Chairperson because several Foundation members were ill and could not attend. She had nothing further to report. Mr. George Smith reported he was in the process of assembling success stories of former students for the brochure. Dr. Norwood said this would help with the alumni brochure as well as the Foundation.

Mrs. Meadors also reported that Dr. Scott had asked her to to some research and propose a suggested format to the board for the Wil Lou Gray Award. She said she was unable to contact Mr. Dahlgren, however, she has received formats from the Chamber of Commerce, Columbia College, and the Greenville School District for special awards that they give. Mrs. Meadors further explained that she would like to prepare an outline of specific questions and send this to the board for their feedback. Dr. Scott asked that Mrs. Meadors prepare this outline for the boards input.

Dr. Efron asked Mrs. Meadors the status of Mrs. Barbara Bush attending the Opportunity School's graduation. She explained that after January 1, the chairman of the Foundation and Dr. Norwood will send a follow-up letter of invitation.

Dr. Scott informed the board that the National Adult and Adolescent Literacy Conference is scheduled for January 12 - 14, 1990, in Washington and we have been accepted to be on the program.

Under old business, Dr. Scott called on Mr. Rhodes for the recommendation of the Facilities Committee on campus housing. Mr. Rhodes proposed that recommendations be discussed in executive session since this involves contractual matters.

The next item under old business was the discussion of plans for the extended January board meeting which would be held on a Friday night and Saturday morning. Dr. Scott said the rates at Embassy

Suites, which was recommended at the last board meeting, was \$64.00 for a single room and \$69.00 for a double including breakfast. There would also be an additional charge for a meeting room in the amount of \$125.00. Dr. Scott said the Marriott Courtyard was also recommended. Their rate is \$46.00 per night. After some discussion among the board concerning the date for this extended meeting, it was the general consensus of the board to hold the extended meeting in March - possibly March 2nd and 3rd. It was also recommended that the meeting be held at the Embassy Suites which would allow space for committees to meet. Dr. Scott said the date could be confirmed at the January 10 board meeting.

Dr. Scott asked Dr. Norwood for an update on the portraits of the former superintendents, Mr. Drew and Mr. Fede. Dr. Norwood said Mr. Drew has met with Mr. Carlson for his photography session and Mr. Fede would be meeting with him at a later date. Dr. Norwood said she had seen a sketch of the portrait of Mr. Drew and she felt the board would be very pleased.

Next was the discussion of the 1990 NSBA Convention in New Orleans on April 21-24. Dr. Scott said the board had previously received a brochure on this convention. After some discussion among the board, it was decided that the Opportunity School would process the registration and hotel reservations for the board members who planned to attend.

Dr. Norwood also reminded the board that the legislative barbecue had been scheduled for April 24, the day they would be returning from New Orleans. After some discussion, it was the general consensus of the board to re-schedule the barbecue. Discussion took place about the possibility of having a breakfast in lieu of a barbecue, or to have this function off campus along with the School for the Deaf and Blind. Mr. Pat Smith said he would check for another available date.