

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 10, 1976

The regular quarterly meeting of the S. C. Opportunity School Board of Trustees met on March 10, 1976 at 10:00 AM. Present at the meeting were the following: Dr. M. B. Webb; Chairman; Mrs. John S. Boyce, Jr.; Dr. Marvin Efron; Dr. J. C. Holler; Dr. James F. Miles; the Reverend James B. Mitchell; Dr. Oliver Thomas; Dr. Wil Lou Gray; and Dr. J. T. Willis.

The Reverend Mitchell gave the Invocation.

Dr. Efron moved that the reading of the minutes of the January 28, 1976 meeting be dispensed with since all members had a copy. Dr. Miles seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted as printed.

Dr. Miles moved that the agenda be approved as proposed. Dr. Holler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Building Committee: Dr. Willis stated that the NAPCAE report was adopted by the Board on January 28, 1976. Dr. Efron moved that Dr. Webb review the recommendations contained in the report and assign each of them to appropriate committees of the Board, either standing committees or special committees. The committees will study the recommendations and report to the Board of Trustees at their regular quarterly meeting in May. Particular attention should be given to the target population the school should serve, programs to be continued, and the Carnegie Unit program. Dr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Education Committee: Dr. Efron reported that the Committee met on March 9, 1976 at 7:00 PM. Dr. Willis discussed with the Committee Adult Performance Level materials that have been recommended by the Office of Adult Education for use in the summer school program this year. The school is planning to use them, and the teachers are being trained in their use. Dr. Efron reported that the Minimum Defined Program was of much concern to the school teaching staff. It is causing problems in scheduling and in financing. The Education Committee was asked to work with Dr. Willis in preparing requests for changes in the program. These changes will be requested of the State Board of Education after they have been presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The Cooperative Agreement for operation of the Vocational Rehabilitation Evaluation Center on the school campus was discussed. Mr. Dixon, Manager of Business Affairs, had studied the agreement at the request of Dr. Willis and made several observations and recommendations for changes. He stated that the Opportunity School is now contributing 42 per cent of the operating budget and Vocational Rehabilitation is contributing 58 per cent. He said that the agency contributing the highest percentage of the budget is the controlling agency. Also, for at least the last five years, the school has contributed more than the state has appropriated for the school's matching share. This excess over appropriations came from institutional revenue. Mr. Dixon proposed three alternate funding arrangements: 1) The school will fund 51 per cent of the budget and Vocational Rehabilitation will fund 49 per cent. This arrangement will give the school controlling interest. 2) The school will fund 42 per cent and Vocational Rehabilitation will fund 58 per cent, but the school will not pay more than that appropriated by the Legislature. 3) Vocational Rehabilitation will be responsible for the total budget of the facility. The school will rent the building to

Vocational Rehabilitation and charge it for utilities, etc. Much discussion ensued relative to the advantages of and the disadvantages of each proposal. Consensus of opinion was that Alternate 1 would be best for the school, but it was doubtful that Vocational Rehabilitation would enter into such an agreement. It was concluded that Alternate 2 should be the proposal by the school with Vocational Rehabilitation being placed in a position to either be cooperative not rather than the school being placed in that position. Mr. Dixon proposed 4 additional statements to the agreement: 1) The Evaluation Center of Vocational Rehabilitation shall be responsible for all clients in Evaluation between the hours of 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM. It was pointed out that the Evaluation Center staff will get students out of class for a period or two or will schedule them into the center for entire days but will then excuse them to roam the campus, classroom building and dormitories. 2) The Opportunity School will provide emergency transportation for diagnostic clients after 5:00 PM. All other transportation will be provided by the staff of the Evaluation Center or the client. It was stated that the school is spending many hundreds of dollars annually to transport students to the bus stations, the doctor, Mental Health, Social Security office and elsewhere. 3) The Evaluation Center will be charged at the rate of \$4.50 per calendar day for a minimum of 40 clients. The Cooperative Agreement requires the school to make available at all times beds for 40 clients, but much of the time, the Center will have fewer clients in the facility. Mr. Dixon presented a table showing how much less the school has received this school year from the Evaluation Center than the agreement called for. 4) The school staff will advise the staff of the Evaluation Center of all discipline problems involving clients of the regular rehabilitation program, and those in the Evaluation Center. It was pointed out that the school does this now, but it should be written into the agreement.

Dr. Holler moved that Dr. Willis and Mr. Dixon write the Cooperative Agreement including the four additions recommended by Mr. Dixon and limiting the school's share of the budget to the amount appropriated by the Legislature. Also, that the agreement be presented to the Board at its next regular meeting for approval to demonstrated that Board action was behind it. Dr. Willis mentioned that often he had proposed changes in the agreement or questioned certain practices of proposals by Vocational Rehabilitation and it had been interpreted by Vocational Rehabilitation that he was being un-cooperative. It was for this reason that it would seem good for the agreement to be by Board action as well as the fact that it is the Board's authority to make such an agreement. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Dixon recommended a change in fees charged to students. The fee for a boarding student would be increased from \$855 to \$950 yearly. Of this, the registration fee would be increased from \$5.00 to \$20.00 and the room and board would be \$3.00 per day beginning with the day that the student registered until the day that he withdrew. Vocational Rehabilitation would continue to pay \$4.50 daily for boarding students in the Evaluation Center and \$3.00 daily for commuting students in the Evaluation Center. Commuting students in the regular program would pay \$40.00 per calendar month. Dr. Efron moved that this be referred to the Education Committee for study with a recommendation being made by that Committee to the Board at its next regular meeting. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Endowment Committee: Dr. Holler reported that the Endowment Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Board but would be meeting in the near future to consider some recommendations which had been made by the Trust Officer of the Trust Department of the Citizens and Southern National Bank. He reported that the account balance as of February 23, 1976 was \$218,915.07 and the income from that should average out about \$14,000 yearly.

