

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 15-16, 1993**

The Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 15, 1993, in the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Research and Training Center. Trustees in attendance were: Mr. Frank Hart, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Dr. Louise Scott, Mrs. Mary Williams, Mrs. Elizabeth Moorhead, Dr. Russell Bedenbaugh, Mrs. Olive Wilson, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, and Ms. Wilhelmina McBride. Staff members present were Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood, Ms. Gloria Lloyd, Mr. Pat Smith, Mrs. Suzanne Busenlehner, Ms. Deb Haney, Mr. Daryl Mickens, Mr. Mike Kelly, Mrs. Helen Smith, and Ms. Brenda Stork.

Mr. Hart called the meeting to order. He 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.

Mr. Hart welcomed everyone. He recognized a new board member Mrs. Mary Williams of West Columbia. She is replacing Mrs. Hannah Meadors.

Next, Mr. Hart recognized Mrs. Helen Smith for her ten years of employment with the State of South Carolina. He presented to her a certificate and pin. He also recognized the Employee of the Quarter, Mr. Daryl Mickens, Youth Counselor and Recreation Specialist. On behalf of the board, Mr. Hart congratulated Mr. Mickens and presented him with a Employee of the Quarter plaque.

The following actions were made by the board:

-Approval of the agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. Mr.

Hart said it will be necessary to go into executive session to discuss a matter of discipline. The motion was passed.

-Approval of the Minutes of the November 11, 1992 board meeting:  
Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

-Superintendent's Report by Dr. Norwood:

-She met with Mrs. Williams. Dr. Norwood said she gave her a tour of the school and introduced Mrs. Williams to the staff.

-We have received approval on our School Improvement Report and Staff Development Plan for this year. She has written a letter to Dr. Nielsen requesting a meeting with her regarding an issue that is coming forth relating to the use of Target 2000 funds. The proposals going forth at this time would indicate a distribution among schools at a set rate but Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School was not included on that list and other state agencies are included. This would cut us off if we are not included on that list.

-The level of discipline referrals over the previous year after the first quarter went down significantly. They have remained down at 32% below last year. The average length of stay for students in school has increased 62%. We have also looked at reasons students leave school. Fifty-five students have left for various reasons during the year. Nineteen of those were for discipline referrals out of the school. Of those, twelve were for the offense of battery which is defined in our student manual. Twenty-one students have returned to public school or adult education. Four left for medical reasons. Two students left for unknown reasons. Three were unhappy away from home. Four completed this program. One left for personal reasons and one left for Job Corps. As of January 5, we have considered 313 applications. We have accepted 239 students. Sixty-eight have been denied for various reasons - they were in

more need of treatment than we could provide. Thirty-one students were accepted but did not come in for actual registration.

-We have had our final inspection on the vocational classroom addition. There are 12 minor items to be cleared and that will be done in the near future.

-Dr. Norwood further explained that she has been invited to write an article for the Florence Morning News. They are preparing a special feature. She said the article will be curriculum oriented and invited any suggestions the board may have for this article.

-We have had an offer of a graduation award from a Reverend Roy Allen Morris who attended the Opportunity School and is a retired minister in the community. We are looking forward to making a recommendation when the graduation committee is underway.

-She reported on the phase program of student behavior. Students work up in a phase program. They come at Phase I and move to Phase II and Phase III. We have added an Honor Club this year. To maintain the Honor Club status, students have to maintain the top level behavior status to stay there. Presently, we have 42 students who are in the Honor Club. Phase III has 21 students and Phase II has 24 students. Dr. Norwood commended Ms. Haney and her staff for developing the Honor Club program. They are having a fund raiser tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m., a musical program, and have been actively raising funds to help these students go to Washington as a reward to maintaining Honor Club status. The admission is \$3.00 and she encouraged the board to attend.

This concluded the Superintendent's Report.

-Standing Committee Reports:

-Policy Committee: Dr. Efron reviewed the following policies with the board:

Policies reviewed for a first reading:

1. GBA
2. GAM-R
3. GAM-E
4. GBKA
5. GAE-R
6. GBI

Dr. Scott recommended adding to policies GAE-R, Grievance Procedure, and GBI, Employee Performance Management System, in the first paragraph a statement regarding the procedures are of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the above policies for a first reading as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bedenbaugh. The motion was passed.

Policy reviewed by Dr. Efron for a second reading:

1. BBAA

Dr. Scott stated the last sentence of this policy should read "New officers shall take office on July 1" as recommended at the last board meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve policy BBAA for second reading as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

-Personnel Committee: Dr. Scott reviewed the Personnel Actions provided to the board. A motion was made by Dr. Scott to ratify these personnel actions as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

-Foundation Committee: Mrs. Thrailkill reported Mr. George Smith sent her information on the Foundation. Dr. Efron made a motion to commend Mr. George Smith for his outstanding work on the Foundation fundraiser. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed. Also, Dr. Efron recommended letters of appreciation be written to the auctioneers by the Board Chairman.

-New Business:

-Mr. Hart asked Dr. Efron to serve on the graduation committee this year. Dr. Efron said he would be pleased to do so.

-Discussion of board attendance at Governor's Conference on Education February 3, 1993 at 9:30 a.m.: The following board members said they would attend: Mr. Hart, Dr. Scott, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Williams, and Dr. Norwood. There will not be a legislative reception this year. The board members not present will be contacted regarding attendance at this conference.

-Mrs. Thrailkill congratulated Dr. Norwood for the excellent radio broadcast on "Arts Sparks". She said her presentation was outstanding.

-Executive Session:

Dr. Efron made a motion to move into executive session. Mr. Hart stated the purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss discipline, a legal matter, and a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed. The board moved into executive session.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson to move out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bedenbaugh. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Dr. Bedenbaugh to deny the appeal of Dwayne Brown which was heard in executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

It was recommended that the superintendent follow-up with an advisory letter for admission next year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson to deny hearing the appeal of Michael Riley. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to deny hearing the appeal of Carlos Chavis. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to recess. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bedenbaugh. The motion was passed.

The board reassembled on January 16, 1993 at 8:30 a.m.

An informational session on the school's budget and expenditure reports was presented by Mrs. Suzanne Busenlehner, Accounting Manager.

The board adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betty Henderson

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

NEW HIRE:

Mr. Stacy J. Walker, Youth Counselor serving as Naturalist, will begin employment January 18, 1993. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina. He has been employed by Foreign Fisheries Observer, Frank Orth & Associates, Bellevue, Washington; Sandhill Research & Education Center, and C. R. Jackson, Inc., Columbia, S.C. He replaces Ms. Donna P. Martin.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Ruth Chewing, Nurse Practitioner, resigned December 1, 1992 to accept other employment.

Miss Donna P. Martin, Youth Counselor serving as Naturalist, resigned January 4, 1993 to relocate and accept other employment.

1/15/93