

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 27-28, 1995**

The Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 27, 1995, in the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Research and Training Center. Trustees in attendance were: Mrs. Olive Wilson, Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Mary Williams, Mr. Russell Hart, Mrs. Elizabeth Moorhead, Mrs. Faye Edwards, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mrs. Betty Henderson, and Dr. Louise Scott. Staff present were: Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood, Mr. Weston Stevens, Ms. Deb Haney, Mr. Mike Kelly, Mr. Bob James, Ms. Gloria Lloyd, Ms. Libby Key, Ms. Shannon Davis, Mrs. Suzanne Busenlehner, Mr. Pat Smith, and Ms. Brenda Stork.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Wilson. 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.

Mrs. Wilson welcomed everyone. At this time she recognized a retiring employee, Mrs. Mary Grant. Also recognized was the employee of the quarter, Ms. Shannon Davis. They were congratulated and presented with plaques. Dr. Norwood also commended the cafeteria staff for their hard work. Next, Mrs. Wilson introduced the new dietician, Maria Colchin. The board welcomed her.

The following actions were made by the board:

-Approval of the agenda: Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

-Approval of November 9, 1994, board minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the November 9, 1994, minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

-Superintendent's Report: Dr. Norwood reported on the following:

.We received three new vans yesterday.

.We also have computer network operating.

.Phone numbers where Dr. Norwood could be reached were provided to the board.

.A budget presentation was made last Wednesday. This was the third time we have made a presentation to the House Ways and Means Sub Committee in six years. We received a one week notice for a request to present a zero base budget. A copy was provided to the board and she reviewed this with the board. The presentation was made to the Public Education and Special Schools Subcommittee chaired by Representative Carol Wells. She felt it was an excellent hearing and we were well received. It was a good opportunity to present our

situation and needs and answer questions.

.We are concerned with the Governor's message and a proposed five percent cut. A five percent cut would bring our operating down below the level that we need to pay our fixed costs, i.e. utilities, food supplies and insurance. If we took five percent out of our operating budget, we would be short approximately \$11,000.00 for fixed costs alone.

.We have had another all clear audit. This included Chapter II, our Neglected/Delinquent funds, USDA commodities. A response from Sam Griswold regarding some applicants we have who are clients of DSS was received. There were appropriate placements who were clients of DSS, however, when it came time for them to register, the county offices stated they could not pay another agency the maintenance fee. He did respond that there would be no reasons why we could not serve their clients and receive payments for students who were in that circumstance.

.In reference to the subcommittee issue, we had to go back to all of our provisos and re-state if we needed them left in, deleted, or if there were any new additions. One proviso needed to be deleted because it provided for our counselors to be on the unclassified salary schedule and this was already dealt with in the EIA legislation. The proviso concerning the status offenders was also deleted. This has been completed. Dr. Norwood said she talked with Mrs. Wilson concerning a new proviso. She wrote a proviso that would allow us to administer the GED to 16 year olds who qualify.

.Dr. Norwood reported research on our enrollment. Forty percent of our student population are in the honor club. We have received 373 applications this year. 305 students have been admitted. 223 of these have registered. A majority of those students that were accepted and did not register was because of financial reasons. Our current enrollment is 156. Of the 67 withdrawals, 10.6% have taken the GED, 42.4% have indicated they were returning to public schools, 6% have gone to adult education, 10.6% were withdrawn due to non-attendance, 21.2% were withdrawn by admissions, 3% have gotten jobs or gone to TEC/college, and 4.5% have moved or run away from home, 1.5% were medically necessary. A total breakdown on our students is as follows: 65% minority, 35% majority, 68% sponsored by VR or financial aid, 69% are male.