Dr. Efron stated that he thought that the income from the endowment should not be limited to scholarships only. There are occasions when money is needed for matching grants and other purposes. He asked Dr. Willis to respond. Dr. Willis responded that the school has applied for a grant of money through the Coastal Plains Affairs Commission to build a vocational building. This grant will require the school to match 20 per cent of the cost with money or in-kind materials for an approximate \$9,000. Since state appropriations are not available, the school could lose the grant unless the matching share of funds is provided elsewhere. He said that often this will be the case where matching funds are needed for various purposes.

Dr. Holler rejoined that some of the funds in the Endowment Fund are restricted and the income from them would likewise be restricted but other certain funds are not and thus the income from those funds are to be used as ordered by the Board of Trustees. He gave to each member of the Board a list of the names of all people who have made a contribution to the Fund since 1969, the time at which the Fund was entrusted to the Trust Department of the Citizens and Southern National Bank for management. He proposed a study for the purpose of devising a plan so that others might be encouraged to contribute, perhaps through making a report to donors and calling attention to what we are doing with the funds. He emphasized that all donations should bear the donor's name and should be accredited to a named scholarship.

Dr. Miles warned that all monies should go through the school's bookkeeping system because it is possible for money to be lost or misappropriated.

Personnel Committee: Mr. Rowland had to leave the meeting before time for this report and he had asked Dr. Willis to give it. Dr. Willis stated that the Committee met on January 6, 1976. It had interviewed Mrs. Thelma Bailey as a candidate for the position of Day School Principal and Mr. Pat Smith as Dean of Students. The Committee was impressed with both people.

He reported that the school's auditor had, for the last two years, questioned the school's long standing policy of paying teachers for ten days of annual leave. He said that he had asked for a hearing before the Budget and Control Board for the purpose of discussing the policy with them and the possibility of using a policy such as the University of South Carolina and Clemson University use with their professors. As of this time, he has not met with the Board. Report was accepted as information.

Special Committee on Naming Buildings: Dr. Miles stated that the Committee met on March 9, 1976 at 2:00 PM. It has asked for recommendations for names from alumni, older staff members, Dr. Gray, Dr. Tolbert and others. The Committee had carefully considered these recommendations and was now recommending to the Board the naming of certain buildings. He urged the Board to veto any recommendation that the Committee was naming if the Board did not agree. A copy of the recommendations is attached hereto. He stated that the Committee was asking that the naming of one of the buildings for Mr. Harold Brazeale be withheld to a later date.

The reason for this being that the Committee had adopted the policy of not naming a building for a trustee and that Mr. Brazeal's name had been placed in nomination for trustee.

Dr. Miles moved that the recommendations from the Committee be accepted and that the school administration be given the responsibility of working out the order in which the buildings would be named, the time and the dedication of the buildings in order to maximize the effectiveness. Also that announcements be made at intervals which would provide the most benefit to the school. Dr. Thomas seconded the motion. Dr. Willis stated that he thought this was too much responsibility to be placed on him and thus would accept it if the Special Committee on Naming Buildings would assist him. Dr. Miles pledged their assistance. The motion was adopted.

Dr. Efron reported that he had been asked to approach Mrs. Olive Lander Wilson to ask her if she and the family wanted the portrait which was painted by Mrs. Kathleen Clark and given to the Lander family by a friend be the official portrait of Mr. Lander or if they desired that another portrait be painted which would be of the same size. He said that the family had expressed a desire that another portrait of the same size be painted. This was accepted as information since the Board had approved the painting in an earlier meeting. He said that Mrs. Wilson had expressed appreciation to the Board of Trustees that the Administration Building was to be named the William T. Lander Administration Building.

Dr. Holler reported that he had approached Mr. Eugene Stoddard, Chairman of the Education and Public Works Committee of the House of Representatives to introduce legislation naming the school the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. He said that Mr. Stoddard had already introduced it into the Legislature and that it was House Bill 3739.

Dr. Holler reported that some difficulty is being experienced in getting the Board's suggestions for nominees to the Board of Trustees before the joint session of the Legislature. He suggested that each Trustee approach senators and representatives from his county and urge support of the Board's nominees.

Dr. Gray reported that the "Palmetto Patriots" Game is nearly complete and boxes to enclose them in are expected within a few days. The S. C. Press Association has adopted the promotion of the game as one of its activities for the Bi-Centennial. This will provide good advertising for the school. The Press Association has asked newspaper editors to take each profile and write an editorial to appear in his paper on a weekly basis. This editorial will also state that the game can be bought at the S. C. Opportunity School. This was accepted as information.

Dr. Efron moved that a resolution commending Mrs. May Roper Coker for her many services be written on behalf of the school and that a copy be sent to those near of kin relatives. Dr. Webb seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Dr. Willis informed the Board that Furman University was conferring an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree upon Dr. Webb at commencement this year.

Dr. Efron moved that the meeting adjourn and Mrs. Royce seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.