

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 11, 2016

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on May 11, 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. Stewart Cooner
Mr. Russell Hart
Mr. Bryan England

Mrs. Marilyn Edwards-Taylor
Mr. Tom Hamilton
Mrs. Deborah Blalock

Staff members present:

Mr. Pat Smith
Mrs. Shannan Woovis
Mr. Charlie Abbott
Sgt. Maj. James Miller
Mrs. Sheryl Beeler
Mr. Scott Poovey

Mr. Scott Gaines
Mrs. Melissa Thurstin
Mr. Gary Newsome
Mrs. Gloria Robinson
Ms. Eadie Weaver

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Cooner made a motion to approve the agenda and Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. England made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2015 meeting and Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Hart presented a Concurrent Resolution from Senator Coleman to Mr. Earl Thrailkill on behalf of Mrs. Thrailkill's service on the Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- Re-election of Mrs. Adams and Mr. England and the two new members, Mr. Reginald Thomas and Miss Angela Hanyak mentioned.
- Referred to two letters we received recently, one from a parent and the other from Senator Cleary, who actually referred a student to WLGOS. Showed a picture of our Color Guard with SC Superintendent of Education, Mrs. Molly Spearman.
- On April 19th, I presented a short summary about the history and success of Wil Lou Gray to the Senate Oversight Committee.
- Recently received a copy of *The Making of a Southern progressive From New South to New Deal*, which was about Miss Wil Lou Gray and written by her great niece.

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- Proud to know that Cadet Marcus Geis received his GED and was acknowledged for reading 41 books while here.
 - Senator Peeler introduced Proviso 91.29, which is basically a study to compare the three special schools in South Carolina, John De La Howe, SC School for Deaf and Blind and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. (In the Senate version only)
 - Mentioned three of the suggestions given by Mr. Philip Willis, who is staff for the Senate Education Oversight Sub-Committee, to the Board of Trustees of WLGOS. His report may include that Board Members assume a role in the appeals process of students, complete training on the traditional role of Board of Trustee members and compared our school to school districts and charter school boards.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mrs. Thurstin gave an update on the budget report included in member's packets. Currently, we are on target for our remaining budget of FY'16, we are under the 10% carry forward for next year. The FY'17 budget passed through the House and Senate without any changes, which includes \$500,000 for renovations to the dorms and cafeteria and 2 FTE's, an IT Technician and a Public Information Officer. Two proviso changes, adding the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School to Proviso 117.66 Health Care Employee Recruitment and Retention and deletion of Proviso 5.9 Capacity Proviso.

Mr. Hamilton made a motion to approve the FY'17 budget. Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Additionally, Mrs. Thurstin talked about the FY'18 budget request for a Human Resource Officer FTE and \$100,000 for electrical utility work along with \$50,000 for archival work preservation.

Mrs. Blalock made a motion to approve the FY'18 budget. Mr. Cooner seconded the motion and the motion passed.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mr. Gaines gave an update on the current GED results of 143 and that we still have approximately 30 more students to test who may possibly pass. This is a record breaking year for our results! Mr. Gaines referred to the comment made by Philip Willis, of the Senate Oversight Committee, as an issue of Lexington County School District 2. There have been no notifications sent to the previous schools of our GED passers. This issue has been resolved. Members asked questions related to the school report card and possible ways to follow the students progress once they graduate from Wil Lou Gray. Mr. Smith referred to a specific student who returned home for a weekend pass that reverted back to his old ways of living. Our reply to the parent was to send a picture of the student's dorm room at Wil Lou Gray and how we require the student to maintain a certain standard of living while on our campus.

SGM Miller was given a standing ovation for his service to the school after Mr. Smith announced his retirement in June of this year. SGM reported on the recent brigade JROTC inspection and that we had received an honor unit of distinction with a 95. He also announced the dates of the JROTC Camp as June 5-11 which will be held at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. He thanked all the staff for helping make this possible then announced his replacement. Major Jones will begin his employment at Wil Lou Gray beginning in July.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

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Mr. Abbott remarked on the many campus improvements:

Day Room addition to the dorm will begin within a month.
The decorative lighting has been installed.
The campus irrigation system will begin within a week.
Campus paving will begin in October.
The keyless entry system has been updated campus wide.
Security camera system has been installed campus wide.

Mr. Hamilton commented on grounds and recycling potential at Wil Lou Gray. He also suggested using WLGOS as a pilot project for solar panels.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Smith acknowledged two employees who will be retiring in June 2016. Ms. Edie Weaver and SGM Miller.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. England made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting the Agency Head Evaluation. Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mrs. Adams made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. England to conclude the meeting. Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.