

# Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### MEETING MINUTES

MAY 8, 2019

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on May 8, 2019 beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

Board present:

Mrs. Doris Adams  
Dr. Earle Bennett  
Mr. Russell Hart  
Mr. Tom Hamilton

Mrs. Deborah Blalock  
Mr. Reginald Thomas  
Mr. Michael Moss  
Mr. Bryan England

Staff present:

Mr. Pat Smith  
Mrs. Shannan Woovis  
Mr. Charlie Abbott  
Mrs. Sarah Russell  
Ms. Diane McNinch  
Ms. Theresa Trowell  
1 SGT Victor Hugee

Mrs. Brenda Arant  
Ms. Stephanie Morton  
Mr. Larry Rose  
CPT Michael Hamlin  
Mrs. Lettice Glenn  
Mr. Max Jamison  
Mrs. Melissa Thurstin  
Mrs. Tiffany Ulmer

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Chairman Hart called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. England made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Moss seconded the motion; motion passed.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Blalock made a motion to approve the February 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes and Mr. England seconded the motion; motion passed.

#### **APPROVAL OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the absence of Board Members Cooner, Collar, Hanyak and Edwards-Taylor. Mr. England seconded the motion; motion passed.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- February 8, all employees participated in Active Shooter Training.
- February 19, successful exhibit at Lexington County Night with SC Legislators.
- March 6, Legislative Luncheon (a huge success - 80-90 House members and 4 Senators attended).
- March 9, Mrs. Frankie Newman, a former Board Member passed away.
- On April 3, WLGO presentation to the Forest Acres Rotary Club.
- In late April, 50,000 mass mailers distributed.
- May 9, WLGO popular Employee Appreciation Luncheon.
- May 9, Ms. Ulmer and Mr. Smith will be giving a presentation at the Darlington County Intervention School.
- All budget requests for FY'20 have been approved by the House and Senate.
- A letter from WLGO graduate (1988), Ms. Kathleen Howard-Obendorf enclosed in Board packets.
- Congratulations to Mr. Collar and Mrs. Blalock on being re-elected and welcome to Mr. Dan Dobson, a new Board Member, who will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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- Updated WLGOs Admission Profile enclosed in Board packets. (161 GEDs awarded to-date.)
- June 7, at 10 am and 2 pm, WLGOs graduation ceremonies for the 2018-2019 Academic Year.
- June 8, the WLGOs financial audit to commence.
- June 16-18, the agency will be exhibiting at the South Carolina School Administrator's Conference in Myrtle Beach (1,000 attendees expected).
- An overview of State Procurement and Human Resources to be presented at the August 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. England reported on current personnel actions and made a motion to approve those actions. Ms. Blalock seconded the motion; motion passed.

Each month, a student and teacher from Wil Lou Gray are recognized as "Student of the Month" and "Teacher of the Month" by the Cayce-West Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Both present -- Mr. Max Jamison, Language Arts teacher, and Cadet Odgie.

Ms. Theresa Trowell, HR Director, introduced two current retirees -- Mr. Larry Rose, Maintenance Department, serving 29 years, and 1<sup>st</sup>. Sgt. Victor Huges, Color Guard Coach for the JROTC Department, serving 18 years. Sgt. Huges has been very instrumental in securing valuable opportunities for the WLGOs Color Guard to present the colors at a variety of events.

### POLICY COMMITTEE

No Report.

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

Ms. Stephanie Morton, Finance Director, provided a budget update mentioning the agency is on target for the remaining of Fiscal Year 2019 and under the 10% allowed carry forward for the next fiscal year.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Tiffany Ulmer, Admissions Assistant, provided a detailed presentation highlighting student activities during the past few months. Mrs. Ulmer introduced Cadet Odgie, "Student of the Month", (as recognized by the Cayce/West Columbia Rotary Club). She informed the Board that Cadet Odgie would be participating in the May 9<sup>th</sup> presentation to the Darlington Intervention School, along with Mr. Smith, Mrs. Ulmer and Cadet Pynes.

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Thomas commented on the cleanliness of the campus. Mr. Moss made mention that the newest Board Member, Mr. Dan Dobson, was highly impressed with the campus as well. Mr. Charlie Abbott, Director of Operations, provided an overview of projects that will begin in the next few months, including construction of a new protective overhang for the cafeteria, energy efficient LED lighting for the auditorium, installation of a new walkway from the school to the cafeteria, new freezer wraps and a larger capacity dishwasher. Beginning July 1, construction will begin to relocate the last portion of overhead electrical lines underground. He mentioned a seminar he attended pertaining to solar technology and electrical charging stations.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Smith mentioned the Legislative Oversight Evaluation of WLGOs will conclude in June following one final meeting. He provided an overview of the agency's involvement with the Legislative Oversight Committee and mentioned the positive comments and favorable impressions the Committee voiced of the Opportunity School. The Oversight Committee mentioned

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its astonishment to learn that the students - from so many other schools - enter Wil Lou Gray on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Language Arts levels. The Committee also voiced surprise to learn that Dr. Wil Lou Gray's portrait is only one of three females displayed in the Capital. One Committee member sought clarification on the agency's advertising and marketing efforts for which Mr. Smith explained how advertising dollars were allocated, when and if needed to boost cycle recruiting.

Mr. Smith and Chairman Hart presented Dr. Earle Bennett with a gift and a Resolution from the SC Senate for twelve years of dedicated service to the Board. Dr. Bennett provided a few words on how she found the need to serve on the board and how she became known to the General Assembly as "Earle the Girl".

**Ms. Blalock made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of completing the Agency Head Evaluation. Mr. Moss seconded the motion; motion passed.**

**Ms. Blalock made a motion to end the Executive Session and Mr. England seconded the motion; motion passed.**

**With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dr. Bennett to conclude the meeting. Mrs. Adams seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:43pm.**