

WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF MEETING ON MAY 12-13, 1981

The Board of Trustees convened for its regular bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 1981, at 6:05 in the Archives Room of the William T. Lander Administration Building. Trustees in attendance were: Dr. Marvin Efron, presiding; the Reverend James B. Mitchell; Mrs. Anne T. Boyce; Mrs. Jack Wilson; Dr. M. B. Webb; Dr. J. C. Holler; Dr. Louise Scott; Mr. James McClary; Mr. Karl Segelken; also, Mr. John W. King; Ms. Gloria Lloyd; Dr. Jonnie Spaulding; Mr. Pat Smith; and Mr. Salvatore A. Feder. Absent were: Mr. Clarence S. Rowland; Miss Mary Alice Mack; and Dr. James F. Miles.

Dr. Efron called the meeting to order. He expressed the regrets of the Board members not present. Dr. Efron reminded the Board that Mrs. Ann Riley would visit the campus tomorrow (May 13). She would arrive at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Webb led the invocation.

Dr. Holler moved that an executive session be added to the Agenda on May 13 to discuss personnel matters. Motion seconded by Mr. McClary. Approved.

The Reverend Mitchell moved that we adopt the agenda as amended to include the executive session. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion. Approved.

Mrs. Jack Wilson moved that the Minutes of the March 11, 1981 Meeting be adopted as printed. Dr. Holler seconded the motion. Approved.

Dr. Efron then asked the board committees to discuss the school responses to the Annual School Report. Dr. Efron reminded the committee chairpersons that the Executive Committee would meet at 8:30 a.m. the following morning.

Following the Executive Committee Meeting, the Board of Trustees re-convened on Wednesday, May 13, 1981, at 9:00 a.m. in the Archives Room. Those in attendance were: Dr. Marvin Efron, presiding; Mrs. Anne T. Boyce; Dr. J. C. Holler; Mr. James McClary; the Reverend James B. Mitchell; Mr. Clarence S. Rowland; Dr. Louise Scott; Mr. Karl Segelken; Dr. M. B. Webb; and Mrs. Jack Wilson. Also, in attendance were the following teachers: Mrs. Vivian Brackett; Mrs. Karen Chasteen; Mrs. Charlene Trapp; Mrs. Denise Hoce; and Miss Mary Janet Janicki. Also, Miss Rosalie Dattero, Director of Cottage Life; Dr. Milton Kimpson, representing the Governor's Office; Mrs. Lisa Peeples, Chairperson of

the School Advisory Council; Dr. Jonnie Spaulding; Mr. Pat Smith; Miss Gloria Lloyd; Mr. John King; Mr. Salvatore A. Fede; Mrs. Demaris Ayers, author of a biography of Dr. Wil Lou Gray; and Mrs. Patricia T. Robbins.

Dr. Efron introduced Miss Dattero and asked her to brief the Board of Trustees about the beauty pageant that was to be presented tomorrow evening, May 14. Miss Dattero discussed the pageant and indicated that the winner would receive \$100.00, the first runner-up \$20.00, and the third runner-up \$15.00. Miss Dattero also informed the Board of Trustees about the formal dance the students had on campus, how good they looked, and how much they enjoyed the dance. Persons present at the meeting were given an opportunity by Ms. Dattero to contribute to the pageant prizes.

Mrs. Brackett, teacher, stated that she and Mrs. Trapp, teacher, had planned and presented International Day for the students of Wil Lou Gray. They had asked different people to come out to the school and provide different international entertainment for our students. This entertainment consisted of such things as Scottish dancing, belly dancing, karate, square dancing (by our students), and a number of other types of entertainment such as a magician on stage. Also, a legs contest in which staff participated was held. The students enjoyed the entertainment very much and so did the staff.

Mrs. Chasteen, teacher, told the Board of the Project of selling cookbooks. The cookbooks are entitled, "The Wil Lou Gray Cookbook." She said that the book is well done and has many excellent recipes in it that were contributed by the staff. She indicated that she is well pleased with the results of the sales. The cost of the book is \$2.00 per copy.

Mr. Fede told the Board that Mrs. Bailey, Principal, was in charge of the 1981 Graduation Program and Mrs. Bechtler, Alumni Affairs Secretary, was in charge of the Alumni Luncheon. The program for each activity was distributed to each board member.

Mr. Fede told the Board that the Opportunity School will not be the site for the University of South Carolina summer exceptional education program. The program will be held in Richland County, as most of the students attending this program are from Richland County.

The Board was reminded that this summer the Vocational Rehabilitation Department will utilize our campus facilities for conducting diagnostic evaluations.

They were told that a local real estate agent, Mr. Carrol E. McGee, had called the Opportunity School and said we could purchase a tract of land adjacent to the school and fronting on Platt Springs Road for \$55,000.00. The acreage is 3.7. This action will be referred to the

Fiscal, Facilities and Supportive Services, and Personnel Committee.

