

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 1987  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting on September 9, 1987, in the Research and Training Center at 6:00 p.m. Trustees in attendance were: Mrs. Hannah Meadors, Dr. Marvin Efron, Dr. Louise Scott, Mrs. Olive Wilson, Mrs. Mickey Lindler, Mr. Walter Dahlgren, Mr. Vince Rhodes, and Ms. Patricia Watt. Staff members present were: Mr. Sam F. Drew, Jr., Superintendent, Mr. John Robinson, Principal, Dr. Jonnie Spaulding, Mrs. Carolann Murdaugh; Ms. Millercin Weeks, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Pat Smith, Mr. John King, Ms. Gloria Lloyd and Mrs. Brenda Stork.

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 S. C. Code of Laws, 1976 as amended. Notice of the meeting was published in the State Newspaper and The Columbia Record in Columbia, The Journal in Lexington, and The Lexington Dispatch in Lexington.

Mrs. Meadors introduced a guest, Mr. Denard Harris. She explained that he was representing the Education Division of the Governor's Office and welcomed him to the meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lindler that the agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

The next order of business was approval of the Minutes of the July 8, 1987, Board meeting. In reference to the Actions Taken by the Board at the July meeting, Mr. Drew recommended that Policy GAK-R be added to the list of policies which were approved for a first reading. A motion was made by Dr. Efron that the Minutes be accepted with this revision. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

Mrs. Meadors called for the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Drew explained that he had abbreviated the Superintendent's Report as requested by the Board. Updated reports were previously mailed to the Board for their review and he explained that staff will be available for any questions that they may have. With respect to an update on the joint meeting of the special schools, Mr. Drew explained that a joint presentation was made to the Budget and Control Board at the Budget hearings. He met earlier with Mr. John Shiflet and Mr. Joe Finnegan, the new Director for the S. C. School for the Deaf and Blind, and presented the proposal for the joint presentation which they agreed to. The two other directors elected Mr. Drew to make the presentation. Mr. Drew said he felt the presentation was well received by the Budget and Control Board. He said he tried to stress items that Governor Campbell has placed emphasis on respective of his view of the budget process. The Directors also have agreed to meet again this month to set a date for the joint board meeting which would occur sometime around the time of the opening of the legislative session. In the interim, a press release will be drawn up and will be presented to the Steering Committee for approval. Other people may also be invited to that meeting such as legislators and representatives from the Governor's Office.

Mr. Drew next asked the Board to recall that at the last meeting the Budget Committee recommended and the Board approved that staff present the final budget request at this meeting. Copies of this information were provided to the Board. Also a copy of the final closeout was provided. Mr. Drew explained that our first priority in the budget request was for additional funds to cover over-time pay which we have been absorbing over the last few years. With the cut we took last year we felt we could not continue to absorb these costs without effecting operational funds, therefore, we requested the \$12,000. Our second priority was for approximately \$60,000 to fill three positions that were approved two years ago but not filled due to lack of funds. We did not ask for new positions, but rather funds to fill positions already approved by the Legislature. Those positions were an evening nurse, another youth counselor, and an additional security guard.

Mr. Drew further reported that our third priority was for funds required to re-classify the remaining ten of our Youth Counselors from their present grade 16 to grade 20. Mr. Drew stated that through internal shifting of staff, namely the cutting back of some instructional personnel from ten months to nine months, we have been able to divert existing funds toward re-classifying half of the Youth Counselors. The argument for this third priority request was that we needed this money in order to complete the reclassification of the remaining ten Youth Counselors. Mr. Drew explained that throughout the formal presentation he tried to stress areas in which we had conserved money internally, shifted monies, or made use of existing funds in order to accomplish some of our goals without asking the State for additional money. The fourth priority in the budget request was for the summer program for students. He asked the Board to recall that JTPA has cut back on the number of positions allotted us, and we are seeking funds from the legislature to maintain the same number of positions for the program.

The last three or four items in the request, Mr. Drew explained, were all Part III monies (non-recurring expenditures). The first two pertained to refurbishing the dorms or replacing the dorm furniture and renovation work on the four apartments that would convert them to transitional student housing. We are using these facilities for the transitional program now but this renovation would allow us to double the number of students we could serve. The last two items in the request were for an expansion of our parking facilities and a fence around the campus.

Mr. Drew explained that the total amount of the request totalled \$405,000. \$300,000 of that total was in non-recurring expenditures. The request for recurring expenditures represented a 4.1 percent increase which was well below what most agencies were requesting. At this time, Mr. Drew explained, we have not heard from the Budget and Control Board concerning our request.

