

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
MINUTES OF MAY 13, 1987
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting on May 13, 1987, in the Research and Training Center at 5:00 p.m. Trustees in attendance were: Mrs. Hannah Meadors, Mrs. Mickey Lindler, Mrs. Olive Wilson, Dr. Marvin Efron, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mr. Walter Dahlgren, Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Ms. Linda Spivey, Dr. Louise Scott, and Dr. Robert Fulmer from the South Carolina Department of Education representing Dr. Charlie Williams. Staff members present were: Mr. Sam Drew, Jr., Superintendent; Mr. John Robinson, Principal; Dr. Jonnie Spaulding, Director of Educational Support Services; Mr. George Smith, Development Officer; Ms. Millercin Weeks, Case Manager; Mr. John W. King, Jr., Fiscal Affairs Officer; and Mrs. Brenda G. Stork, Secretary.

Mrs. Meadors called the meeting to order and 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 South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976 as amended. Notice of this meeting was published in The State Newspaper and The Columbia Record in Columbia, The Journal in Lexington, and The Lexington Dispatch in Lexington.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron that the agenda be adopted with no corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

The approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 1987, Board meeting was the next order of business. Mr. Rhodes made a motion that the Minutes be accepted as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

Mrs. Meadors called for the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Drew called the Board's attention to copies of correspondence from the Senate Invitations Committee and the Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee. He explained that these letters were confirming our invitation to the Legislature for the Legislative Appreciation Dinner and stating that the invitation was placed on House and Senate Calendars. He reported a good response from legislators. Approximately 30 House and Senate members have confirmed they were coming.

Mr. Drew next referred the Board to the copy of the Public Law 94-142 audit. Mr. Drew explained that the Board discussed this audit at the last Board meeting in detail but the final report had not been received at that time. A copy of the correspondence and final report from Mr. Robert S. Black, Director of Office of Programs for the Handicapped, was provided to the Board. He referred the Board to the areas

determined to be in non-compliance. He reported that all areas determined to be in non-compliance have been resolved as evidenced by our responses contained in the final report.

In reviewing progress on the Wil Lou Gray Foundation, Mr. Drew explained that one of the nine members, Carroll Furman from Camden, withdrew due to job responsibilities that would take him out of the country a great deal of time. He did not feel that he could attend the meetings with his present commitments. Four members attended the Foundation meeting today. The Foundation Board received orientation information and began preliminary plans for fund raising.

Regarding the Expenditure Report which was previously mailed to the Board, Mr. Drew asked the Board if they had any questions or needed further explanation. Under the Object Budget, Mrs. Meadors had a question about the overage figures of percentages budgeted. Mr. King explained that these were not actual overages but rather had to do with the way we would define an item when we set the budget vs the way the CG defines an item. In reporting expenditures we had to use the CG's definition. He further explained that this year he has tried to align the expenditure budget with the way the CG's Office defines these particular items. Overall, Mr. King reported, our expenditures are at 80.2% of the total operational budget.

On the matter of the 1987-88 budget, Mr. Drew explained that we have worked diligently throughout this budget cycle to maintain our budget in the face of budget cuts. He asked the Board to recall information from the last Board meeting that we emerged from the House Committee with our budget cut restored. The Senate Finance Committee began with the original House version which was the version after the cuts. This put us back at the beginning of the budget process. After our presentation to the Senate Finance Committee our cuts were restored, approximately \$82,000, and in addition we were appropriated partial funding for our first two priorities on the original budget request. He summarized that our budget would enter the full Senate with the 3.6% cut restored and an additional \$44,000.

Mr. Drew said he has discussed with the staff the idea of taking the money that we had set aside this year for cuts and allocating that for capital expenditures of various projects which he will outline for the Board at the next meeting. If we can do this there are several things we can accomplish without having to go to the legislature for additional bond money or other funds. Upon completion of these projects the money could back into operations which would help take care of any inflationary increases over the next couple of years.

He also stated that we are far enough along in the internal budget cycle to be able to come to the Board at the next meeting in July and involve the Board in the budget process. Therefore, at the next meeting he will outline for the Board the departmental budgets and the goals and objectives that we are setting for those budgets. This would give the Board input into the process before we finalize our budget request for the Budget and Control Board in August.

At this time Mr. Drew commended Mr. Pat Smith for his hard work in the completion of the Training Center. He said that all of the carpet had been donated for the Training Center from a textile firm in Greenville. We have spent very little money in decor other than what was planned for in the budget to renovate. He further explained that we want to connect the house next to the Training Center and make it a part of the center and develop additional meeting space. Mr. Drew said the Center represents an effort to reach out beyond the campus and begin to extend ourselves where we think we can be useful with the work that is being done by school districts with the bulk of these kids.

In reference to the next item on the agenda, Discussion on Administrative Organization and New Programs, Mr. Drew explained that he wanted to effect an administrative reorganization. He drew the Boards attention to the discussion at the previous Board meeting concerning this matter and said the reorganization he proposed did not differ from that presented at the last meeting. Specifically Mr. Drew recommended that the Education Division, Cottage Life and medical services be consolidated under the Principal. Psychological/Social Services would be a separate division under Carol Murdaugh. One new division, Research and Training, would be created. Dr. Spaulding would head this up.

