

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

September 25, 1957

The Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Opportunity School met at the Opportunity School on Wednesday, September 25 at 11:00 A.M.

Present:

Dr. James F. Miles, Clemson, Vice-Chairman
Dr. J. T. Anderson, Columbia (Member, ex officio)
Mrs. David Coker, Hartsville
Dr. J. C. Holler, Columbia
Mrs. Harriet Johnson, Spartanburg
Mr. R. H. Smith, West Columbia
Dr. Oliver Thomas, Ninety-Six
Dr. M. B. Webb, Barnwell

Absent:

Mr. William Dillard, Anderson
Reverend Loren Mead, Pinopolis
Governor George Bell Timmerman, Jr. (Member, ex officio)

The meeting was opened with prayer, led by Mr. Webb. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, upon a motion by Mr. Webb and second by Dr. Thomas.

A letter from Reverend Loren Mead, enclosing his resignation, was read by the chairman. Mr. Miles stated that he assumed the vacancy would be filled by the Legislature, and asked if the Board wished to discuss a possible candidate to fill the vacancy. Mr. Smith suggested that the Board consult with Miss Gray in regard to a candidate.

The chairman read a letter from Miss Gray, enclosing her resignation as Director of the Opportunity School. Dr. Thomas moved that the letter be made a part of the permanent records of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holler, and passed.

At this point, Mr. Miles called the attention of the Board to efforts which had been made to obtain title to properties under the control of the Opportunity School. He stated that the Executive Committee had met with Mr. Smith, executive director of the Budget and Control Board, and called on Mr. Holler to relate Mr. Smith's thinking on the matter. Mr. Holler said Mr. Smith stated that he thought the procedure would be to go to the Attorney General and ask him to write an opinion that it was right and lawful for the Opportunity School to have title to the lands it occupies. He further suggested that the Opportunity School Board of Trustees phrase a resolution to the Budget and Control Board. Mr. Miles stated that he had talked to the Attorney General, who told him that he would have his staff check the titles to the land. Discussion of the title to the land was discontinued until after lunch, when Miss Gray would be present.

Mr. T. D. Watkins, Opportunity School Director, gave a general report on the operation of the school, including number of students registered and the number receiving scholarship assistance, necessary expenditures for repairs, and other pertinent information concerning the running of the school.

At this point, Mr. Miles called the attention of the Board to the budget. A discussion of proposed increases was pursued, and a motion made by Mr. Anderson that the Board request a ten per cent increase in salaries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holler, and passed. The discussion of the budget was then discontinued until after lunch.

Lunch was served at one o'clock.

The meeting reconvened at 2:00 P.M., at which time Miss Gray presented to the Board a proposed letter to the Budget and Control Board in regard to obtaining title to the Opportunity School lands. After discussion, Mrs. Coker moved that the Executive Committee be empowered to complete this transaction, and that the Board adopt the proposed letter to the Budget and Control Board in its entirety. Upon second by Mrs. Johnson, the motion passed. Miss Gray said that she would redraft the letter, and submit it to the Executive Committee for approval. Mr. Watkins was instructed to have a plat drawn of all lands which the Opportunity School wished, and, if necessary, have the land between the Opportunity School and the Trade School surveyed, and the meets and bounds defined.

Mr. Smith suggested that Charles B. Elliot be consulted by the Executive Committee in regard to acquisition of the title to the Opportunity School lands. Mr. Holler moved that this be accepted, and after duly being seconded by Dr. Thomas, the motion passed.

Miss Gray stated that she would be in Washington and New York in the near future, and would spend some time in soliciting funds for the Opportunity School while there. Mr. Webb moved that she do this, and that her expenses to New York be paid by the Opportunity School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith, and passed.

At this time, the attention of the Board was called to the fact that nominations for a new director must soon be forthcoming. Mrs. Johnson moved that the chairman appoint a Nominating Committee. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and it was passed. Mr. Miles appointed Mrs. Johnson to be chairman of the Nominating Committee, and to select two other members to serve with her. The Nominating Committee is to report its nominations to the Executive Committee, which would then make further explorations, and call a Board meeting if necessary.

At this point, the School bookkeeper was called upon to explain the system of budget set-up required by the Budget and Control Board. She explained that copies of the operating statement for 1956-57, budget for 1957-58, and proposed budget for 1958-59 would be sent to the Board members as soon as they were completed. It was suggested that she also send to each Board member a copy of the Budget and Control Board report, the proposed appropriations bill, and the final appropriations bill.

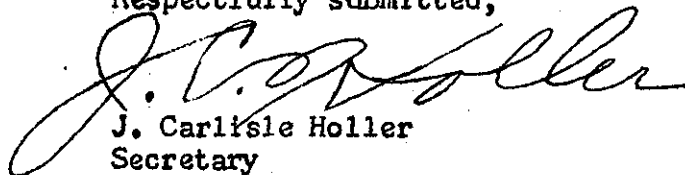
A discussion of the budget followed, and Mr. Holler moved that items involved in general expenditures (general maintenance, etc.) and salaries be requested to be increased an over-all ten per cent. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thomas, and passed. A discussion followed of the possible employment of a field representative, and it was agreed that there should be such a staff person. Dr. Thomas moved that the Board suggest a salary increase to \$7,500 for the Director, \$6,500 for the Principal; and add a \$5,500 salary plus travel expenses for a field representative, in the 1958-59 budget request. The motion passed, after being duly seconded by Mr. Holler.

Expenses of Board members to attend Board meetings was discussed. It was suggested that either \$7.50 or \$10.00 be paid Board members on the day of the Board meeting, to cover travel expenses. Dr. Thomas moved that \$10.00 per day be given each board member for expenses of attending meetings. Mr. Holler seconded the motion, and it passed.

The motion was made and duly seconded that the date of the next meeting of the Board be at the call of the chairman. Motion passed.

The motion was made, seconded and passed that the meeting adjourn. The time was 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Carlisle Holler
Secretary