Mr. Drew called on Mr. King for the budget report. The Agency Budget Summary for Fiscal Year 1986-87 and the Agency Wide Operating Budget Summary for Fiscal

Year-School Year 1987-88 were distributed to the Board and Mr. King reviewed same. Copies are attached and become a permanent part of these Minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Lindler to approve the budget reports. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

Mr. Drew then called on Dr. Spaulding for a report on the progress of the Research and Training Center. Dr. Spaulding explained that we are progressing well with the organization of the Research and Training Center. Some activities already are in progress. The planning of a workshop entitled Training of Trainers, developed by the S. C. Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, has been completed. This workshop is intended to train trainers to work with young people who have problems with alcohol and drug abuse. Those who have been invited come from other agencies and have been approved for training through SCADA. This workshop is being held at the Research and Training Center on September 14 and 15.

She further explained that we have one research project in place which has been designed by Mr. Drew. It deals with the effect of the Advocacy Intervention Case Management System on the self-concept and achievement of our students. A press release has been prepared containing information about the Training Center and will be released to the media soon.

At this time Dr. Spaulding distributed to the Board information in reference to the Training Center and reviewed same. This information included a Professional Improvement Survey for Faculty and Staff, a letter which was sent to the colleges and universities in the State, and a letter to all District Superintendents which included a survey on the indicators of "at-risk" youth and programs that are being provided around the State. Also included was a letter of invitation that was mailed to six people that have been invited to be on the Advisory Committee. Dr. George Lackey of the University of South Carolina has been asked to be temporary chairman of the Advisory Committee until May, 1988.

Dr. Spaulding further explained there is one vacancy and she asked the Board for their suggestions as to whom she may contact in the business and industry community who would be helpful to us in this area. A list of other persons who could be called on to advise on specific issues was also shared with the Board.

Mr. Drew said we felt strongly that the Advisory members will have their own list of resource people, however, he asked the Board that if they knew of anyone who may be interested in this effort or could contribute in any way to please recommend them to us. In reference to this, Dr. Efron recommended someone from the Textile Manufacturers' Association. Mrs. Lindler recommended Mr. Tim Bret and also the president of NCR.

Ms. Watt asked about the role of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Spaulding explained that the Research and Training Center will operate under policies established by the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board of Trustees. The Superintendent will supervise the administration of the Center which will be accomplished by the Director and other center staff. The Advisory Committee will be established to offer suggestions as to directions, priorities and boundaries for the Center's activities. Mr. Drew offered further explanation that the purpose of the Advisory Committee is to offer advice on policy governing the Center and particular programs that should be set as priority for the Center to undertake regarding "at-risk" youth. Mr. Drew also encouraged Board members to attend the Advisory Committee meetings when possible.

Mrs. Meadors asked the Board's permission to change the agenda in order to present an item requiring Board approval. She requested this in deference to Mr. Rhodes who might need to leave the meeting early. The Board agreed to this change.

Under old business, Mrs. Meadors drew the Boards attention to the Cooperative Services Agreement between S. C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department and Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Mr. Drew commented that there were no revisions in the Agreement since last year. He said the budget was slightly higher due to increases in employees' salaries. He recommended that the Board approve the Agreement. A

motion was made by Dr. Efron to accept the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

Mrs. Meadors next called for Committee Reports. In reference to the Personnel Report, Mr. Drew explained that he had spoken with Mrs. Thrailkill and it was her recommendation that the Board approve the Personnel Actions. A copy of the Personnel Actions was previously submitted to the Board. Mrs. Meadors reviewed this report with the Board and asked for their approval on the personnel actions that have taken place. Mr. Drew then apprised the Board of the progress toward filling Mr. Robinson's position. He reported that at this point we have received six applications from outside the Agency and one application from a present employee. Of these applicants, one withdrew, and all but two of the others were eliminated because they did not presently hold a secondary Principal's Certificate. We have interviewed the two remaining candidates. We are continuing to take applications and we expect to receive two or three more applications before we close the application process.

Mrs. Lindler made a motion that the Board officially commend Mr. Robinson for his dedication to the students and in particular for his efforts with the sports program. Dr. Efron seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Dr. Efron made a motion that the Board implement the Personnel Actions as recommended by the Personnel Committee and delivered by Mr. Drew. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

Mrs. Meadors called for an update report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Policy Revisions. Dr. Efron made a motion that the following policies be accepted for a second reading: AEB, AFC, BBBE, BHA, EBH, GBI, GAAA, GAK-R, GBD, KG and KG-R. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

Dr. Efron also said that Dr. Floride Martin of the Governor's Office has requested a copy of our Policy Manual to use as a guide for a manual proposed for the new state gifted

and talented math and science school being proposed.

