

MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
April 3, 1974

The meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board, The Reverend M. B. Webb. Dr. J. C. Holler led the invocation.

Board members present were: Dr. Marvin Efron, Mr. James McClary, The Reverend James B. Mitchell, Mr. William Melvin Brown, Dr. James F. Miles, Dr. J. Carlisle Holler, The Reverend M. B. Webb, Dr. Oliver Thomas, Mrs. H. Wayne Unger. Dr. Wil Lou Gray, Director Emeritus and Dr. J. Truett Willis met with the Board.

The minutes of the meeting for November 14 were read and approved with one correction. Dr. Efron's motion extended the teachers' contract year to 203 days rather than the 187 days recorded in the minutes.

Dr. Holler asked Dr. Willis to give the report for the Building and Grounds Committee. Willis reported that two members of the committee, The Reverend James Mitchell and Mr. James McClary met on March 1 for the purpose of inspecting the plans and specifications for air-conditioning the five dormitories. The plans and specifications had been drawn by Felkel and Hastings Engineering Company. The members present approved the plans.

The plans and specifications have been approved by State Engineer, Mr. L. P. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton informed Willis that the estimated cost for the completed job was about \$56,000 more than had been appropriated. He asked if the school could advance the money if the Budget and Control Board would assure the school that it would be repaid. Willis discussed the matter with Dr. Holler, informing him that the only money in that amount that the school had was the residue of the Glenn Turner money. The matter has not been discussed with the committee.

Willis also reported that the classroom building is still leaking. He is awaiting a call from Deputy Attorney General, Miss Elizabeth Crum, informing him of a time that Mr. Bissett, the architect, can meet with Dr. Holler, Miss Crum and Dr. Willis. The report was received as information.

Dr. Efron reported for the Personnel Committee that Mr. Charles R. Shealy, Jr., had resigned. The committee, working in cooperation with Dr. Willis, followed the terms of the school's Affirmative Action Plan in advertising for applicants for the position of Dean of Students. Some fifteen people applied. A rating scale involving many different criteria, such as training and experience, was developed by which to evaluate each of the applicants. The job, based on his qualifications, was given to Mr. W. Bryant Spivey, who was Chaplain at Midland's Center. Mr. Spivey began his work with the Opportunity School on January 25 and is doing a very good job.

Dr. Willis expressed his sincere appreciation for the direction and support that the Personnel Committee gave in developing the criteria and selection of the Dean of Students.

Dr. Efron reported that the resignation of the School Psychologist had been accepted and the committee would be working in cooperation with Dr. Willis in the selection of a School Psychologist. He reported that Dr. Willis has had exit interviews with Mr. Shealy and Mrs. Haas to try to determine just why they left their employment. The results of such interviews may necessitate some changes in employment policies. This may be discussed with the Board at a later meeting. The report was accepted as information.

Dr. Oliver Thomas was asked to make the report for the Development Committee. He read the minutes of the February 14 meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The Development Committee had its meeting on February 15. That committee recommended that the Board have proposals from at least three teams of consultants. The proposals would outline the plans for a needs assessment study to determine the role of the Opportunity School in education in the years ahead. The Development Committee had a proposal from Dr. James E. Wise & Associates and the National Association of Public and Continuing Adult Education. The committee was not ready at that time to make a recommendation to accept either of the proposals.

Mr. James McClary moved that Dr. Holler be asked to make a proposal to the Board of Trustees for such a study. Mrs. Unger seconded the motion and it was passed. Dr. Holler is to have his proposal ready to present to the members of the Board who will be in attendance at a meeting called for the purpose of hearing a preliminary report from the South Carolina School Boards' Association on the Board's Policy Manual. The Board of Trustees agreed to leave it with those Trustees who are members of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Board to decide which proposal will be accepted and to authorize Dr. Willis to negotiate the contract.

Dr. Willis was asked to give his report, a copy of which is attached.

