

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING
Minutes of January 19-21, 2001**

The Board of Trustees met on January 19, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Charleston, SC. **Board members present:** Ms. Suzanne Turner, Mr. Dan Smith, Ms. Lynn Ammons, Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Mrs. Frankie Newman, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Mr. Russell Hart, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Dr. Louise Scott, Mr. Vince Rhodes, and Mr. Bryan England. **Board members absent:** Mr. Butch Spires. His absence was excused. **Staff present:** Mr. Pat Smith and Col. Sam Glover.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Diggs made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Thrailkill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2000 Board meeting. Ms. McBride seconded the motion. The motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- Graduation was an overwhelming success. Approximately 800 guests, 100 graduates, and 100 members were in attendance. Ms. Manning delivered an inspirational, down-home address.
- 124 candidates were enrolled on Sunday January 14 and presently, there are 110 enrolled.
- The GED test results from December 6 and 7 are forthcoming.
- Enclosed in the Board material is a letter from Ms. Latoya Maree regarding "the Guardian Angel Program," a community outreach program coordinated by Ms. Carol Lucas.
- The upcoming Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2000.
- The Legislative Drop-in is scheduled for January 31, 2000. A formal invitation will be mailed.
- There are 50 complete applications and 31 incomplete on file for Cycle VII.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to ratify the personnel actions. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith made a motion to amend the first reading of Policy Section JIDCA, Student Code of Conduct. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith reported on the Governor's proposed budget recommendation, which included an 8% reduction for the agency, or \$277,721. He stated that the education portion of our budget is exempt from the reduction. Mrs. Diggs requested that the Board be provided written certification regarding the 8% reduction and its potential impact on the program and the strategy for absorbing the reduction.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Thraikill made a motion to approve the guidelines for the Tuition Assistance Program. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

No report.

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

No report.

WIL LOU GRAY AWARD COMMITTEE

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hart mentioned that Mrs. Helen Smith had retired and that Mr. Smith had sent flowers on behalf of the Board. The Board agreed to replenish the flower fund. Each member will contribute \$15.00. Mr. Hart circulated a thank you card from Mrs. Smith.

Dr. Scott asked that since the Interim Performance Appraisal of the Director and the Long Range Plan were so closely related, could the Board discuss the Long Range Plan before the Executive Session? By consensus, the Board agreed and Mr. Smith explained each section of the Goals and Objectives and the Interim Data.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to go into the Executive Session. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mrs. Newman made a motion to come out of the Executive Session. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Following Executive Session, the Board reiterated its concerns about the program, the continued low retention rate of cadets, lack of program coordination and communication, and discussed the possibility of operating a parallel track program to increase enrollment. Mrs. Newman made a motion to address the concerns of the Board in writing to General Spears. Ms. Ammons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to recess until January 20, 2000 at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Newman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business at that time, the Board recessed at 9:45 p.m.

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING - Continued**

The Board of Trustees met on January 20, 2001 at 8:45a.m. at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Charleston, SC. **Board members present:** Ms. Suzanne Turner, Mr. Dan Smith, Ms. Lynn Ammons, Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Mrs. Frankie Newman, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Mr. Russell Hart, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Dr. Louise Scott, and Mr. Vince Rhodes. **Board members absent:** Mr. Butch Spires and Mr. Bryan England. Their absence was excused. **Staff present:** Mr. Pat Smith and Col. Sam Glover.

Mr. Hart called the Board of Trustees meeting to order again on Saturday, January 20, 2001 at 8:45 a.m.

Mr. Rhodes began the discussion by addressing the following topics:

- How to increase enrollment through marketing and recruiting strategies.
- Creating a parallel program, through contracting for certain services with the National Guard, to serve more students and maximize full utilization of dormitories.
- An apparent breakdown in communication between the National Guard and Wil Lou Gray.
- The specific role of the National Guard, as well as, the specific role of Wil Lou Gray, including the mission of Wil Lou Gray.

Mr. Hart addressed Col. Glover regarding the Board's concerns in a question and answer manner.

Mr. Hart asked Col. Glover what was his perception of the role of the National Guard? Col. Glover replied saying: (1) recruiting, that both WLG and the National Guard should jointly recruit prospective candidates; however, the National Guard did not have that job responsibility specifically; (2) post residential services, providing case managers to correspond with the mentors and the graduated cadets to ensure that the residential phase of the program remains a success; (3) to instill motivation, providing the cadets with a structured, daily routine filled with disciplinary training and goal setting; (4) partnership, working together with the cadets to help them achieve successful completion of the program; and (5) working together with WLG in coordinated and combined efforts to ensure the program is a success.

Mr. Hart asked Col. Glover what his perspective was of the role of Wil Lou Gray? Col. Glover replied saying: (1) education, providing the skills and training needed to obtain a GED, and providing the vocational skills and training needed to be successful in the workplace; (2) coordinating with the National Guard to maintain program effectiveness and to provide/oversee cadets completing the community service portion of the program; (3) teacher recruiting, make every effort to recruit qualified teachers; and (4) marketing the services offered by WLG to the community.

Mr. Hart asked Col. Glover what was his understanding of the role of the Advisory Committee? Col. Glover replied saying: The role of the Advisory Committee was to be the eyes and ears in the community, to help market the program, and to provide assistance to the National Guard as needed.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Newman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business at this time, the Board adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy Geddings