With the matters requiring Board action out of the way, Mrs. Meadors returned to the original agenda and called on Ms. Weeks for the current report on admissions. Year-to-date student statistics were previously submitted to the Board. Ms. Weeks reviewed same. She explained that the Admissions Committee has been processing approximately fifteen to twenty applications per week since the initial enrollment. To date there are 121 students enrolled. Ms. Watt asked about the school's capacity. Mr. Drew commented that we have bed space for 240, however, our personnel resources make 180 a maximum number we feel we can adequately serve.

Mrs. Meadors next called on Mrs. Wilson for the Program Committee Report. Mrs. Wilson said she and Mr. Robinson had conferred and she asked him to give the report. A copy of the Annual Report for 1986-87 was previously submitted to the Board. Mr. Robinson reviewed same and he explained that this report contained the goals for the year and the accomplishments of the goals, and also recommendations for improvement. An Academic/Vocational/Student Affairs Report was also previously submitted to the Board. This report briefly explained the various programs that will be in place this school year. Mr. Robinson explained that in the Vocational Program Pre-vocational Education, Automotive Services, Business English and Word Processing II are being offered. In the Units of Credit Department, French I, Remedial Math and Remedial Reading are being offered. In the GED Program, GED Social Studies and GED Science have been correlated to the school's M-Micro Program. The Achievement Test administered has been changed from the adult basic education test (TABE) to the Metropolitan Achievement Test. In Student Affairs, nine Youth Counselors II have been promoted to Youth Counselors III. These counselors work in the re-evaluation and adjustment program or work with students during prime hours. He further explained that the school's re-evaluation and adjustment program is fully operative. Seven students have entered the program thus far. Karate is offered to interested students on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

At this time Mr. Robinson took the opportunity to thank the Board for giving him the opportunity to be Principal here for the last two years and he thanked the Board for their support. Mrs. Meadors repeated the Boards former expression of thanks to Mr. Robinson.

At this time Mrs. Meadors called for an update report on the Foundation. Mr. Dahlgren called on Mr. George Smith for a report. Mr. Smith explained that the first \$100.00 contribution was made to the Foundation through the West Columbia-Cayce Optimist Club. The Foundation is in use and a first project is participation in a local food bank. Through this food bank the Foundation is able to buy food at \$.10 per pound. Mr. Drew commented that in addition to use of the food by our students, we have discussed programs where groups of students can identify needy families and, as a school project, distribute the food to these needy families. Mr. Smith explained that we have also been receiving clothes from a group called Sharing God's Love. Mr. Smith further explained that we are sending a fund raising letter to past contributors to the school.

Mr. Dahlgren recalled for the Board that we have been discussing the possibility of establishing the Wil Lou Gray Award. He said that we plan to provide criteria for the award for the Board's review prior to the next meeting. He asked the Board for any recommendations they might have for this award. He envisions that we would present the award once a year to someone who has had a close relationship of support to the school. Mr. Dahlgren said Mr. Drew had suggested the Legislative Dinner may be a good time to make this presentation. Mr. Drew commented that April 13 is the date we have tentatively scheduled for the Legislative Dinner.

Mr. Drew commented that he has initiated a fund raising drive among the staff and hopes to raise \$1,200 - \$1,500. He said he will then challenge each Board member to raise a like amount of money. This would give us a starting operating budget of \$10,000 - \$12,000.

At this time Mrs. Meadors said a word of appreciation needs to be expressed from the Board to Mrs. Mary Drew and Mrs. Jackie White for the curtains in the Research and Training Center. A motion was made by Dr. Efron to send them a letter of appreciation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

Dr. Spaulding commented that on the day of the next Board meeting a reception would be held for the Research and Training Center Advisory Committee and she would like for the Board to meet them. Mrs. Meadors and Dr. Efron suggested that the Advisory Committee be invited to dinner before the Board meeting that evening.

In reference to the new telephone system, Mr. Pat Smith explained that the Opportunity School will have a new telephone number effective October 26. This number will be 739-5480. We will also be receiving new telephone credit cards in the near future.

There being no further business, Dr. Efron made a motion that the Board adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed. The Board adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Spivey