

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in-person and via teleconference on August 9, 2023 beginning at 12:00 pm in the Wil Lou Gray Board Meeting Room.

Board members present:

Mr. Stewart Cooner
Mr. Dan Dobson
Mr. Michael Moss
Ms. Cheryl Fralick

Mr. Reggie Thomas
Mr. Greg Vaughn
Mr. Blake Lindsey

Board members present via teleconference:

Mrs. Marilyn Edwards Taylor
Ms. Doris Adams
Ms. Kimberly Suber

Board members excused:

Mr. Robert Collar
Ms. Deborah Blalock

Staff Members present:

Mr. Pat G. Smith
Ms. Sonya White
Mr. Scott Poovey
Mr. Charlie Abbott
Ms. Diane McNinch
Ms. Libby Key
Ms. Rachel Fanning

Ms. Kristin Shumpert
Mr. Michael Evans
Mr. Scott Gaines
Ms. Theresa Trowell
Ms. Lettice Glenn
Ms. Cynara Wattley

The meeting called to order at 12:43 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dobson seconded the motion, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2023 meeting. Mr. Moss seconded the motion; motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- 92 students registered on July 24 (FY'24) of 104 accepted; of those 63 males and 27 female -- an 89% enrollment. In FY'23 79 enrolled out of 90 (88%) in the first session.

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- Approved and very successful Legislative budget year – all requests approved (\$500,000 recurring and \$850,000 non-recurring); an additional \$43,494 approved for critical staff retention-nursing pay plan. Total new funding \$1,393,494.
- July 14 visit by Meghan McCraw our budget analyst with the Executive Budget Office. While here she toured the campus, expressed support for FY'25 budget request. Very complimentary regarding staff and the campus.
- June 28 interviewed on 100.7 FM by Keven Kohen. Special thanks to Board member Blake Lindsey for coordinating this great opportunity.
- May 30 appeared on WISTV10 "Talking Trash" segment with popular TV host Dawndy Mercer Plank and Pat Lawter, President of the Cayce-West Columbia Rotary Club regarding the agency's partnership with Rotary and the Adopt-A-Highway Program.
- Thirteenth consecutive year with at least 100 students who graduated with the GED (goal 100 GEDs). 111 GEDs awarded this past year. The instructional staff is already hard at work on exceeding that goal.
- August 4 cadets participated in a community service event with the City of Columbia's B2SB (Back To School Bash) which featured Coach Dawn Staley (Photo enclosed in folder).
- August 1 the billboard and radio advertising began, runs through October 15.
- April 17, 2024 Legislative Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday April 17, Room 112 Blatt Building, downtown Columbia ****NOTE: Agency on the cancellation list in hopes of moving the luncheon to January or February 2024 (to be ahead of the budget process, not behind it).
- 2023-2024 Registration Day pics included in Board packet of four new cadets meeting the barber; hopefully the beginning of a personal transformation and academic success.
- June 2023 career survey of the 36 GED graduates documenting initial post-graduate careers. (WLGOS Workforce Development Advisor, Ms. Cynara Wattle, informed the Board of a new and significant partnership with the S.C. Automobile Dealers Association that could lead to meaningful careers for interested cadets.
- FY'23/24 calendar in Board packets.
- November 8, 2023 next Board meeting.

PERSONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Moss made a motion to approve personnel actions, Mrs. Fralick seconded the motion; motion passed.

POLICY COMMITTEE

None to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Ms. Shumpert updated the board on the year-end FY'23 review; agency finished with the allowable 10% carry forward. Year-end closeout is underway.

Ms. Key presented the FY'22 audit for board approval; Ms. Fralick made a motion to accept the audit report. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion; motion passed.

Ms. Key presented the proposed FY'25 budget request; Mr. Dodson made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion; motion passed.

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith introduced the various departments for updates on summer training.

ACADEMICS

Mr. Gaines reported that eight teachers finished "Read to Succeed" endorsement; four teachers met the requirement for the next five years needing two more classes during the next phase. In service was conducted where Policy and Procedures and Faculty Handbook were reviewed. Of special note -- on August 3 Safety Procedures were reviewed and a fire drill conducted in the academic building achieving a clearance time of 1 minute 48 seconds.

COUNSELING

Mental Health First Aid was provided via a grant from the Courage Center for approximately 30 of the residential staff and supervisors. Substance Abuse and Narcan training was provided. Narcan is available at 3 sites around campus.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Coordinated training for all employees on "*Preventing Harassment in the Work Place*".

MEDICAL

Nurses attended the S.C. School Nurse Conference in Myrtle Beach. OSHA Blood Pathogen training and CPR/AED Certification was conducted for all staff; various other standard first aid type training also conducted.

RESIDENTIAL

Staff engaged in several team building sessions and hosted a departmental cookout at Weston Lake. Staff reviewed the department's Policy and Procedures Manual and updated a few sections. Four staff supervisors were trained on "Active Shooter Drills" and in turn, they provided training for the remainder of staff. "Student De-escalation Training" was also conducted.

Board Self-Assessment Surveys were completed.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Abbott briefed the Board on the cafeteria Freezer/Cooler Project status and Breezeway Project. Both projects await Joint Bond Review Committee approval. The electrical line project should be completed by September 30.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No Report.

OLD BUSINESS

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

No Report.

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ADJOURN

Mr. Dobson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion; motion passed.