

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
August 27, 1969

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. M. B. Webb, Chairman of the Board, presiding. Rev. James Mitchell gave a prayer. Board members present were: Rev. M. B. Webb, Rev. James Mitchell, Dr. J. Carlisle Holler, Mrs. Harriet Johnson, Dr. Wil Lou Gray, Mr. Sam Jones, Dr. Cyril Busbee, Dr. Oliver Thomas, Dr. James F. Miles, and Superintendent Mike P. Caskey.

Chairman Webb indicated that parliamentary procedure would probably prohibit restricting the meeting to a particular topic, but that the meeting was called to deal with topics which might require considerable deliberation.

Dr. Miles, as chairman of a Board Committee handling leave policy, was asked to present the request of Principal James Truett Willis for leave with pay to pursue the Ph.D. degree in Adult Education at the University of Georgia. A portion of a letter from Mr. Willis was read which requested leave with pay for the Fall, Winter and Spring quarters (September-June, 1969-70) for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. This would allow Principal Willis to work at the Opportunity School on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of each week - with about one half of each week to be spent at the University of Georgia and the other half at the Opportunity School. In these three consecutive quarters Principal Willis would be able to satisfy the one year residence requirements of the University of Georgia, accumulate about 45 hours of course credit, and begin a Ph.D. thesis on the history of the Opportunity School.

There was considerable discussion of Mr. Willis' request in terms of work expected of and needed of the Principal, how this work might be done should Mr. Willis be away, how the school would fare, what the State Code provides, etc. Superintendent Caskey indicated that the work of the Principal could be absorbed by the Dean of Men, the Superintendent and others on the Staff - and although this would be an extra burden, he would prefer not to hire a replacement. Superintendent Caskey recommended that the Board approve Principal Willis' request.

Dr. Holler moved and Mr. Jones seconded the motion that Mr. Willis be brought into the meeting to discuss his request in terms of various alternatives. The motion passed and Mr. Willis came. It was brought out that in hiring Principal Willis the Board of Trustees requested that he continue his Ph.D. graduate work, in the field of Adult Education, and that Mr. Willis' leave request was aimed at satisfying the Board. Discussion of Mr. Willis' original request involved such alternatives as whether the graduate work might be completed at the University of S. C., whether the 1969-70 school year was the most appropriate time, various financial opportunities in terms of fellowships or assistantships, full-time or part-time leave, the possibility that the Board might deny the request or grant it in part or in variance from the original request, etc.

A later request from Mr. Willis was for leave for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the 1969-70 school year, at the end of which Mr. Willis would still need 15 hours of graduate study, which might be completed either at the University of South Carolina or on Saturdays at the University of Georgia without any or much loss of time at the

Opportunity School. It was brought out that his increased learning in Adult Education and his proposed Ph.D. thesis on the History of the Opportunity School would be of considerable value to the School and to the State of South Carolina. It was thought that there is no one in the State of South Carolina now with a Ph.D. degree in Adult Education. Dr. Busbee distributed to the Board copies of the State Code relative to educational leave with pay by state agencies. SI-66.1.(5).

Dr. Holler moved and Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion that Superintendent Caskey and Principal Willis be thanked for their advising with the Board and that they be excused so the Board could go into executive session. The motion passed. Mr. Jones moved and Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion that Principal James Truett Willis be granted one-half pay for graduate study leave for the Fall, Winter and Spring terms (1969-70 school year) and render such services to the Opportunity School as the circumstances warrant during this time and that Principal Willis give assurance that upon completion of the 1969-70 school year he will remain in service to the Opportunity School, if his services are otherwise satisfactory, for not less than one year or refund the one-half pay granted to him during the training period. The motion passed.

Principal Willis and Superintendent Caskey returned to the Board meeting. Principal Willis indicated that he would like to have a little time to discuss the situation with his wife before giving the Board his response. Dr. Holler moved that Principal Willis report to Superintendent Caskey and he in turn to the Board. Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion and it passed.

Dr. Holler moved that Chairman Webb appoint a three man committee to work with Superintendent Caskey concerning policy in continuing the

work of the Principal if Principal Willis is away. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it passed. Chairman Webb appointed Dr. Holler as a one-man committee for this job.

Superintendent Caskey distributed to the Board copies of the 1968-69 Annual Report of the Opportunity School and briefly pointed out certain items of enrollment, a faculty and staff award, changes in faculty, etc.

Superintendent Caskey discussed the budget for 1970-71, and asked permission to adjust upward by 5 percent those items affected by rising prices, and to increase tuition by \$5.00 per month, from \$65 to \$70 - or \$75 the first month and \$70 thereafter, or \$705 for 10 months. Dr. Holler moved and Mr. Jones seconded the motion that Superintendent Caskey make both the 5 percent and \$5 increases. The motion passed.

Dr. Holler moved that the Board adjourn at 3:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Oliver Thomas and passed. Many of the Board members remained to discuss the proposed fund-raising campaign by the S. C. Opportunity School Scholarship Foundation. No action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

James F. Miles
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Secretary of the Board