

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of September 10, 1997**

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board of Trustees convened for a called meeting on September 10, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Research and Training Center. Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Louise Scott, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Mr. Dan Smith, Mr. Russell Hart, Ms. Frankie Newman, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Betty Henderson, Ms. Suzanne-Turner Reynolds, and Mrs. Mary Williams. Board member not present was Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill. Her absence was excused. Staff present were: Mr. Pat Smith, Mrs. Gloria Woodward, Mrs. Suzanne Busenlehner, Mrs. Gloria Rawl, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Bob James, Mr. Michael Kelly, Ms. JoAnn Argoe, Ms. Barbara Price, Ms. Donna Huger, and Ms. Brenda Stork.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Scott. She stated for the record that the notice of the meeting was provided to the public in conformance with the requirement of the SC Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-80(d) of the SC Code of Laws, 1976 as amended.

The following actions were taken by the board:

A motion was made by Mr. Dan Smith to excuse the absence of Mrs. Thrailkill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Ms. JoAnn Argoe was recognized by the board as employee of the quarter. A plaque was presented to her.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Scott recommended revising the agenda to add SLED Report under old business. Under executive session she recommended adding personnel employment matters and compensation for interim superintendent. A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion was passed.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the Board Minutes of July 11, 12, 1997 and August 13, 1997 Meetings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reynolds. The motion was passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Pat Smith reported the students have responded to the Tobacco-Free Policy and Student Discipline in a positive manner. Behavior in class and on campus is noticeably improved.

He also reported the following admissions activity to date:

Total Enrollment:	62 Male and 20 Female
Ethnic Code:	51 Black and 31 White
Pay Status:	40 Pay Own Way, 19 VR and 23 Financial Assistance
Boarding/Day:	71 Boarding and 11 Day
Age Range:	(17) 15 years of age, (28) 16 years of age (22) 17 years of age, (12) 18 years of age, and (3) 19 years of age
Accepted:	47 New Students and 35 Returning Students.

13 students have been expelled since the opening of school.

<u>Category of Offense</u>	<u>Number Expelled</u>
Destruction of Property	1
Threatening/Assault	7
Accumulation of Offenses	4
Disrespect to Staff	1

Registration is held each Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Smith said we have experienced an average enrollment of 8-10 students during the last two registrations. Weekly registration will enable us to build our enrollment.

He further reported Mr. George Smith has developed a strategic plan to market the Opportunity School through traditional referral sources. To renew our referral stream, counties who have traditionally supported us have been targeted for immediate contact.

The State Auditor's Office completed the annual audit for FY 96 and conducted the exit conference. The only item that will be cited in our official report is the calculation of deferred salaries. Five employees who terminated employment in FY 96 were underpaid for a total of \$2,158. As requested, we are testing other employees who terminated for tracking. The five employees cited will be paid.

On September 4, the State Department of Education will conduct a grant review of federal programs as a part of their monitoring responsibilities.

The new phone system cut over has been completed and is fully operational. A new listing of phone numbers for the school and each employee was mailed to each board member. This system is a direct inward dialing system which allows calls to be placed directly to the employee or to the switchboard.

Mr. Smith also reported on July 17, he met with Mr. Kelly, Mr. James, and board members Dr. Scott, Dr. Efron, Ms. Diggs and Ms. Newman to tour the Poyner Adult and Community Education Center to learn about their program. An article was provided to the board.

On August 12, Mr. Smith said he met with Mr. Kelly, Mr. James, Dottie Hughes (representing VR), Greg Frahnapple (Chester Regional Administrator for DSS), Larry Cannon (Charleston

Regional Administrator for DSS) and Eugenia Beech of the Columbia DSS Office to discuss mutual interests. Our program was explained and several areas of interest were discussed from vocational to foster care. At present, their only areas of interest are foster care and teen parenting programs. Three topics of discussion must be resolved before further discussions are held: funding, licensing and favorable referral status. Ms. Beech will call and arrange another meeting after DSS resolves these issues.

The evening class programs have been very successful. To encourage participation and class attendance, teachers are developing creative classes and field trips. In addition, Psychological & Special Services has offered group activities in conflict resolution and decision making. Ms. Huger and Ms. Leopard have developed a life skills class in our school-to-work arena. A shadowing program has been implemented in conjunction with our language arts instructors who require each student to research a particular career and journal the results of that research.

An article from the Arts in Education publication about our "Arts Afire" program was previously mailed to the board. A bulletin outlining our Career Center development program is included as well.

The information on the renewal of State Board license plates was previously mailed to the board. If board members are interested, Mr. Smith asked them to return this information to him before the October 15 deadline.

