

# Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on February 13, 2019 beginning at 12:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

Board members present:

Mrs. Doris Adams  
Mrs. Deborah Blalock  
Mr. Bryan England  
Mr. Michael Moss

Mr. Stewart Cooner  
Mr. Russell Hart  
Mr. Tom Hamilton

Staff members present:

Mr. Pat Smith  
Mrs. Shannan Woovis  
Ms. Brenda Arant  
Mr. Gary Newsome  
Captain Hamlin  
Mr. Ivory Canty

Mrs. Sarah Russell  
Ms. Melissa Thurstin  
Ms. Stephanie Morton  
Ms. Diane McNinch  
Ms. Theresa Trowell  
Sgt. Shaun Robey

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

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. England made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Mr. Cooner made a motion to approve the minutes from November 14, 2018. Mr. England seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **APPROVAL OF ABSENCES**

**Mr. Cooner made a motion to approve the absence of Mr. Reginald Thomas, Mr. Robert Collar, Dr. Earle Bennett, Ms. Marilyn Edwards-Taylor and Ms. Angela Hanyak. Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- With the completion of Class 19-02, we have 130 GEDs. We anticipate over 200 GEDs for 2018-2019.
- The Admissions Profile is updated and our next session begins on February 25, 2019.
- Ms. Tiffany Ulmer and I exhibited at the Palmetto School Counselors Association on January 24-26<sup>th</sup>.
- Principal Scott Gaines made a presentation at the Principal's Conference on December 4<sup>th</sup>, "Have you heard about WLGO?"
- Ms. Tiffany Ulmer and Cadet Katherine Duncan appeared on WCIV, channel 4, out of Charleston on "Low Country Live"
- Ms. Thurstin and I appeared before our Senate Finance Subcommittee on January 24<sup>th</sup> to present our FY'20 Budget Request.
- WLGO received a community service award from the First Nazareth Baptist Church for assisting with the Disaster Emergency Relief Ministry.

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- A picture of LCPL Jacob Shortt, a cadet from 2017, was shown in comparison to his student profile picture. Mr. Smith read an email we received from his mother thanking The Opportunity School for their involvement in changing her son into a great man.

#### 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

Ms. Thurstin gave a brief summary on the budget update which was given as a hand-out in the board packet. Mr. Smith added that the Governor approved our recurring budget request but not our non-recurring and that we are waiting for the House version to be released.

#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**Mr. Smith presented the 2019-2020 Academic Calendar for approval. Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the calendar and Mr. England seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Referring to our recent meetings with the Legislative Oversight Committee, Mr. Smith commented on the nice blend of individuals who testified at our January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Referring to our January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup> meetings, Mr. Smith reflected on some of the questions and comments from the committee members:

- How involved is your Board?
- Are there any Board Members present today?
- What is the difference in WLGO and the National Guard Youth Challenge program?
- Have the Board Members been trained on Procurement and Human Resource policies?

In preparation for the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Smith commented on three handouts we prepared for the committee concerning post-graduation tracking and data we researched comparing WLGO to the NGYC Academy:

1. What are the students doing now?
2. Where are they working?
3. What post-secondary schools are the former students attending?
4. How are we different than the NGYC Academy?

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Cooner for representing the Board Members at our meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The speech he gave was very professional and well-prepared.

Mr. Shaun Robey, a former student and now current employee of The Opportunity School, presented his testimony to the Board Members as he also did on January 14<sup>th</sup> before the Legislative Oversight Committee.

Mr. Ivory Canty was introduced to the members. He is our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at Wil Lou Gray and helps identify those students who qualify for VR services. Last year he assisted 51 students.

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### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

In Mr. Abbott's absence, Mr. Smith gave an update on the \$500,000 non-recurring appropriations we received for 2018-2019 and that the A1 paperwork had been filed.

Mr. Hamilton commented on the building and grounds. He also mentioned possible grants the school could possibly qualify for and ultimately become a pilot program for solar panels. This program would benefit the school and assist students in future employment opportunities as well as technical school possibilities.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No Report

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mr. Cooner made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue. Mr. England seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**Mr. Cooner made a motion to come out of Executive Session and Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Cooner to conclude the meeting. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.**