

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 1989**

The Board of Trustees convened for a scheduled meeting on March 15, 1989, in the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Research and Training Center. Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Louise Scott, Mrs. Olive Wilson, Mrs. Wilhelmina McBride, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mrs. Mickey Lindler, Mr. Vince Rhodes, Mrs. Hannah Meadors, and Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill. Staff members present were: Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood, Mr. Bob James, Mr. Pat Smith, Mr. John King, Mrs. Jane Zenger, Mr. George Smith, Ms. Marjorie Sanders, Mr. Richard Guess, and Mrs. Brenda Stork. A group of students from the Opportunity School also attended.

Dr. Scott called the meeting to order and at this time she stated for the record that 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. Notice of the meeting was published in The State Newspaper, The Columbia Record in Columbia, The Journal in Lexington, and The Lexington Dispatch in Lexington.

Dr. Scott welcomed everyone including a group of Wil Lou Gray students and staff member Mr. Guess. At this time she introduced Dr. Gail Breedlove from the University of South Carolina and welcomed her to the meeting.

Dr. Scott then called for approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes that the agenda be adopted as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. Dr. Scott stated she would like to amend the agenda to add the report of the Foundation Committee under Ad Hoc Committees. This committee report would be presented by Mrs. Meadors.

A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson that the agenda be adopted as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thrailkill. The motion was passed.

The next order of business was approval of the minutes of the January 11 board meeting. Dr. Scott recommended that "No action was needed" be added at the end of paragraph 5 on page 7 of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meadors to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

At this time Dr. Scott called on Dr. Norwood for the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Norwood said she wanted the board to get acquainted with the Peer Counselors, a very special group of students of the Opportunity School. She introduced Ms. Sanders, Psychologist, and Mr. Guess, Counselor, of our staff and at this time called on them to make their presentation. Mr. Guess presented to the board the viewing of a video which was taken of the Ropes Course of the Opportunity School students. The Ropes Course is a part of Project Journey - a program sponsored by the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council. Mr. Guess said this video was taken as part of the life planning series on Carolina Today Show. The video was shown to the board at this time. The students then introduced themselves. Ms. Sanders and Frank White, student, talked about a dinner and activities they had for the retarded citizens of Lexington. Mr. White said they are also planning an Easter Egg hunt for them. On behalf of the board, Dr. Scott said she was proud of the work being done by the staff and students. She thanked the students for attending. The students were dismissed at this time to attend other activities.

Next, Dr. Norwood talked about our efforts to get a grant funded on drop-out prevention through a vocational program. She called on

Mrs. Zenger to explain the grant. At this time Mrs. Zenger explained the application is for a \$368,000 federal grant to fund SWAP (School/Work Apprentice Program) which will be a cooperative vocational program for at-risk students. She further explained the goal was to expand the present Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School drop-out prevention program to include components of another proven project (i.e. the New York City Dropout Prevention Program) and to demonstrate that such a cooperative school work program will increase the probability that students who would otherwise become a burden to society will graduate from an academic program, get a job, or continue their education. Mrs. Zenger said this was an eighteen month grant with the possibility of extending it to 36 months. A copy of the grant was provided to the board and she reviewed the objectives, activities, and timeline. She said she would be glad to provide the board with a copy of the complete evaluation upon their request.

Mrs. Zenger said we would also be working with a teleconference. At this time Mrs. Meadors explained the national teleconference is sponsored by the Advisory Committee for the National Drop-out Prevention Center. It will be produced locally and televised here at ETV on April 27 at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Zenger will be on site there. The teleconference will go through all of the TEC systems across the state. Mrs. Meadors said she will be hosting the Greenville site. She said it will be taped so that we could use it at a later time. Mrs. Meadors said if any of the board members were interested they should contact the TEC system.

Dr. Norwood then called on Mr. James to present the summer plans to the board. Mr. James provided the board with a copy of the Summer Plans for the Opportunity School and reviewed same. He explained we have planned three, one week sessions for academics which will be combined with athletic camp type program. Each week, three hour sessions per morning will focus on SAT/Basic Skills preparation. Afternoon sessions will offer specialized athletic training as follows: June 16 - 30 wrestling will be conducted by Mr.

Randolph Cooper. July 10 - 14 strength development and weight lifting will be conducted by Mr. Randolph Cooper. July 17 - 21 Baseball will be conducted by Tommy Williams, baseball coach at Lexington High School.

Mr. James also reported that we currently have 168 students enrolled. He said we have a student 64 years of age who is enrolled in building construction.

Dr. Norwood then called on Mr. King for a budget report. Copies of the budget report were previously mailed to the board. Mr. King also provided the board with a copy of the Current Status Report of FY 89-90 Budget Request which he reviewed with the board. Copies of these reports are attached as a permanent part of these minutes.

