

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY  
AT THE  
WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF MAY 12, 1999**

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board of Trustees met on May 12, 1999 at 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room. **Trustees in attendance:** Dr. Louise Scott, Ms. Suzanne Turner, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Mrs. Frankie Newman, Mr. Russell Hart, Mr. Dan Smith, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride and Ms. Lynn Ammons. **Board members unable to attend were:** Mrs. Betty Henderson and Dr. Marvin Efron. Their absence was excused. **Staff present:** Mr. Pat Smith, Mr. Bob James, Mr. George Smith, Mrs. Gloria Woodward, Mrs. Suzanne Busenlehner, Ms. Judith James, Mrs. Gloria Robinson, Mrs. Sheryl Lorick, Colonel Joseph Davis, Mr. Teddy Call, Colonel Jackie Fogle and Mrs. Helen Smith.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Scott called the meeting to order and announced that she and Mr. Vince Rhodes had been re-elected to the Board of Trustees and Mr. Butch Spires would be the newly elected member. Dr. Scott congratulated Mrs. Thrailkill for being selected as Counselor of the Year by the S. C. Counselors Association and commended Colonel Davis on the JROTC Program being designated "*Honor Unit With Distinction*".

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Diggs seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

**Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the amended minutes to include Mrs. Newman and Mr. Hart as members present at the March 10 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion passed.**

**INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Pat Smith stated that all five budget items were fully funded for FY2000. The \$30,000 for communications and \$38,500 for insurance were funded as non-recurring and the \$2,000,000 for roofing and flooring, in the Bond Bill, would be finalized in Conference Committee. An additional \$15,000 was included for Vocational Education. Mr. Smith stated that twenty-nine cadets had taken the GED on April 9 and of those, eighteen passed. The results for one cadet have not been received and five other cadets were only within five points of passing. The next test is scheduled for May 25 for writing and social studies and May 27 for math, literature and science. Thirty-five cadets will test on those days. Over the past few weeks, the cadets have enjoyed many activities: the State Museum, the Columbia Museum of Art, the Gibbes Planetarium, USC and the State Capitol. The cadets are currently in Virginia Beach, Virginia participating in the

National Youth Challenge Invitational athletic competition and GED Jeopardy. The Wil Lou Gray Annual Auction raised a little more than \$12,000. Mr. Smith then referred to the Board packets, which included several newspaper articles highlighting the school and recent activities. Also included in the packets was a thank you note from the mother of Cadet Marquis Carter concerning the marked improvement in her son. The Board was provided a document chronicling the origin of the Opportunity School compiled by Mr. George Smith. Mr. Smith concluded his remarks by encouraging the Board to attend the JROTC Ball at Embassy Suites on May 28 and graduation on June 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Midlands Technical College auditorium.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Ms. Turner made a motion to ratify the personnel actions. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Dan Smith made a motion to delay the Policy Manual revision for sixty days until the differences in the discipline policy could be resolved. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hart made a motion to transfer \$111,821.73 from personal service to operating and to require Budget Committee approval prior to the purchase of equipment valued at \$25,000 or more. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. Mrs. Thrailkill opposed the motion. The motion passed.

#### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. George Smith reported that the Alumni Association had approved merging the Miles Scholarship Fund with the Wil Lou Gray Foundation. The fund was being invested.

#### **WIL LOU GRAY AWARD COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Newman informed the Board that six judges had accepted the nomination to select the Wil Lou Gray Award recipient.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Pat Smith reminded the Board that July 9-10 will be the next Board meeting. The Board will meet on Friday, July 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room and Saturday morning at Embassy Suites.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Hart made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mrs. Diggs seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**ACTION TAKEN FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Rhodes moved to post the agency director position with the Office of Human Resource Management and on the State Government Web site. Mr. Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**Mrs. Diggs made a motion to grant a compromise discipline measure for the incident that occurred in the Citadel experience and that the Youth Challenge Academy and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School discipline codes will be coordinated and discipline will become consistent. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**Mr. Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Thrailkill

/hcs