Regarding student uniforms, Mr. Smith said they have a new jacket this year. The cost of the jacket and sweatshirt is \$53.03. Last year the jacket alone was \$54.60 and the Opportunity School was providing the sweatshirt at a cost of \$12.50.

Mr. Smith said Mrs. Diggs asked at the last meeting about the legality of the after school detail and staff smoking policy. He spoke with Mr. Emory Smith of the Attorney General's Office and he said there was no problem. Students would not be doing hazardous work. Also, the legal reference is noted on the smoking policy.

This concluded the superintendent's report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Henderson reported the personnel committee met. The committee recommends the following: 1. A freeze on hiring which includes part-time and temporary hiring effective immediately until student enrollment increases. If there is an emergency and a position needs to be filled, the executive committee could grant approval. 2. The executive committee will meet once per month with the interim superintendent for guidance. 3. Have faculty, staff, and students to sign a notification they are aware of the tobacco-free policy. A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the above three recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

The personnel actions were provided to the board. Mrs. Henderson reviewed same. She made a motion to ratify these personnel actions as provided. The motion was seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was passed. A copy is attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes.

The minutes of the August 13, 1997 search committee meeting were provided to the board in their folders.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Dr. Efron reported the Discipline Policy and the Tobacco-Free Regulations (JCDAAR) have been amended. Copies were provided to the board and he reviewed same. He said staff recommended including in the discipline policy prohibiting body piercing and tattooing on campus. Mr. Pat Smith recommended the following for Category III offense: "Giving or receiving a tattoo or participating in any type of body piercing on campus".

At this time Mrs. Diggs reported the program committee met. This committee is making the following three recommendations on the Discipline Policy as related to enrollment: 1. Option of 3 to 5 days at home suspension; 2. hearing committee in place; and 3. consider probationary status. Mr. Smith said staff is also recommending the staff develop a plan for consideration of students returning (in Category I and II offenses). Category III would stay as is.

Dr. Efron made a motion that the interim superintendent and a committee of his choice act as an intermediary so the student could be put on probation rather than expelled with consideration of the three recommendations made by the program committee. Mr. Dan Smith amended the motion that the policy committee, administration and staff have input into the policy and make recommendations at the next board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Williams. The motion was passed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Ms. McBride reported the budget committee met. A finance code book was provided to the committee. The committee has asked Mrs. Busenlehner to provide this information to all board members and have a seminar to explain the procedures used in state government budget. Year-to-date activities was also provided to the committee.

A list of 1998-99 budget priorities recommended by the budget committee was provided to the board. After some board discussion, the priorities were recommended as follows:

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| 1. | Communications | \$ 25,000 |
| 2. | Classroom Technology | \$ 75,000 (increased from \$50,000) |
| 3. | JROTC | \$ 51,250 |
| 4. | Dorm Furniture | \$ 125,000 |
| 5. | Central Energy Mgt. Sys. | \$ 40,000 |
| 6. | Summer Program | \$ 181,300 |
- (Evening Nurse and Replace Flooring was deleted).

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve the budget priorities as listed above. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Henderson. The motion was passed.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Hart reported this committee has not met.

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Williams reported this committee has not met.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Diggs reported she and Dr. Scott visited classrooms today. The program committee also met and their concerns are as follows: 1. Class schedule; 2. Class size; 3. Tech Prep programs have not gotten what they need but materials are being ordered; 4. There is no foreign language class at this time. Mrs. Diggs said her concern is that a foreign language is needed if students are in the diploma program. 5. Library needs equipment; 6. Possibility of English as a Second Language being offered on campus. Mr. Pat Smith distributed to the board a copy of the Life Planning for Independent Living Course (1/2 units of credit).

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Travel: Dr. Scott reported this policy was revised in July.

SCSBA Policy Update Service: After some board discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Efron not to renew this contract with the SCSBA. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Newman. The motion was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

SLED: Dr. Scott reported a copy of the SLED report from Francis A. Humphries, Jr., Deputy Solicitor of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, to Mr. Danny Myers, SLED Agent, was provided to the board. It concerns misuse of WLGOS property. She said the letter stated SLED declines prosecution of the situation as investigated because it lacks prosecutorial merit. There was no evidence of criminal intent to defraud the school or the public it serves.

Elimination of R&T Advisory Committee: After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to eliminate this board. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Henderson. The motion was passed. Mr. Mike Kelly recommended writing the Advisory Committee members thanking them for their service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and compensation for the interim superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Henderson. The motion was passed.

The board moved into executive session.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to move out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to provide the interim superintendent a supplemental compensation (as calculated by the Office of Human Resources) and free housing while he serves in this position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Hart to maintain the agency head for Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School as a Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dan Smith. The motion was passed by a majority of the board.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion was passed.

The board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Thrailkill

Elizabeth Thrailkill

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