The Board was informed that the former house of Mrs. Bechtler could be renovated in its present arrangement for \$1,500.00; two apartments \$19,000.00; three apartments for the amount of \$37,000.00. These figures are all estimated prices. Another suggestion the Board might wish to consider would be to use the apartment as a child care activity.

It was reported that we have a very low enrollment in the school's evening Adult Education program. The ratio is about three to five students per class. The teaching staff has gone from four to two teachers at night. Mr. Fede suggested that the applicable Board Committees consider the advisability of continuing this program in the present format.

Mr. Fede further reported that the Travelers Protection Association has notified us that it will be able in the near future to provide funds for our students who may need travel money.

Mr. Fede said that the school has received an "All-Clear" from the State Department of Education. The percentage of schools that have an "All-Clear" from the State Department of Education is approximately 85%.

Mr. McClary, Chairman of the Student Services Committee, presented its report. Dr. Spaulding, Mr. Hoce, and Miss Sanders attended this committee meeting and discussed the activities of the students. The students seem to be a better quality student, to have more enthusiasm, and the staff seems to have more enthusiasm toward the students. A priority goal of this committee is to hire more dormitory counselors when the budget will permit. The staff serves the students very well considering the limited number of counselors that we do have at present. There is, at present, a deaf person who works with the deaf clients at night. He is employed by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

Miss Sanders reported that the Guidance Service is going well. Approximately 70% of our students use alcohol and drugs. Approximately 25% of our student body need counseling in this area. Our students would be more likely to attend the counseling if we had the program on our campus. At this point Dr. Kimpson, from the Governor's Office, informed the Board it now appears that the Title XX monies funding the drug and alcohol program will be cut drastically.

Mr. McClary made the motion to commend Mr. Hoce and his staff for their work in the dormitories with our students. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. McClary moved that we put the position of a full time counselor for students on drugs in our 1982-83 budget plan. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. McClary moved that the school responses to Annual School Reports be approved. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. Approved.

Mrs. Wilson reported that the Education Committee met at 8:15 p.m. on May 12. Mrs. Wilson reported that (1) a few of our teachers had difficulty in getting supplies this year, (2) some teachers had experienced lack of time to spend with individual students, (3) a few teachers had overcrowded classrooms, (4) teachers have approximately one minute and seventeen seconds a day to spend with each student, (5) a few teachers said that when they have low level classes they may prepare for as many as six preparations a day, (6) some teachers expressed the concern about having to get a Special Education certification when they had been working on their Adult Education certification, (7) a few teachers are concerned that the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School might be turning into a school for the handicapped, (8) some teachers asked, "was the money not already appropriated in the budget for the teachers to teach this summer?"

Mr. Fede advised the board it had approved deletion of the summer program as part of the Governor's 7% budget reduction.

Mrs. Hoce, teacher, asked why the 7% cut had come out of the summer school funds? Also, why had a part-time clerk been made into a full-time employee when the budget was in such a tight financial position?

Mrs. Wilson further stated that the teachers had expressed their desire to draw their paychecks over a period of twelve months instead of the nine months as some of them were such poor managers. Mrs. Wilson said that one of our teachers, who had been teaching here for quite some time, told her she felt that she almost has to attend these board meetings for fear of something happening to her beloved school.

Ms. Wilson moved that the Board go on record as commending Ms. Bailey for her part in obtaining the rating of "All-Clear." Dr. Holler seconded the motion. Approved.

Dr. Holler, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, said we should define the goals and objectives for our employees. He further stated that Mr. (G.) Smith's major function was working through the schools, having contact with the schools, and having contact with the schools to create an image of the services our school can offer to the student.

Mrs. Scott stated she thought the job of a recruiter was to recruit. Dr. Holler said there was no rationale as to why the job description should change. Mr. Segelken asked why had Mr. (G.) Smith's visiting stopped? Mr. Fede said he had asked Mr. (G.) Smith to stay close to the school this year. Mr. McClary said he thought we should continue to send Mr. Smith out to recruit. Various board members cautioned that the State Legislature would not fund the money for a student recruiter, therefore, the board titled the position-Public Relations to receive the funds. We do not want to lose this position

because then we would lose the funds. Dr. Efron said he thought the fruits of Mr. (G.) Smith's work were now being seen in the kind of students we were getting at the school. Mrs. Peeples said that so many people in the state were not familiar with the work of the school and that Mr. Smith created an awareness of the school and the purpose for which the school exists.

Dr. Holler reminded the Board that the school was a state wide institution. We should remember that while we are cultivating the local people of Springdale, and keeping their opinion of the school high, that we are a state institution. Dr. Holler thought that sharing the night school program with other agencies was a good stepping stone to getting involved with the local people. By serving the needs of the community we are in, he said, we would gain the goodwill of the people in this area. This could be a pilot program gaining local goodwill.