This concluded the superintendent's report

-Standing Committee Reports:

-Policy Committee: Dr. Efron reported on the policy committee. Copies of policies GAE-R and GAM-R were provided to the board for a second reading. A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the policies for a second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

-Personnel Committee: Dr. Scott reviewed personnel actions provided to the board. Dr. Scott made a motion to ratify these personnel actions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed. A copy of these Personnel Actions are attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

-Foundation Committee: Mrs. Thrailkill reported on the Foundation committee. The plans are underway for the March 10, 1995, auction/dinner. Many donations have already been made. It will be held at the National Guard Armory in West Columbia.

-Wil Lou Gray Award. Ms. McBride asked the board if they would like to present the Wil Lou Gray Award this year. The past awards were presented in 1992 and 1994. Dr. Efron made a motion that the Wil Lou Gray Award not be presented in 1995 and possibly work on this presentation for 1996. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Henderson. The motion was passed.

There were no other committee reports at this time.

This concluded the Standing Committee Reports.

-Old business: Dr. Efron updated the board on the response to the legislative proviso. After a number of revisions were made, the committee met with Senator Setzler, Chairman of the Education Committee, and his administrative assistant, Susan DeWitt. We later met with the Lexington Delegation. They were very interested in the school. They did not encourage us to aggressively seek status offenders but to answer the legislature truthfully. We did complete the plan and submit it to former and newly appointed Chairs of House Ways and Means, House Education, Senate Education, and Governor's Office. Dr. Norwood said since this time she has focused on meeting individually with the Lexington Delegation that were unable to attend the meeting at school. She also met with Representative Carol Stewart who is remaining on the staff of the House Education Committee. She has also been making some contacts through a court administration. They handle all of the administrative affairs for the judges including training and meetings. At this time legislators have not turned their attention to this issue. Dr. Norwood said she thought this was on the new Governor's agenda, however, she did not know what form this was going to take. She said she will keep the board posted.

-New business: Approval of Research and Training Advisory Board: Dr. Norwood asked the board to consider those that have been on the Advisory Committee and are willing to continue serving and also asked for suggestions and nominations for the committee. Those members that have been members and are willing to continue are Linda Shirley, John Tudor, Al Butler, Verna Green, Betty Hodges, Pam Brogdon, Pete Howell, Glen Ward, and Betty Davidson. Dr. Norwood made the following nominations to replace those that will not continue to serve: to seek someone from the secondary principal's association, DSS representative, approach Michelin and NCR, Ellen Still in Senate Education, and it was also recommended we ask Baron Holmes for a recommendation. Other suggestions were William Morrison from Kroger on Augusta Highway and also Tad Ridgell recommended by Kathleen Leopard. Mrs. Thrailkill recommended

contacting BMW. A motion was made by Mrs. Thrailkill that the above recommended names be approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Efron. The motion was passed. Dr. Norwood said the contacts would be made and if any of them were interested in serving she would submit their names to the board for approval.

-Executive Session: A motion was made by Mrs. Diggs to move into executive session for the purpose of a legal update and the Superintendent's interim performance conference. The motion was seconded. The motion was passed. The board moved into executive session.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to move out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

No further action was taken by the board at this time.

The board recessed until 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 28.

The board reconvened at Embassy Suites on Saturday, January 28, 1995, at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Efron led a discussion considering the school's mission. The Board considered a number of possible missions for the school aimed toward refining and/or redirecting the central mission.

An ad hoc committee to study the mission, to be chaired by Elizabeth Thrailkill, was appointed. Other members appointed were Elizabeth Moorhead, Wilhelmina McBride, Russell Hart and Dr. Louise Scott.

Dr. Norwood was requested to gather data such as Kids Count and the Juvenile Justice Task Force report for the board to review.

The staff was directed to provide thoughts on mission and vision for the school considering younger population, overall emphasis, and major focus.

Dr. Norwood will contact Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Thrailkill as soon as staff have completed this step.

← The board decided to re-schedule the March 8 board meeting for Saturday, March 11 at 9:30 a.m. Accommodations will be made at Embassy Suites for members attending the Foundation dinner/auction on March 10.

Mrs. Busenlehner then reviewed a detailed financial status report with the board.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion was passed.

The board adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Henderson

Betty Henderson

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