

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF May 8, 1996 MEETING**

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Research and Training Center. Trustees in attendance were: Mrs. Olive Wilson, Mr. Russell Hart, Mrs. Faye Edwards, Dr. Marvin Efron, Dr. Louise Scott, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Mrs. Mary Williams, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Betty Henderson, and Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill. Staff present were: Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood, Ms. Gloria Lloyd, Mr. Mike Kelly, Mr. Pat Smith, Mrs. Suzanne Busenlehner, Mrs. Marleen Cassett, Ms. Deborah Haney, Col. Carpenter, Mr. Bob James and Ms. Brenda Stork.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Wilson. She 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.

Mrs. Wilson welcomed everyone including a newly elected board member, Ms. Suzanne Reynolds. Mrs. Marleen Cassett, employee of the quarter, was recognized. The board presented her with a plaque.

At this time Dr. Efron recognized Mrs. Wilson for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Opportunity School and presented a plaque to her on behalf of the board.

-Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion was passed.

-Approval of March 16, 1996 Board Minutes:

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the March 16, 1996 board minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Edwards. The motion was passed.

-Superintendent's Report: Dr. Norwood reported the following:

The Wil Lou Gray JROTC unit is nearing the end of its first successful year of operation. Since the board has not had an opportunity to meet the instructors or see any of their activities, Dr. Norwood invited them to prepare a short exhibition in front of the Research and Training Center. At this time Col. Carpenter spoke briefly to the board and the JROTC made their presentation.

The Senate has approved \$15,000 recurring funds for food services, \$165,000 for dorm furniture and equipment (includes \$65,000 for roof repairs) and \$50,000 for replacement of telephone system, school communications system and technology upgrades. The issues of difference to be settled in the conference

committee will be the additional youth counselors, communications systems and roofing repairs.

Dr. Norwood asked the board for clarification on one student admitted this year for the final quarter who will not be 15 by school opening in August. According to the board's approved policy, he could not return until the October registration. The parents were informed that this is the case prior to registering him. After board discussion, it was the general consensus of the board that this student could continue at Wil Lou Gray the next school year.

Six interns have completed training at Wil Lou Gray during the year.

Twenty-nine external group training programs have been conducted.

One student successfully completed contracted home health aide training and is scheduled for the licensing exam.

Copies of articles from the state's Artifacts publication and the neighbors section of The State featuring Wil Lou Gray's Arts Afire project were provided to the board.

Dr. Norwood further explained we have worked diligently to get our part of the Family Independence Program initiated. A letter to that effect was provided to the board. We have responded with suggestions to the first draft memoranda of agreement and will keep the board informed in future board reports.

A procedures audit for 1994-95 is scheduled to begin May 15. We do not have a completed report for 1993-94. We were told when they left last year to leave everything as it was. This notification of a new audit is the first we've heard from them since that time.

A compressor in the air-conditioning system has malfunctioned and must be replaced at a cost of \$5,061.00. We are currently operating at half cooling capacity.

Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on June 8. The Wil Lou Gray Award will be presented and Senator Setzler is scheduled to speak. As is customary the ceremonies will be followed by a luncheon in the cafeteria.

Dr. Norwood said several board members had indicated previously that they would like to provide a student award or recognition at graduation. She said she will be happy to plan for that with them and see that it happens.

This year has represented one in which the greatest number of changes ever undertaken have occurred. In reviewing our current status, it appears that we have still met our goals and performance standards or come quite close. In

addition, we have seen another escalation in difficulties students present. The successful conclusion to this school year is a credit to the cooperation and teamwork exhibited by all the staff as well as their diligence in making positive changes work.

-Standing Committee Reports:

-Policy Committee: The following policies were provided to the board and reviewed by Dr. Efron for a second reading:

GAM-R
ID
IDA
IDA-E
IDCA
IDD-E
IFAB.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the above policies for second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

-Personnel Committee: Dr. Scott reviewed Personnel Actions provided to the board. A motion was made by Dr. Scott to ratify personnel actions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion was passed.

-Foundation Committee: Mrs. Thrailkill reported the Foundation Minutes of the last meeting will be mailed to the full board.

In future reference to the budget report, Mrs. Edwards requested revenue balances be added to this report.

-OLD BUSINESS:

-Report on housing information: Mrs. Henderson recommended discussion of this information at the July board meeting.

-Additional Information on Student Uniforms for 1996-97: Ms. Haney discussed several options of student uniforms with the board. Ms. Haney said she had also discussed these options with department heads and their recommendation was to send notices to parents concerning the uniforms. The parents of each student would be responsible to purchase the pants, shirts, and shoes. The Opportunity School would sell the students the jacket with a Wil Lou Gray monogram for \$35.00. A motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the above recommendation made by department heads. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed.

-NEW BUSINESS:

-Election of Officers: The following actions were taken by the board in electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

-Chairman: Dr. Scott was nominated for Chairman by Dr. Efron. The nomination was closed. She was elected by acclamation.

-Vice-Chairman: Dr. Efron was nominated for Vice-Chairman by Mrs. Williams. Dr. Efron declined. Mr. Rhodes was then nominated by Mr. Hart for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Dr. Efron. A motion was also made by Ms. McBride to nominate Mrs. Thrailkill as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Henderson. The nominations were closed. The board voted by written ballot and Mr. Rhodes was elected Vice-Chairman.

-Secretary: Mrs. Thrailkill was nominated for Secretary by Mrs. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Henderson. Mrs. Thrailkill was elected by acclamation.

-Treasurer: Mrs. Edwards was nominated by Dr. Efron. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion. Ms. McBride was nominated by Mrs. Thrailkill. The board voted by written ballot and Ms. McBride was elected Treasurer.

-Approval of Continuing Members on the Research and Training Advisory Committee: Names for the R&T Advisory Board were provided to the board by Dr. Norwood as follows: Al Butler, Verna Green, Pam Brogdon, Pete Howell, Glenn Ward, Tad Ridgell, Linda Shirley, and Betty Davidson. A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to approve the above R&T Advisory Committee members. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Henderson. The motion was passed.

-Discussion concerning July extended meeting: The board agreed to schedule the July board meeting for Friday, July 12th and Saturday, July 13th at Embassy Suites.

-Wil Lou Gray Award Selection Committee Recommendation: Dr. Norwood asked the board for any recommendations regarding members for this Selection Committee. She said Ellen Hayden of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce has agreed to serve as well as Mrs. Roxanne Wilson of the Foundation board. Recommendations by the board were Clark Surratt, Carolyn Sawyer, Wilhelmina McBride and Dave Wright. Letters will be sent to these individuals asking them to serve.

-Recognition for Senator Setzler: Dr. Norwood showed the board a certificate of recognition that could be framed and presented to Senator Setzler at the graduation ceremony. It was the general consensus of the board to proceed with the certificate of recognition.

-EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to move into executive session for the purpose of a legal update and discussion on the agency head performance review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Henderson. The motion was passed. The board moved into executive session.

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

-No action was taken following executive session.

-A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion was passed.

-THE BOARD ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Henderson".

Betty Henderson

bgs