

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

The board convened at 11:00 a.m. to participate in a board effectiveness discussion as required by section 59-51-35. The training was led by Mr. Ron Harvey and his assistant Ms. Ty Westbrook of Global Care Strategies and Consulting.

Members present:

Ms. Doris Adams
Mr. Stewart Cooner
Mrs. Cheryl Fralick

Mr. Michael Moss
Mr. Reggie Thomas
Mr. Greg Vaughn

Board members present via teleconference:

Mrs. Deborah Blalock
Mr. Robert Collar
Mr. Dan Dobson

Ms. Kimberly Suber
Mrs. Marilyn Edwards Taylor

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on February 9, 2022, beginning at 12:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

Board members present:

Ms. Doris Adams
Mr. Stewart Cooner
Mrs. Cheryl Fralick

Mr. Michael Moss
Mr. Reggie Thomas
Mr. Greg Vaughn

Board members present via teleconference:

Mrs. Deborah Blalock
Mr. Robert Collar
Mr. Dan Dobson

Ms. Kimberly Suber
Mrs. Marilyn Edwards Taylor

Staff members present:

Mr. Charlie Abbott
Mrs. Brenda Arant
Mr. Scott Gaines
Mrs. Lettice Glenn
Ms. Libby Key
Ms. Diane McNinch

Mr. Gary Newsome
Mr. Scott Poovey
Mr. Pat Smith
Ms. Theresa Trowell
Mrs. Sonya White
Mrs. Shannan Woovis

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The meeting was called to order at 12:39 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Fralick made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Collar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Edwards Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting and Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- The Opportunity School exhibited at the Palmetto State School Counseling Association on January 19-22 in Hilton Head. Following, on June 19-21st we will exhibit in Myrtle Beach at the SCASA conference.
- In mid-January we received notification that Tommy Baker, a former student, had bequeathed \$10,000 to the Wil Lou Gray Foundation. Additionally, we are hopeful that his estate attorney is able to secure his 1966 Class Ring for our school display.
- February 7th, four Representatives visited the school and toured the campus. We only heard positive comments about the campus and GED results from the members. Representatives Ashley Trantham, Chip Huggins, Vic Dabney and Annie McDaniel were present, as well as Mr. Cooner. Representative Micah Caskey could not attend.
- Senator Setzler introduced Resolution 945 acknowledging the 100th year anniversary of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. This Resolution has been framed for posterity.
- House Bill H3242, originally introduced by Representative Collins, was amended to include other schools. This Bill allows special schools to obtain contact information of students who have dropped out of school from all districts in South Carolina.
- We will present our budget presentation to the Senate Finance Education Subcommittee on February 16th at 9am.
- As of today we have 80 GEDs secured for the academic year, and confident that we will obtain 100 or more for the twelfth consecutive year.
- The mission and vision statements for the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School are enclosed in your packets.
- As a reminder, each Board of Trustee Member is required to file a Statement of Economic Interest by March 30th.

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Moss asked if we were actively hiring for the residential position, and Mr. Smith confirmed process.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No Report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mrs. Fralick thanked Mr. Smith and staff on the excellent presentation she witnessed during the 2022-2023 Budget Presentation and how highly the Representatives viewed Wil Lou Gray. Mrs. Fralick referred to Ms. Libby Key to give an update on finances. Ms. Key explained the budget summary and commented on the current operating budget, which is at 43.5%, of the suggested 50%. Mr. Cooner asked if we would have carry forward this year, and Ms. Key responded with 10%. Mr. Smith made comment that we monitor budget very carefully so carry forward is within desired range each month. Mr. Cooner reminded Board of Trustees that provisos are also available to state agencies to allow for carry forward monies. As a reminder, Wil Lou Gray will present its budget request to the Senate Finance Education Subcommittee on February 6th. We hope to secure the \$100,000 for the Workforce Coordinator which was not suggested by the Governors' Budget.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Adams commented on the excellent presentation that Mr. Gaines gave at the last board meeting about the ServSafe program and asked that he receive acknowledgment for his work. Mr. Smith said that he also used the ServSafe program to promote the necessity for a Workforce Coordinator at our House Budget Presentation. Mr. Gaines gave a quick update on the program. Mr. Cooner agreed that we are actively preparing these students for life after Wil Lou Gray and that there are a great many jobs in the food industry that are vacant at the moment.

Mrs. Arant referred the Illness handout as she updated the Board on the number of students who had COVID and the Flu during the months of December and January. There were 32 students who tested positive for COVID, and 26 with the FLU or other sickness. Additionally, she mentioned that all students are tested on Fridays for COVID, which are provided free by DHEC. Regardless of their severity though, 28 students still passed the GED test.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Charlie Abbott gave an update on the portico project, which had to be rebid due to budget constraints. Unfortunately, with materials on backorder, it will be at least 11 months before the project will possibly begin. Per Gregory Electric, the Electric Line Project will also be delayed due to a shortage in materials.

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OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Moss gave an update on the Board Effectiveness Subcommittee meeting, which occurred on February 3rd, and provided a hand-out of the results. The members who attended the subcommittee meeting were Mr. Vaughn, Mrs. Edwards-Taylor, Mr. Cooner and Mr. Moss. The handout is the culmination of performance indicators which the members felt important to representing the school in a positive manner. Mr. Moss reminded the board members that the mission statement is included in the board packets and that it should be learned by everyone. Mrs. Blalock asked if the mission statement was on the Wil Lou Gray website and Mr. Smith replied that he would follow-up. Board members should contact Mr. Moss if they have any suggestions or comments to add prior to finalizing this process with Mr. Harvey. Deadline is February 18th.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mrs. Fralick to conclude the meeting. Mr. Moss seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.