

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
SPECIAL MEETING - BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
S.C. NATIONAL GUARD - S.C. YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY  
FEBRUARY 4, 1998**

Board members present: Dr. Louise Scott, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Frankie Newman, Mr. Dan Smith, Mrs. Libby Thraikill, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Mr. Russell Hart, Ms. Suzanne Turner and Mrs. Mary Williams. Mrs. Betty Henderson was absent.

Staff present: Mr. Pat Smith, Mr. Mike Kelly, Mr. Bob James, Mrs. Mary Flynn, Mr. Milton Montgomery, Mr. Jimmy Nobles, Ms. Reya Talley, Ms. Marleen Cassett, Ms. Patty Robbins, Mrs. Sheryl Lorick, Mr. Malcolm Hanger, Mr. Rodney Oswalt, Mr. Robert Brewer, Ms. Dottie Hughes, Ms. Barbara Smith, Mrs. Sue Luther, Mrs. Gloria Robinson, Mr. Bill Crookham, Mr. George Smith and Mr. Jim Hicks.

National Guard representatives present: General Harry Burchstead, Major Don Schlomer, Mr. Rick Favati and Lt. Katherine Lewis.

Chairman Scott called the meeting to order. She stated the purpose of this meeting was to hear about the Youth Challenge Academy from the South Carolina National Guard. Dr. Scott called on General Burchstead to introduce his staff and the program. General Burchstead introduced Lt. Katherine Lewis, who has worked with the Georgia Youth Challenge Academy, to present an overview of the program.

Lt. Lewis stated the purpose of the program was to provide young people an opportunity, the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in life. She described the student profile, and the requirements necessary to participate and remain in the Academy. Lt. Lewis mentioned that the two main benefits of the program were the mentoring, and the follow-up students receive upon completion of study at the Academy.

She outlined the three funding sources: federal, state, and other. The program requires a federal/state match of 75% - 25%. Currently, \$2.1 million has been allocated by the federal government for the Academy. A \$700,000 match has to be identified, and in-kind contributions qualify. Lt. Lewis completed her presentation by soliciting questions from the Board.

Mr. Hart asked if the school's JROTC program would be eliminated under this proposal. General Burchstead stated that the JROTC teaches a lot of the same skills and he anticipates the continuation of that program.

Mr. Rhodes posed a question about how the Academy would serve the fifteen (15) year olds that are currently enrolled. General Burchstead explained that those students could be served, but they could not be reported as part of the Challenge.

After a brief video on the Georgia Youth Challenge Program, Mr. Rhodes made a motion to go into Executive Session for contractual matters. Dr. Efron seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Upon completion of the Executive Session, the Board agreed to meet at 10:00 A.M. on February 10, 1998, at the National Guard Headquarters in Columbia. Dr. Scott, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Dan Smith and Mrs. Clotilda Diggs agreed to represent the Board at that meeting. Mr. Smith, Mr. James and Mr. Kelly will represent staff.

The Board set February 16, 1998, 6:00 P.M. for the next Board meeting.

There being no other business, Mr. Hart made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed.