

THE WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MAY 2, 1984

The Board of Trustees convened for its regular meeting on May 2, 1984 in the Archives Room of the William T. Lander Administration Building at 7:15 p.m. Those Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Marvin Efron, presiding; Mrs. Hannah C. Meadors; Mr. Vince Rhodes; Mr. Clarence S. Rowland; Dr. Louise Scott; Mr. Karl Segelken; Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill; and Mrs. Olive Wilson. Those Trustees absent were: Mr. Walter Dahlgren; Miss Mary Alice Mack; Dr. James Miles; and Ms. Patricia Watt. Dr. Robert Fulmer, representing Dr. Charlie Williams was also in attendance. Staff members present were: Mr. Sam F. Drew, Jr., Superintendent; Mr. Pat G. Smith, Director of Administration; Dr. Jonnie Spaulding, Director of Student Development; Mr. George Smith, Development Officer; Mrs. Thelma Bailey, Principal; Mr. John W. King, Jr., Fiscal-Affairs Officer; and Mrs. Patricia Robbins.

Dr. Marvin Efron, Chairman, welcomed all Board members and staff to the meeting. He stated that this was the last Board meeting for three of our members. They are: Dr. James Miles; Miss Mary Alice Mack; and Mr. Karl Segelken. Mr. Karl Segelken was presented a plaque for his years of service to the Board. Plaques were also given to Mr. Drew to mail to Dr. James Miles and Miss Mary Alice Mack for their years of service. Mr. Segelken thanked the Board for the remembrance.

Dr. Efron called for the approval of the Agenda of May 2, 1984. Mr. Karl Segelken moved it be accepted. Mrs. Wilson seconded. The agenda was accepted.

Dr. Efron distributed corrected copies of the March 14, 1984 Minutes and asked that those minutes be approved. Mrs. Wilson moved that they be approved. Mrs. Meadors seconded. The Minutes of March 14, 1984 were accepted.

Dr. Efron called for the Superintendent's report. Mr. Drew first reported on the progress toward renewal of asbestos. He stated that the committee to review the A & E proposals and select an A & E firm to direct the asbestos removal, composed of Mr. Drew, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mr. Pat Smith and Mr. Bill Clement. The committee selected the firm of Westmoreland and Pitts Architects Incorporated. The price for A & E services was quoted at 6% of the project cost. The State has requested that we negotiate a flat rate cost. The approximate cost of the job remains at \$365,000. This amount has been granted by the House Ways and Means Committee.

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Mr. Drew stated that the School Improvement Assessment being conducted in our school program is nearing completion. Staff from the University of South Carolina Advisory Council Assistance project conducted structured interviews and administered a questionnaire to all instructional staff. This data is now being compiled and will be presented to the instructional staff next week. A team selected by the faculty will retreat to Hickory Knobb State Park and using the assessment data will draft a school improvement plan for 1984-85.

Mr. Drew reported next on a Foster Grandparents program to be operative for 1984-85. The program will be initiated through a cooperative agreement with the Midlands's Council on Aging. The Foster Grandparents will work with our students one on one. A minimum of ten foster grandparents are anticipated.

Mr. Drew next presented a current report on agency expenditures. He stated that the agency continued to follow its expenditure plan and that to date, revenues and expenditures were meeting projections. He further reported that there had been no additional activity with the endowment fund since the last report.

#### Personnel Action:

Mr. Drew informed the Board that a youth counselor, a nurse practitioner, and a temporary part-time counselor have been hired. Mr. Daryl Mickens has been re-classified to the position of Recreational Specialist. Dr. Efron asked Mrs. Hannah Meadors, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee for a motion from that committee. Mrs. Meadors moved that the Board of Trustees approve these new hires and personnel changes. Mr. Vince Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### Legislative Matters:

Our budget request is 50,000 more this year than last year's request. As it stands now we are going to get it.

A portrait of Dr. Gray is going to be hung in the state house. The bill has passed the House and is now awaiting passage from the Senate. The cost for the portrait is \$5,000.

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The School for the Deaf and Blind, John de la Howe and the Opportunity School got together and presented a proviso to get \$550,000 to go to their certified instructional staff. The Opportunity School will receive about \$52,000 all together counting the fringe benefits.

Mr. Drew stated that our teachers are paid on an average of 5% higher than any teachers in the surrounding districts. They will not continue to be so paid if we do not give them a raise and we would probably lose some of them. The raise will apply to all of our teachers and not just a few of them.

Standing Committee Reports:

Dr. Efron thanked Mr. Drew for his report and called for standing committee reports.

Administrative Committee:

Mr. Vince Rhodes, Chairman of the Administrative Committee, stated that his committee had no additional information at the present time.

Personnel Committee:

Mrs. Meadors, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, reported that her committee had no additional information or action other than the previous motion passed by the Board.

Program Committee:

Mrs. Wilson reported for Patricia Watt, Chairman of the Program Committee. She stated that the committee had not met.

Mission Committee:

Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill, Chairman of the Mission Committee reported that the Mission Committee had held an excellent meeting. Those present were: Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Smith, Dr. Efron and Mr. Drew. She stated that this meeting had been devoted to the current programs being offered by the Opportunity School. Mr. Bill Smith and Mr. Ben Dusenbury made brief presentations on the cooperative program being offered at the school by Vocational Rehabilitation. She stated that the committee would have a complete report after its third and final meeting. She encouraged all members to attend the final meeting and to provide input on any matters beneficial to the committee.

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Dr. Efron stated that graduation would be held Saturday, June 2, 1984, at 11:00 a.m. He also informed the Board that a James F. Miles Day would be held at the school on Saturday, July 16, to honor Dr. Miles for his years of service on the Board.

Mr. Clarence Rowland commented on the good behavior of the students he had met upon arriving at the school. It was suggested that Mrs. Anderson put a "thank you" note to the staff and faculty from the Board of Trustees in appreciation of the behavior of students.

Unfinished Business:

Dr. Efron inquired about the updating of our policy manual. Mr. Drew stated that the revisions to the manual are being completed in two phases. The staff is updating section by section according to present policy. Another phase involves the School Board Assessment. The association, through Mr. George Leventis is preparing a list of updated policies that should be in the manual. Where these are absent, a policy would be added. Mr. Drew says he plans to present the manual for Board review as soon as these two phases are completed.

Dr. Efron announced that, Mrs. Wilhelmenia McBride was elected by the Legislature as a new member of the Board of Trustees. She teaches at the Rosewood Elementary School in Columbia. Dr. Efron asked members to write a letter to the new Board members after June welcoming them to the Board. Mrs. Meadors recommended the new Board members attend the orientation meeting at the School Board Association.

The Board expressed appreciation for the food service in the cafeteria.

New Business:

No new business was conducted.

Mr. Vince Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Rowland. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

  
Ms. Patricia Watt, Secretary  
Board of Trustees