The new division, Research and Training, will consist of several things. Publications that will come from this center having to deal with at risk youth. The development of the Opportunity School as an internship center for special education teachers, counseling and social work. The development of the School as a research cite for various colleges and universities dealing with the problems of at risk youth. Brokering information that we accumulate here through the newsletter and other publications, as well as through workshops and seminars offered here on campus. Longer range, Mr. Drew explained, would be some work towards assisting school districts in the establishment of community alternative programs. Not all districts will need this.

Recently, he went on to explain, there was an article in the State paper about Richland I's plans for "at risk" kids. They are going to adopt the Cities and Schools program. This is a good model of what we hope to accomplish - a collaboration among various agencies, business and industry and school districts to provide the money needed to establish alternative programs to serve those kids whose needs can be addressed in the local communities. Schools such as these would then serve as a good network for referrals to us of kids who need residential services here.

Mr. Drew further explained that the kind of cooperation that we have had with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation is a good model for those centers. Department of Youth Services is another Department we have cooperated with and they are all cooperating with the Cities and Schools program

also. Not all districts will be able to afford programs like cities in schools. However by combining the resources of a number of agencies, money coming into school districts for kids who are later expelled or drop out, and private monies (our Foundation could help with this also) he felt that alternative programs could be set up to address this need Statewide. Mr. Drew said we could use programs that we have developed here and develop new programs as models.

Dr. Scott asked if Mr. Robinson would be available in the evening. Mr. Drew explained that the program will come under him. Mr. Robinson will have to delegate responsibility to the Dean of Students who will report directly to him. Mr. Drew further explained that during the initial phase of the reorganization Mr. Robinson would be on campus some evenings.

Dr. Efron said he had no objections to the reorganization but he felt that these matters should go through the standing committees of the Board and the committee make the recommendations to the Board.

Dr. Efron made a motion that the Board make the administrative changes as recommended by the Superintendent. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Mr. Drew said he would provide the Board with an Organizational Chart at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Drew then called on Mr. Robinson for the presentation of the Education Report. Mr. Robinson presented copies of a list of academic events for May and June to the Board and reviewed same. Mr. Robinson also distributed graduation invitations to each Board member. He explained that the last day for the extended school year for students to make up lost days for the unit of credit program is June 24. The last day for teachers is June 26.

Mr. Drew then called on Dr. Spaulding for an update on Educational Support Services. Dr. Spaulding explained that Psychological Social Services staff are continuing with the group counseling in place. Some groups are beginning to finish up for the year. We are still transporting students to Morris Village to NA meetings once a week and AA meetings are being held on campus once a week. Plans are also in the process for staff development for the summer and plans are being made for services Psychological/Social Services staff can provide for the JTPA program. Certificates of Recognition are being presented at Awards Day to the students who have successfully completed groups and to Mrs. Owens and the dorm counselors who have assisted in those groups. Dr. Spaulding further explained that Mr. Richard Guess has recently participated in a ROPE'S course (similar to a wilderness course) which was arranged through the SKIP program. We are also attempting to arrange a one day participation by twelve members of our department and student affairs to participate in this. The course is designed to develop staff unity and morale.

In Health and Medical Services, Dr. Spaulding explained 346 visits were made to the clinic in March and 326 visits were made in April. Mrs. Alley has attended a seminar during this time period related to problems on teenage pregnancy and AIDS that was sponsored by USC. She also attended a Wellness Seminar sponsored by SC Nurses Association and USC. Mrs. Alley also provided a video on AIDS to the students in an assembly program.

Dr. Spaulding further explained that in Student Affairs we have intramural softball games every Tuesday and Thursday. May 21 at 3:15 p.m. will be an all stars vs. staff game. On May 27 a Softball Banquet will be held honoring the outstanding dorm and the outstanding players. On May 20 there will be a Spring Fling which will consist of a cookout, swimming, and games at Lake Murray.

She further explained that the Summer Program has not yet been solidified with JTPA. However, we are already accepting applications from students who want to be in the summer program if we have it.

The Artists in Education Program was completed April 7. Also, the Foster Grandparents will be awarded pins at Awards Day in appreciation for their contributions to the school.

Mr. Drew thanked Dr. Spaulding and called on Ms. Weeks to present her report on Case Management. Ms. Weeks provided the Board with a copy of the Overview and Plans for Case Management. She explained that the position of Case Manager at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School was instituted in July, 1986. The Case Manager's responsibility is to coordinate and monitor services to students on an intra-and inter-agency wide basis. She further explained that this year, Case Management has accomplished the following objectives:

1. Developed and implemented procedures regarding storing and distributing student enrollment/registration information;
2. Developed and implemented procedures to centralize the initiation and distribution of documents reflecting any changes in a student's status (i.e., payment status, residential status, enrollment status).
3. Made student referrals to other agencies based upon team recommendations.
4. Monitored the OPP Team Program. This Program uses a team based approach to establish goals and objectives for students on an individual basis. Goals and objectives are entered into the computer to track individual services rendered.
5. Developed the Crisis Intervention Team, a multi-disciplinary committee established to respond to critical issues with students. Students are referred to the Team by the OPP Team. The purpose of the TEam is to develop strategies, such as special contracts, which enable students to remain focused on their goals of enrollment.

