

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held via teleconference on August 11, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

Board members present via teleconference:

Mrs. Doris Adams	Mr. Dan Dobson
Mr. Stewart Cooner	Mr. Reggie Thomas
Mrs. Marilyn Edwards-Taylor	Mr. Michael Moss
Mr. Greg Vaughn	Ms. Kimberly Suber
Mrs. Deborah Blalock	Mrs. Cheryl Fralick

Staff members present via teleconference:

Mr. Pat Smith	Mrs. Shannan Woovis
Mr. Scott Poovey	Ms. Libby Key
Ms. Theresa Trowell	Mrs. Brenda Arant

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Moss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Edwards-Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021 meeting and Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Cooner welcomed Mrs. Cheryl Fralick to the Board of Trustees and thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to be Chairman and Mr. Moss as Vice-Chair.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- Miss Bellaire and I attended the SCASA conference in June with great booth attendance.
- On July 26, 2021, 76 students enrolled with an 89% show-up rate.
- State-wide advertising has begun, referring to the billboard signs in the board material. Additionally, banners have been placed on campus light poles, reflecting the 100th year anniversary.
- The new entrance sign at Wil Lou Gray is being upgraded and will complete design by the end of the month.
- The historical marker for the Opportunity School will be installed in September.
- Mr. Smith referred to the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and Pass Calendar for the 22-01 Class.
- The updated profile for the current class is available for review.
- The new board roster has been updated to reflect our newest member Mrs. Cheryl Fralick.
- Mr. Smith referred to a letter sent by a previous student, Victoria Guyton.

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- Mr. Smith responded to date of the Legislative Luncheon as February 17th, and that it is still scheduled as of now. He also referred to the fact that COVID 19 may prevent use of the building.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Moss made a motion to approve the personnel actions and Mr. Dobson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Moss asked why Mrs. White was given the title of Interim Admissions Director and Mr. Smith explained the necessity for a reclassification.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No Report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Cooner questioned members on receipt of FY '20 Audit, which Ms. Key explained briefly the two minor findings.

Mrs. Adams made a motion to approve the FY '20 Audit and Mrs. Fralick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Key updated the members on the FY '21 year-end closing and how great FY '22 looks for the school. She thanked everyone who assisted in this process, which included Ms. Shumpert, Mr. McCrants, Ms. Trowell and Mr. Abbott. Mr. Cooner asked why there was a carry forward of 13.59% when all state agencies are only allowed 10%. Ms. Key explained that the 13.59% includes teacher salaries that do not follow the same criteria as state employees in the fiscal year budgeting as well as the HVAC project which is still underway.

Mrs. Edwards-Taylor made a motion to approve the FY '21 year-end Financial Report and Mrs. Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Smith referred to the FY '23 Budget Proposal as he remarked on the upcoming requests. The Student Employment Coordinator will assist with student job-placements post-graduation. The equipment request is to allow for funding to be received in August and not October or November, also for the budget to be released directly to the Opportunity School and not through the Department of Education. Mrs. Edwards-Taylor questioned the availability of the coordinator for the students and Mr. Smith explained that the employee description is still being assimilated. Mrs. Blalock referred to the salary of \$100,000 and Ms. Key reminded the board that this amount includes salary and benefits.

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the FY '23 Budget Request and Ms. Suber seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Adams asked that Mr. Smith give an update on the program. The students enrolled on July 26 and nine days later a student tested positive for COVID 19. Since then, we have had 15 cases, all of which have been sent home as required by the Department of Health and Environment Control. Two employees tested positive prior to registration on July 26, and one currently has the virus. On August 10th, Ms. Trowell, Mrs. Arant and I met with DHEC virtually to discuss our preventive measures in comparison to state regulations. With the precautions already in place, the students who feel sick are immediately sent out for testing or sent home. All students will

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remain at home for 10 days and then will be allowed to return to campus. Mrs. Edwards-Taylor inquired about the policy on vaccinated students and enrollment. Mrs. Arant responded with the daily routine of masks, altered bathing schedules, 3-foot distancing and platoon assignments in the dining hall students are taking precautions seriously. Optional before, most students are now wearing masks and Mrs. Arant commented that 11, of the 15 who tested positive, were housed in the same dorm. Ms. Suber asked Mr. Smith if the academic portion of the program continued for the students once they were sent home with the virus. Mr. Smith reminded the board that the program is GED based. Mr. Smith commented on rapid testing, as DHEC suggested, but all medical staff would have to be trained prior to availability. Mrs. Blalock suggested students be tested prior to returning after their 10-day confinement at home. While rapid testing would be convenient on campus, Mr. Smith reminded the board that a student could be fine today and then test positive the next. Mr. Moss commended the leadership of Mr. Smith during the COVID 19 pandemic and how the staff has prepared for this situation in advance. Mr. Cooner also reminded the board that based on DHEC recommendations, the Opportunity School has done a fantastic job. Ms. Suber mentioned the effects of the virus on students and the possibility of trauma associated with it. Mr. Smith said that no counselors have had to deal with any trauma associated with the virus itself, but they have kept in contact with the students sent home with the virus.

Mr. Smith commended the program on the success of GEDs during the 2021-2021 year by comparing the data to some found from 1984-1985. In 1984 only 22 GEDs were obtained out of 248 students and during 1985 only 33 students received a GED. Last year we enrolled 225 students and 122 students received a GED. We are better now with the single occupancy even when you compare it to full capacity in 1984-1985. With these results, the school will continue to offer single-room occupancy, especially with behavioral issues at a minimum, positive academic success among all students and dining hall order. The registration process has become more streamlined and all interviews and counseling sessions are organized through Zoom.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith gave an update on the final phase of the powerline project, with the upcoming bid announcement on August 12th at 2pm. White Crane won the bid for the cafeteria portico and breezeway. Mr. Moss commented that the prices of construction materials and current shortages may require more money for the project. Mr. Smith said that the school has the ability to move money if needed, but the budget is in line as of right now.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cooner remarked on the resolution presented to Mr. Hart for his 21 years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Wil Lou Gray.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Smith gave an update on the 100th year celebration and the tentative date of November 4th for the commemoration. A firm has been hired to coordinate all fund raising and marketing strategies for the school. Mr. Cooner reminded the board that the foundation is a 501c3 and can solicit donations that are tax deductible. The WLGOS Color Guard will post colors at the West Columbia – Cayce Chamber of Commerce meeting on August 24th and Mr. Smith will give an overview of the school and 100th year anniversary.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mrs. Blalock to conclude the meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:48pm.