

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 21, 1997**

The ad hoc committee to study strategies for increased enrollment at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School met for a scheduled meeting in the cafeteria on May 21, 1997, at 12:00 noon. Present were Dr. Louise Scott, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mr. Russell Hart, Mrs. Sandra Franklin, Mr. Pete Howell, Mr. Al Butler, and Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood.

The minutes of the April 23, 1997, ad hoc committee meeting were previously provided to the committee and approved.

Mrs. Diggs asked each committee member for input on strategies. The members reported the following:

Mr. Hart said he felt in order to get other groups to work with us we needed to have a strategy with them. He said larger school districts take care of their own problems if financially able. He said in talking with some other groups there are students that need help not only with discipline problems but academically also. He said he felt we should be stronger in those areas.

Mrs. Franklin said she had made several contacts. She recommended concentrating on smaller districts. Mr. Hart also agreed and thought we needed to make more material available to smaller school districts.

Mr. Howell said he felt that rather than seeking a specific population or age range we need to provide a system of services that are unique. He further stated that in order to change our focus, get a new proviso and request additional funds to get set up to serve a younger population would restrict the possibilities of WLGOs going into any other direction.

Dr. Efron said he thought we were getting fewer and less qualified students because of the alternative schools. He recommended providing a lower level of vocational training than TEC, i.e. nursing home care, child care, and construction for ages 15 and above (more practically 18 and above). He felt we should prepare students academically through a GED program and prepare them vocationally for a job. Mr. Howell said he felt these students are those that would be out of the school system and would not have the long term preparation capability for TEC. Everything would be geared to school to work.

Mr. Butler agreed with Mr. Howell and Dr. Efron. He said a lot of schools are eliminating remediation and are going to a school to work program. He recommended contracting with school districts on special needs.

Dr. Scott said she has not had an opportunity to talk with other school districts at this

time. However, she recommended the continuation of the JROTC program.

Mrs. Diggs informed the committee she had contacted seven school districts. She explained to them we wanted students that were capable of being challenged. They said they would like to see WLGOS accept those students that they could identify that just do not want to be in a regular school. In a regular school setting Mrs. Diggs' view was that they are asking us to take a younger population. She said they informed her the problems they have are with 8th grade students. Also, they said usually the students that need to attend WLGOS do not have the money. Mrs. Diggs said she felt by the time a student is 18 years of age they are too old to be rehabilitated.

Dr. Norwood said we have received more than 100 inquiries regarding 13 and 14 year olds. She also asked the committee to take into consideration the structure of the buildings at WLGOS. She said we are not structurally set up here to appropriately serve middle school age students in the living arrangements we have. We would also need additional staffing.

After further discussion, the committee recommended the following strategies:


1. Cultivate smaller districts and serve as a supplementary source.
2. Thoroughly identify the kinds of students we need to attract.
3. Broaden our population according to age and program.
4. Review school to work program.
5. Continue to try to serve at-risk students but could move into getting those persons from welfare reform through disabilities determination.
Re-evaluate the disabilities groups.
6. Gear program toward GED with lower level vocational courses.
7. Provide remediation for students in short term attendance.

The committee agreed to prioritize the above suggested strategies at the next meeting.

Dr. Efron said he would meet with Mr. Howell and Mrs. Franklin to review the needs of other agencies and Midlands TEC. Mrs. Diggs said she would work with Mr. Hart and Mr. Butler to further investigate the needs of younger students. She asked the committee to think of strategies for WLGOS to serve as a supplementary source for smaller school districts.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 11, 1997, at 12:00 noon in the private dining room of WLGOS.

Respectfully submitted,



Clotilda Diggs, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee
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