

WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 14, 1984

The Board of Trustees convened for its regular meeting on March 14, 1984 in the Archives Room of the William T. Lander Administration Building at 7:00 p.m. Those Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Marvin Efron, presiding; Ms. Patricia Watt; Mr. Walter Dahlgren; Mrs. Hannah Meadors; Dr. James Miles; Mr. Vince Rhodes; Mr. Clarence Rowland; and Mrs. Olive Wilson. Those Trustees absent were: Ms. Mary Alice Mack; Dr. Louise Scott; Mr. Karl Segelken; and Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill. Dr. Robert Fulmer, representing Dr. Charlie Williams also attended the meeting. Staff members present were: Mr. Sam Drew, Superintendent; Mr. Pat Smith, Director of Administration; Dr. Jonnie Spaulding, Student Development; Mr. George Smith, Development Officer; Mrs. Thelma Bailey, Principal; Ms. Gloria Lloyd, Personnel Specialist; Mrs. Virginia Taylor, Psychologist; and Mrs. Patricia T. Robbins.

Dr. Efron welcomed the Board of Trustees and noted Dr. Fulmer's presence for the Board. Dr. Efron then welcomed the staff.

Dr. Efron called for the approval of the Agenda for March 14, 1984. The Agenda was approved.

Dr. Efron asked that the January 11, 1984 minutes be approved. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Dr. Efron then called for the Superintendent's report.

Mr. Drew then related the following additional items of information.

- 1) The Department of Education has informed us that we are in compliance with 94-142.
- 2) Most Board members have completed and returned the Legislative contact surveys that were mailed to them. A few are still outstanding.
- 3) The Department of Education has issued us a rating of "All Clear" on the BEDS report.

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- 4) Telephone cards will expire soon---Mr. Pat Smith will apply for new telephone cards for all Board members. The new cards will be mailed to Board members as soon as we receive them.
- 5) The conference call made by the Personnel Committee has not been billed to us by the phone company. A report on the cost of the call will be mailed by the next Board meeting. Mr. Drew stated that he felt the call would be less expensive than the travel costs associated with such a meeting.
- 6) Students, accompanied by Mrs. White, Mr. Carruth, and Mr. George Smith visited the Senate and House of Representatives. The students carried essays about what the Opportunity School meant to them to their representatives. Some of the essays were read into the record.
- 7) Our work scholarship enrollment is up. This is largely due to our recruiting strategy.

Mr. Drew called on Virginia Taylor, psychologist, to report on the status of counseling services offered by the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Mrs. Taylor gave a brief review of the counseling services presently offered. She then talked about some new practices to be implemented during the 1984-85 year including the use of a written plan of action for every Opportunity School student. Mrs. Taylor said that staff teams would monitor each student's progress toward meeting the objectives contained in the individual plans. Mr. Rhodes asked Mrs. Taylor if she made psychological assessments? Mrs. Taylor said she did do assessemnts when that information was not already available and current. Mr Rhodes inquired about the confidentiality of the psychological information. Mrs. Taylor stated that all psychological data was confidential. There followed some discussion about the necessity for the Opportunity School and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to share information.

Dr. Miles stated that he thought we should perform academic testing on students when they enter, and test them again when they leave to see how much progress they have made in the time they have been at the Opportunity School. Mrs. Taylor stated that the TABE test is used to do this but that sometimes students leave before post testing has been done.

Mr. Drew gave the Board a brief update on the progress of the asbestos removal project. He requested that the Board designate the Administrative Committee as the selection team for A & E firms. Dr. Efron called for Board approval for this request and it was granted.

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Mr. Drew then gave a financial report. He reported that total expenditures to date have been approximately 61% of revenues. He stated that this expenditure was as planned. Mr. Drew then reported that a sell off of stock issue in our endowment portfolio has effectively doubled our endowment corpus. The corpus should reap 50,000 to 60,000 a year in interest income.

Mr. Drew stated some concerns be held about teacher salaries at the Opportunity School. He said a review of salaries by him showed that our pay scale for teachers is high compared to surrounding school districts. He also stated that a straight formula is used for establishing pay scales for all teachers. The formula does not allow for educational levels or varying years of experience. He said he is exploring the establishment of such a differentiated pay scale for teachers at the Opportunity School.

Mr. Drew then gave a brief report on the status of the 1984-85 Budget request. He stated that the 1984-85 Budget request has passed the House. The bill will be deliberated shortly by the Senate Finance Committee. He will keep the Board posted concerning any developments in the Budget as it proceeds through the Senate.

Standing Committee:

Mr. Vince Rhodes, Chairman, stated that the Administrative Committee had nothing to report at this time.

Personnel Committee:

Mrs. Hannah Meadors, Chairman, reviewed the new personnel policies discussed at the last meeting. These were the Discipline Policy, Exit Interview, and the Hazardous Weather Policy. Mrs. Meadors indicated to the Board that Mr. Drew had made the changes in the policies requested by the Board and made a motion to accept these. Mrs. Wilson seconded. Motion passed.

The certification of teachers was discussed. Mr. Drew indicated that several teachers have certificates that must be renewed before the 1984-85 school year. These certificates will be renewed by the fall of the year. Mrs. Meadors made a motion that all of the teachers be approved for next year pending the renewal of certificates where such renewal applies. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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Mr. Drew recommended that a proviso be presented to the State Legislature exempting our staff from housing costs. He indicated that campus residents will continue to provide weekend supervision in return for reduced rent costs if we had such an exemption. This arrangement helps the agency provide necessary weekend coverage for the protection and supervision of our students.

Mr. Vince Rhodes made a motion that the Board send a representative to the National School Board Association in Houston, Texas. The conference and exposition will be March 31th through April 3. Mr. Rhodes suggested that the Chairman or his representative go to the conference. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mrs. Meadors made the suggestion that the Chairman send Ms. Watt to the convention this year as she had attended last year at her own expense. Mrs. Meadors stated she was suggesting this alternative at the request of Mrs. Thrailkill who was not able to attend the meeting. Dr. Efron asked Ms. Watt to be his representative to the conference this year. Ms. Watt accepted.

Dr. Miles made the motion that the Chairman appoint a committee to differentiate between the work of the Superintendent and the work of the Board of Trustees. He used as his example for the need for such differentiation the forthcoming asbestos removal work. Dr. Miles stated that decisions about this work should be left entirely up to administration and did not need the approval of the Board. Dr. Efron stated that this issue would be addressed in the revisions made to the Board Policy Manual and he preferred not to appoint another committee at this time.

Dr. Miles further stated that he would be retiring in the near future. He stated that the Alumni Association should proceed with plans to elect someone to replace him upon completion of his present term.

Mr. George Smith made a request to the Board that a "Dr. James Miles Day" should be held in honor of Dr. Miles. The Board gave approval for such an event. Dr. Miles expressed his appreciation.

Dr. Efron requested that the next Board meeting be changed to the first Wednesday of May. He stated that a personal conflict would prevent his attending the meeting if held at the regularly scheduled time. Mrs. Wilson moved that the meeting date be changed. Mr. Rhodes seconded. Motion passed.