

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HICKORY KNOB STATE PARK
Minutes of January 9-10, 1998**

The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board of Trustees met on January 9-10, 1998 at 7:00 P.M. at Hickory Knob State Park. Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Louise Scott, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Libby Thrailkill, Ms. Wilhelmina McBride, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Mr. Dan Smith, Mr. Russell Hart, Mrs. Frankie Newman, Mrs. Betty Henderson, Ms. Suzanne Turner and Mrs. Mary Williams. Staff present were: Mr. Pat Smith and Mr. Bob James.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to accept the agenda. Mrs. Henderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Dr. Scott called the meeting to order. Dr. Efron made a motion to amend the minutes of the November meeting to include the approval for the advertisement for the superintendent's vacancy. Mrs. Henderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on a number of special community events the school had participated in and provided a detailed report on the success of the November 21 Parents' Day. There were 50 or more parents in attendance. The Opportunity School was the recipient of Santa's Award in the Columbia Christmas Parade. The JROTC unit marched in the Cayce-West Columbia Christmas Parade. Mrs. Donna Huger and Ms. Judith James visited the Poyner Center on December 4. Mr. George Smith developed the promotional PSA tape that was included in the Board material. Dr. Efron stated that he had attended the annual Christmas Luncheon and mentioned to the Board how enthusiastic the faculty, staff and students were. He also stated that morale and enthusiasm among staff was very high that day. Mr. Smith informed the Board that 98 students were currently enrolled.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Henderson made a motion to approve two employee resignations and two new hires. Dr. Efron seconded the motion. The motion passed.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Dr. Efron made a motion to approve the second reading of the Tobacco-Free Regulations Awareness Form for employees and students, the Student Appeals Procedure and the Cooperative Agreement Policy. Mr. Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Ms. McBride stated that the Budget Committee had not met and there would be no report for this meeting. Mr. Rhodes inquired about moving personnel service funding into operating categories. State budget regulations allow for 20% or \$50,000 to be converted from personnel into operating. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to require Board approval before moving funding from personnel service to operating. Mrs. Henderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Williams reminded the Board of the annual Wil Lou Gray Auction on March 20.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Efron stated that Leigh Bolick had called to arrange a meeting between DSS and the Opportunity School about joint programs and referrals. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 16, 1998 at 10 a.m. at the DSS State Office Building. Dr. Efron and Mrs. Diggs will attend, along with Mr. Smith.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Hart inquired if funding had been identified for metering campus housing. Mr. Smith stated that he had met with Mrs. Busenlehner and funding should be available at the end of the last quarter of FY 98 to complete installation of metering on campus housing.

WIL LOU GRAY AWARD COMMITTEE

Mrs. Newman reported that April 15 is the deadline for nominations for the Wil Lou Gray Award. May 15 the nominee will be announced and the award will be presented at Graduation on June 6. Mrs. Newman asked the Board to nominate the Selection Committee at the March Board meeting. Mrs. Newman agreed to chair the committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mrs. Henderson seconded the motion. No action was taken. The meeting will re-convene at 8:30 a.m. on January 10, 1998.

WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (CONT.)
HICKORY KNOB STATE PARK
JANUARY 10, 1998

The meeting re-convened at 8:40 a.m. on January 10. The Board began the meeting by discussing use of the Ropes Course. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to have two (2) staff trained as instructors. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Board, by consensus, requested the re-location of the Admissions Office to the PSS Department.

Mr. James arrived to discuss the academic program. Mr. James asked the Board to clarify which group of students the agency would serve. He said that would dictate the type of academic programs to be provided. Mr. James briefed the Board on student assessment when they enter in order to determine placement, and led the Board in discussion on curriculum framework. Dr. Efron asked if any changes were forthcoming in the academic program for the next school year.

Mrs. Diggs made a motion to seek approval from the State Department of Education for the Adult Education Model for the coming school year (1998-1999) and to include 15 year olds in that approval. Mrs. Thrailkill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Efron made a motion to have Mr. Smith report on vocational course offerings at the March meeting of the Board. Mr. Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Hart made a motion for Mr. Smith to submit plans for a summer program and a staggered teacher schedule at the March meeting. Mrs. Henderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

To correctly place students in classes at appropriate academic levels, Mrs. Henderson made a motion to have Mr. Kelly and the PSS Department assume all testing for reading and math inventories. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mrs. Newman expressed an interest in upgrading commencement exercises. By consensus, the Board appointed Mrs. Newman to serve as liaison to the Graduation Committee.

Mr. Smith reminded the Board of the Legislative Drop-in on February 4, 1998, at 8:00-10:00 a.m. in Room 208 of the Blatt Building, Columbia.

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned.