

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 9, 2016

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on November 9, 2016 beginning at 12:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

Board members present:

Mrs. Doris Adams
Mr. Tom Hamilton
Mr. Bryan England
Mrs. Marilyn Edwards-Taylor

Mr. Stewart Cooner
Mr. Russell Hart
Mr. Robert Collar
Mr. Reginald Thomas

Staff members present:

Mr. Pat Smith
Mrs. Shannan Woovis
Mr. Scott Poovey
Mr. Gary Newsome

Mrs. Sarah Russell
Mr. Scott Gaines
Mrs. Gloria Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Cooner made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. England seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cooner made a motion to approve the minutes from August 10, 2016. Mr. Collar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- Updated enrollment of October 24th class at 111 cadets.
- Total enrollment for year, thus far, is 252 students.
- Legislative Luncheon on February 22nd, 2017.
- 66 GED's for 17-01 class, with 2 more sessions this year. On track to meet goal of 100 for the 7th consecutive year.
- School Report Card reflects Palmetto Gold School for 10th consecutive year.
- Announced invitation to the JROTC Luncheon on November 22nd at Brookland Baptist Convention Center.
- Cadet Shealy was presented a plaque as Student of the Month at the Rotary Club Luncheon in October
- Governor's Budget Presentation delivered on October 21st
- Cayce-West Columbia Chamber of Commerce Breakfast held on campus on 8/23
- Mentioned letters of commendation received by family and friends of former students

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. England read the current Personnel Actions update. Mr. England made a motion to approve the personnel actions and Mr. Collar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

In the absence of Mrs. Thurstin, Mr. Smith gave a brief summary on the budget update which was given as a hand-out in the board packet. The FY'18 summary is the request from the Governor of a 3% reduction, which is only a proposal. Any further questions should be directed to Mrs. Thurstin.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

As give in the board packet, the SC Report Card has changed its format. We now have 192 credentials since we are considered a "special school". The official SC Report Card will not be presented until next month. However, for the 10th consecutive year, we will be awarded a Palmetto Gold School.

Mrs. Edwards-Taylor remarked on the success rates of our students and how we accomplish so much in only 14 weeks. Mr. Gaines reminded the board of how important it is to keep the students involved in a variety of activities on and off the campus throughout the week. Academic instruction is provided through computers, groups, self and teachers. Those students needing extra help are given one-on-one instruction from volunteer tutors, as well as staff and fellow classmates in the dorms after school hours. We tell the kids on day one, "it's not how or when you finish, IT'S THAT YOU FINISH"!

Mrs. Sarah Russell gave a Powerpoint presentation on the new marketing tools we are using. Through Survey Monkey, we have seen a slight increase in the number of students responding to the survey itself. Of those responding, more than 60% have achieved their GED goals. By advertising on Facebook, we reaching over 1600 new individuals within one week. The video of the Low Country Live presentation was also shown which was aired in September out of Charleston, SC.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Due to the absence of Mr. Abbott, Mr. Smith gave a quick update on the boilers and water closets in the C and D Dorms and the cafeteria water heaters. All the underground work has been completed with our ongoing electrical project and we are waiting on the transformer from the manufacturer to be delivered. General Services just generated the Purchase Order for our maintenance storage building, so we should be starting that project any day now. The HVAC project in the Administration Building is still under review. The cafeteria, auditorium and shower room renovations were just approved on November 7th and will begin soon. The Dayroom bid was over budget by \$150,000 due to unexpected expensed of concrete pillars/foundation requirements. We are still trying to determine where to go from here. As we have bid our paving project 3 times without any success, we are contacting DOT for help.

OLD BUSINESS

After Mr. Cooner notified board members of a few editorial changes needed in the policy manual, a second and final reading was agreed upon. **Mr. Cooner made a motion to approve the policy changes and Mr. Collar seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

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NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Smith reminded the Board that 4 members were up for re-election and that Mr. Wayne Sims was not running and that Mr. Chris Wyatt had filed for his seat. Mr. Hamilton announced that Sheriff Underwood had been re-elected in Chester County.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Collar to conclude the meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.