Dr. Norwood brought the board's attention to additional information included in their folders, i.e. Research & Training Center Spotlight, Opportunity School Personnel Directory, and information on the forum which is scheduled for April 13. Dr. Norwood invited the board to attend. There were no questions from the board. This concluded the Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Scott thanked Mrs. Zenger for her hard work on the grant and the R & T Spotlight. She also thanked Mr. George Smith for his presentation before the Senate Education Committee concerning inclusion of information about the school in highway department communications if the bill requiring school attendance to retain a driver's license is passed.

Dr. Scott next called for Committee Reports. In reference to the Personnel Report, Dr. Efron explained that a copy of this report was previously submitted to the board for their review. He said he was submitting these Personnel Actions to the board for their approval. A motion was made by Dr. Efron that the board implement the Personnel Actions as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed. A copy of the report is attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes. Dr. Efron also informed the board that he had talked with Dr. Norwood and the Personnel Committee would meet with her after the board meeting to establish personnel workings with the administration.

Next, Dr. Scott called on Mr. Rhodes for a report from the Program Committee. Mr. Rhodes said the board received in their packet an overview of the vocational programs at the Opportunity School. Mr. Rhodes also said he felt it would be helpful for a vocational instructor make a short presentation to the board about the vocational courses. He also said he would like the Opportunity School to continue to expand this particular area of our overall program.

There was no report given from Ms. McBride on the Budget Committee.

Next, Dr. Scott called on Mrs. Wilson for the Ad Hoc Committee Report on Policy Revisions. Mrs. Wilson reviewed the second draft of the Method of Election policy as amended at the last meeting. After some discussion among the board, a motion was made by Dr. Efron to approve the second draft of this policy as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lindler. The motion was passed.

Dr. Scott said the remaining policies CGD, Employment of Staff, GBJ, Reclassifying Employees, and GBRG, Employee Employment Outside of the Agency, were approved as presented at the last board meeting.

In reference to policy GBRG, Employee Employment Outside of the Agency, Dr. Norwood reported that she developed a form and surveyed staff requiring information on dual employment as requested by the board. The results of this survey indicated there were ten cases of other employment. None of these were in another state agency. She said there were none that she would not feel justified in approving or any that would interfere with the work of

staff already here. Dr. Norwood further explained that she felt it was not necessary to recommend a grandfather clause at this time.

Next, Dr. Norwood brought the board's attention to the preliminary draft for procedures on operating the Research and Training Center which they previously received. She asked the board for any suggestions or alterations they may have concerning these procedures. Mrs. Thrailkill asked if all of the slots had been filled on the Advisory Committee. Mrs. Zenger said we could have as many as twenty slots but at this time we do not have that amount. There was some discussion among the board. It was suggested to add "or other population served by the school" on (f) under activities. After further discussion including certification, Dr. Efron said he had talked with Dr. Lackey concerning certification and Dr. Efron suggested that Dr. Lackey be invited to the next board meeting so that he could respond to these policies.

Dr. Scott said she felt the Policy Committee and the Foundation Committee should be standing committees in lieu of ad hoc committees. Dr. Efron made a motion that the Policy Committee and the Foundation Committee be standing committees. The motion was seconded by Ms. McBride. The motion was passed.

At this time Dr. Scott called on Mrs. Meadors for a report on Foundation Committee. Mrs. Meadors said the board would find in their packets an updated list of Foundation members as they requested. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation was also provided to the board and she asked the board to become familiar with these procedures. Mrs. Meadors also said she had talked with Dr. Norwood and Mr. George Smith about having a meeting to establish some specific goals. She also said she talked with Mr. Smith about an article in the Anderson paper about Mrs. Bush. Mrs. Bush is connected with the Gray family. Mrs. Meadors and Mr. Smith would like to propose that they ask her to be an honorary director of the Foundation. She said she would send the board members a copy of the article. Dr. Scott thanked Mrs. Meadors for her report.

The next item on the agenda was Facility Recommendations. Dr. Scott called on Mr. Rhodes for this report. On behalf of the Facilities Study Committee, Mr. Rhodes made the following recommendations:

- Move the Public Safety Officer, Mr. Hanger, to the house next to the Research and Training Center

- The apartments will be utilized for guest housing an/or transition students, as well as office space for the School for the Deaf and Blind.

- It was recommended that F Dormitory be utilized as a RAP Dorm so that A Dorm could be available for additional female students. Mr. Rhodes said he discussed this with Mr. Dusenbury and he decided they would share this part. There are seven rooms toward the auditorium that will house as many as twelve people if the laundry room is used for staff. This would give us the opportunity to open Dorm A. Mr. Rhodes said he would notify Dr. Norwood when these rooms were vacated which would be approximately one month.

- Dr. Norwood said Mr. Richard Guess has moved into the house which was previously occupied by Mr. Al Johnson. Dr. Norwood said we also had a request from Mr. Robert Brewer, our weekend safety officer who is employed with us regularly during the week in maintenance. He has asked about the housing that Mr. Hanger will vacate. She said she felt this would be to our advantage. In reference to the payment of staff housing, Dr. Norwood reviewed policy EBH, Campus Housing Policy.