Dr. Holler moved that this be accepted. Mrs. Jack Wilson seconded. Approved.

Dr. Holler moved that the Board commend Mr. (G.) Smith for his recruiting effort. Seconded by Mr. Segelken. Approved. ✓

Dr. Holler moved that the school responses to the Annual School Report be approved. Seconded by Ms. Wilson. Approved.

Mr. Rowland asked how many students entered the school as a result of Mr. Smith's recruitment. The figure of 78 students from the total enrollment of the previous year was conjectured but not verified. A figure of 60 students was conjectured but not verified from this year's present enrollment.

Dr. Scott, Chairman, Fiscal, Facilities and Supportive Services, and Personnel Committee, reported that the teachers' evaluations were completed. The remaining staff will have their evaluations completed throughout the year. Every person will be given an opportunity to conduct a self-evaluation and then meet with their supervisor to discuss the self-evaluation and the supervisor's evaluation.

Dr. Scott further reported that Miss Lloyd had attended an Affirmative Action Conference, and that this conference addressed the School's Affirmative Action Plan and the School's Staff Disciplinary Policy. Both policies were adopted in 1978 and have inconsistencies. These policy plans will be revised expeditiously by Ms. Lloyd.

The Fiscal Affairs Committee said the auditors had completed the 1979-80 audit and were working on the 1980-81 audit. We have made the 7% reduction and now are in the process of making the additional 2.5% reduction, as required by the Budget and Control Board. Also, the equipment money, that has not been spent, has been frozen by the State

Budget and Control Board.

Dr. Scott moved that the school responses to the Annual School Report and the school's Staff Development plans be approved. Seconded by Ms. Wilson. Approved.

The naming of some buildings was brought up and it was suggested that Mr. James McClary, Dr. John Holler, and Dr. J. T. Willis have their names placed on designated buildings. Dr. Holler asked if it was appropriate for the Board to name the buildings, since Dr. Miles, chairman of this committee, is presently ill and unable to attend to this. Dr. Holler suggested that we wait on naming any buildings until Dr. Miles returns.

Mr. Rowland moved that we take no further action on the naming of buildings until we check with Dr. Miles. Dr. Holler seconded the motion. Approved.

The Executive Committee did not have a report to make at this time.

Mrs. Wilson and Dr. Holler presented their reports on Ms. Ayres' manuscript on the life of Dr. Wil Lou Gray. They expressed their desire for the book to be published with a few changes. Dr. Efron asked that Dr. Holler and Mrs. Wilson continue to work with Ms. Ayres on this project. Dr. Holler said that he would be out of the country for a good part of this summer. Mrs. Boyce said, when her schedule permits, she would help Ms. Wilson.

Unfinished Business: Dr. Efron pointed out that a meeting of the Board Chairman and School Superintendents from The John De La Howe School, The School for the Deaf and Blind at Cedar Springs, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School had still not come about. He asked Mr. Fede to follow up on this.

New Business: The Governor appointed heads of certain agencies to form a Children's Coordinating Cabinet for total children's services. Dr. Efron, Mr. Fede, and Dr. Spaulding represent the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. This was reported by Dr. Efron.

A discussion followed, concerning the frequency of Board meetings. Dr. Scott moved that the Board continue their bi-monthly meetings as it had in the past and further moved that the committees meet on the same day of the Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Holler seconded the motion. Approved.

Dr. Scott moved that the July 8 committee meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. and that the regular Board meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Boyce. Approved.

Dr. Efron stated that the future holds some rough times for the state. He said that he would like to have Mr. Joe S. Dusenbury, Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation, appointed as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Holler said that he believed the law stated that a person could not hold more than one position with the state, for honor or profit.

Mr. Rowland said that the Board needed time to study the recommendation of making Mr. Dusenbury an ex-officio of the Board. Mr. Segelken also suggested that he would like to have time to study the recommendation before he made a decision as to whether to approve Mr. Dusenbury as an ex-officio member of the Board.

Dr. Scott moved not to vote on the issue of electing Mr. Dusenbury as an ex-officio of the Board until a letter could be sent to the State Attorney General. The Board could then discuss the issue and vote on it at a later time. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. Approved. Mr. Fede indicated he would prepare this letter for Dr. Efron's signature.

The Board then went into Executive Session. Everyone was dismissed except the Board of Trustees and Mr. Fede, the Superintendent.

Two personnel actions were discussed. Files of these personnel actions are in the office of the Personnel Director.

A discussion followed concerning the CETA Audit of 1978, the audits of 79-80 and 80-81, and the audit of the allegations now being investigated by the State Auditor's Office. Mr. Fede was then excused.

Following the second executive session, a letter of appreciation and commendation from the Board of Trustees was forwarded to the Superintendent. A copy of this letter is attached.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.


James McClary, Secretary
Board of Trustees