Ms. Weeks further explained that this past year has given the Case Management Department the opportunity to develop strategies for the coming year. Subsequently, the next two months will be spent in a collaborative efforts with the other departments to do the following:

1. Revise the Computer Data Base to more accurately reflect the services rendered to each student;
2. Revise the Computer Data Base to afford elicitation of current student information as well as year-to-date information;
3. Revise the Computer Data Base to include categories that will facilitate preparation of reports based on statistical data;
4. Conduct programmatic reviews, based on student goals/objectives, to determine the programs that are most effective with our student population.
5. Attend inter-agency meetings to more clearly define the school's role in the state-wide continuum of services to students.

She said this summer will be an active one for Case Management as they attempt to implement plans developed cooperatively with the other departments on campus in efforts to further streamline operations and enhance procedures for next year.

Ms. Weeks also provided the Board with copies of Statistical Data (Enrollment Year-To-Date August 24, 1986 - May 7, 1987 and Current Enrollment as of May 7, 1987) and reviewed same. Those documents are attached and become a permanent part of these Minutes.

Mr. Drew said that the Staff Planning Week will be held on campus June 22 - 26. The plans developed will be shared with the Board at its next meeting July 8.

Finally Mr. Drew informed the Board that the next meeting of the joint steering committee representing the three special schools will be held on June 4 at 11:00 am in the Research and Training Center. The purpose of this meeting will be to plan for the next joint meeting.

Mrs. Meadors thanked Mr. Drew for his report and called for Committee Reports. Mrs. Thrailkill presented the Personnel Report. A copy of the Personnel Actions was previously submitted to the Board. She reviewed this report with the Board and asked for their approval on the personnel actions that have taken place. Dr. Efron moved that the Board accept the Personnel Actions as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion passed.

At this time Mrs. Wilson presented the report on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Legislative Appreciation Dinner. She said she had enjoyed working on the committee and felt it would be an enjoyable occasion.

Mr. Drew further explained that during the dinner there would be past students and present students on the program to show their appreciation. Mrs. Meadors said the Board members present would also be introduced.

Mrs. Meadors called for the update report on the Ad Hoc Committee on Policy Revisions. Dr. Efron made a motion that Sections C, D, E, F, G, and I be accepted for second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion passed. Policy BBBC was also provided to the Board to be inserted in their policy manual. Dr. Efron also explained that the S. C. School Boards Association was reviewing our policy manual. Dr. Efron felt that it may be necessary to develop a policy for the use of the Training Center. Mrs. Meadors agreed. Mr. Drew said he would begin to develop such a policy for the center and other campus facilities.

At this time Mrs. Meadors called on Mr. Pat Smith for a report on the status of Capital Projects. Mr. Smith explained the Training Center project, with the exception of a few minor changes, was complete. The roofing project will be completed next week. In reference to the mechanical system project, the architectural firm will be presenting their recommendations within a few weeks.

Mr. Smith further explained the electrical distribution improvement project contract was signed in April and renovations will begin upon arrival of the new transformers.

Mrs. Meadors next called for old business. Dr. Efron asked about the Bazaar Sale which was scheduled to be held last Spring. Mr. Drew explained that Mr. George Smith had an event planned but the event was cancelled. Mr. Smith had reserved the Cantey Building at the State Fairgrounds for this event, however, he later learned that an antique dealer from Charleston had an agreement with the Cantey Building that the space not be rented out to anyone who might be in competition with them. We had approximately twenty vendors confirmed for this event, but since there was a conflict with reserving the Cantey Building we cancelled the event. There was some discussion among the Board about the possibility of having a sale on campus.

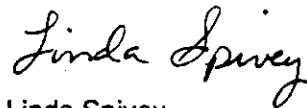
Mrs. Lindler said that Senator Joe Wilson will be presenting a concurrent resolution honoring commemorating the initiation of the sports program and the students and the staff who worked with the sports program. U.S. Representative Floyd Spence has donated a U.S. Flag for the baseball field to be presented at graduation and Senator Nikki Setzler has donated the State Flag. Mr. Drew said that Mrs. Lindler and her husband had pledged to donate the flag pole for these flags.

Mrs. Meadors informed the Board that Governor Campbell was exploring the feasibility of reforming the Childrens Coordinating Cabinet through executive order. He will be evaluating this to see if it is important. She wanted the Board to be aware that this was being evaluated.

Mrs. Meadors also explained that she received a letter from the Human Resources Division and they are again urging the Board to host the workshop on Performance Evaluation. She said she contacted Mr. Steve Osborne and informed him that the Board had participated in workshops for the past two years. Also, Personnel Committee Board members are to conduct an evaluation rather than to attend this workshop. Dr. Efron made a motion that we ask them to allow our Personnel Committee Board members to attend this workshop. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Rhodes. The motion passed.

There being no further discussion, Mrs. Wilson made a motion that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Efron. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Spivey".

Linda Spivey