Two recommendations were made to the Board. The recommendations were: It is recommended that student fees for the year 1974-75 be increased from \$755 to \$855. Dr. Efron made the motion and Mr. James McClary seconded the motion that the fees be increased. It was passed.

The second recommendation was that the Building and Grounds Committee be authorized to purchase and to have installed a water fountain in the circle in the park area of the school and the granite stone markers, given by the Alumni Association in honor of the outstanding South Carolinians, be placed in an attractive arrangement in that circle. This action would be contingent upon the fact that the school has sufficient funds to finance this project at the end of this fiscal year, 1973-74. The motion was passed.

Dr. Willis reported that a group of approximately 100 people had requested the use of the school facilities for Church services on a temporary basis. After much discussion, Dr. Holler moved that it be referred to the Building and Grounds Committee to develop guidelines for Dr. Willis to follow in permitting any group to use the building. This committee would meet during the lunch break to develop these guidelines.

The committee met during the lunch hour and developed the following recommendations, which were accepted by the Trustees.

1. Applicants may use the auditorium provided all expenses of lights and fuel (estimated) be assumed and assured. The cost of janitorial services would be paid by the applicant. Permission for use of facilities would not exceed three months and would be subject to review after each 30 day period.
2. No classrooms or special facility rooms may be used by any group other than those groups specifically under the sponsorship of the Opportunity School.
3. The Opportunity School is in compliance with the 1968 Civil Rights Act and

meets all requirements as an Equal Opportunity Employer. No groups, whose aims and objectives would place the Opportunity School in jeopardy in regard to the above, would be given use of the facilities. Dr. Efron gave the motion and it was passed.

Mr. Jim Luce, from the South Carolina School Boards' Association, discussed with the Board the progress made on the Policy Manual. He reported that which ends up in the Manual is the way the district is running at that time. There is one page for each policy. The School Boards' Association also provide recommended policies, but they do not go in the Manual unless they are adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Holler requested of Mr. Luce that a statement of the philosophical foundation of the school be included in the Manual. The date of May 24 at 5:00 P.M. was chosen as a time for the members of the Executive Committee and Chairmen of the Standing Committees of the Board of Trustees meet to review the Manual. Dr. Willis will inform the Trustees of the meeting by letter.

Mr. McClary and Mr. Joe Dusenbury, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, discussed the matter of the possibility of a rehabilitative medical facility to be constructed as a joint venture of the South Carolina Opportunity School and the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. They stated that Dr. Dill Beckman had requested them to meet with the Board of Trustees and to ask the Board to agree to use \$175,000, which had been requested by the school in the 1974-75 budget for an infirmary, to match \$272,635 of Hill-Burton money. This facility would provide some long term recuperation care for clients of Vocational Rehabilitation, such as physical and occupational therapy, while at the same time they would undergo Vocational Evaluation and may possibly be scheduled into the regular program for some academic training. There would be no operations or acute treatment in this facility at all. An example of the kind of activity provided: A housewife would be taught to use her artificial limb in the day to day chores of keeping a home; or, a man in a wheelchair would receive ambulatory training, operation of the wheelchair, how to ride a bus, etc.

Mr. Joe Dusenbury and Mr. McClary expressed their appreciation for the cooperation given the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in serving their clients and stated that this facility would simply broaden these services. Considerable discussion followed.

Mr. Dusenbury said that a letter of intent to apply for Hill-Burton funds would need to be sent by April 12. He said that either the Opportunity School or the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation could file application for the funds.

Dr. Holler moved that we authorize the Superintendent and Chairman of the Board to write a letter of intent to participate in this fund. Mr. James McClary seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Mr. McClary recommended that the Opportunity School be the agent for making application for the Hill-Burton money.

Mr. McClary moved that the school lower its age limit to fifteen on a temporary trial basis, including the next term. Only those clients that Dr. Willis, after reviewing their court history with the facility coordinator of the Evaluation Center, would be accepted. Mrs. Unger seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

James F. Miles  
Secretary of the Board