- In reference to a child care center, Mr. Rhodes explained they had looked at the entire school to make room for a program with exits, capability for bathroom facilities, etc. Mr. Pat Smith explained in order to meet the guidelines for a child care facility in one of the houses on campus, each hall would have to be widened to 45 to 48 inches or there would have to be a direct exit door in each room. He felt this would cause a tremendous structural change in each house and felt this would not be practical. Mr. Rhodes said they located space in the school building suitable for this type of facility.

Dr. Norwood said they also discussed the nominal charge on staff housing. When Mr. Guess moved in, they charged \$135.00 which was established by the board in 1982 or 1983. After some discussion among the board, Dr. Scott asked the Facility Study Committee to review the proviso and make a recommendation to the board as to any changes that need to be made in reference to the Fair Market price.

Under old business on the agenda, Dr. Scott called on Dr. Norwood to discuss the board travel status. She explained she researched the minutes regarding decisions made about this year's amount of travel. She did not find this information in the minutes, but in policy regulations, BBBC-R, issued 9/88, outlined the procedures under which the board would operate regarding travel funds. Dr. Norwood reviewed this policy which is attached as a permanent part of these minutes. She said she reviewed this year's expenditures and the budget they had outlined for themselves and looked at what the actual expenses were for a meeting in terms of per diem and travel. After breaking this out, looking at the number of regular board meetings, providing funds for two other meetings for each board member, and then adding an additional amount to cover an added trip for the Chairman in preparation for each meeting coming up, she came up with a figure that would meet their normal meeting needs each year in the amount of \$6,300.00. Out of the total amount the board had budgeted and remained unexpended and including the fees that were already paid out for travel and registration at the National School Boards Conference for those attending, they had \$3,169.55 remaining. According to these figures, the board would need to complete the year in terms of the regular meetings - \$1,315.72 which would leave a balance of \$1,853.83 which should cover expenses for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Scott asked Ms. McBride and the budget committee to work with Dr. Norwood on the budget for next year and provide the board with this information. Dr. Scott also said several board members have asked about having another retreat. If the board is interested in



having a retreat, she asked the budget committee to be sure the money for the retreat is allocated and specified in the budget. Several board members said they felt a retreat would be valuable. Dr. Norwood suggested a planning committee be appointed for the retreat.

At this time Dr. Scott called on Dr. Norwood to provide a briefing on cooperative efforts with other school districts. She said she had had some interesting discussions with surrounding school districts and particularly Lexington County School District Two. Dr. Norwood said we have completed an agreement with Lexington Two and the objectives include a) Provision for placement of "at-risk" students at Airport and Brookland-Cayce High Schools at the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School, and b) Provision for placement (in designated vocational classes) of students from Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School at Airport and Brookland-Cayce High Schools. Special Criteria includes:

- Lexington District Two students who are candidates for the program will be screened by a committee composed of the principal of each high school and his/her designee before final placement. District level administration will be represented by the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction or his/her designee.

- Accreditation details will be worked out prior to final placement.

- Placement procedures for Lexington Two students must include parental/guardian permission before entry.

- Students from Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School who attend Airport or Brookland-Cayce High Schools will not have an eligible status according to the South Carolina High School League for participation in any extracurricular activities.

- Students from Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School will be expected to abide by all rules and regulations of Lexington School District Two.

- Students from Airport or Brookland-Cayce High School will be expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

-Students from Airport and Brookland-Cayce High Schools entering Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School will be counted as present at the "sending" school until such time that said student is not in attendance at the Opportunity School. Notification of this attendance will be verified by the Opportunity School attendance personnel on a weekly basis for EFA accounting purposes.

-Transportation will be worked out on an individual basis for students from Airport and Brookland-Cayce High Schools.

Dr. Norwood said we found the agreement appropriate and their board has received this as information. She also added that she has met with all of the Lexington County Superintendents and we are receiving a number of referrals from them. Dr. Scott said the board appreciated the effort that has been made to have this collaborative effort with other school districts.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the 1989-90 Academic Calendar. After some board discussion, the decision was made to amend policy AE, School Year, from 190 instructional days plus ten in-service days to follow guidelines of the Defined Minimum Program and the EIA which is 180 school days with five in-service and five work days. A motion was made by Dr. Efron to modify policy AE reflecting the Defined Minimum Program. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed. Dr. Norwood said the calendar as presented to the board would basically be the same except for the amendments to meet payroll dates and to change the number of instructional days.

At this time, on behalf of the board Mrs. Wilson thanked Mr. James and his staff for their long hours of work during the snow.

Mrs. Thrailkill thanked Dr. Norwood for the board communication reports she has been preparing for them between board meetings. The board said this report was very helpful to them.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Rhodes to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

After executive session a motion was made by Dr. Efron for the board to move out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motion was passed. No further action was taken by the board.

A motion was made by Dr. Efron for the board to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wilson. The motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mickey Lindler".

Mickey Lindler

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