

# Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in-person and via teleconference on February 7, 2024 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. Bobby Collar

Ms. Doris Adams  
Mr. Greg Vaughn  
Mr. Blake Lindsey  
Ms. Marilyn Taylor  
Mr. Reginald Thomas

**Board members present via teleconference:**

Mrs. Deborah Blalock  
Ms. Marilyn Taylor

**Board members excused:**

Kimberly Suber

**Staff Members present:**

Mr. Pat G. Smith  
Ms. Christine Avery  
Mr. Cedric Williams  
Mr. Charlie Abbott  
Ms. Diane McNinch  
Ms. Libby Key  
Ms. Brenda Arant  
Mr. Robert Isom

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting. Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion; motion passed.

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### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- This session produced 44 GEDs for a total of 85 GEDs for the school year, with one more session this year. We will easily exceed 100 GEDs for the year for the fourteenth consecutive year.
- This morning we presented our FY'25 budget request before our Senate Finance Sub-committee. As Senator Nikki Setzler is retiring from the Senate, this was final Senate Finance Sub-committee presentation with Senator Setzler as a member of our sub-committee.
- We had a very good Ways and Means Sub-Committee reception and positive program comments from the Chair Rep. Bill Whitmire on January 10.
- We exhibited at the Palmetto State School Counselor's Conference January 18 through January 20.
- We hosted the SC School Librarian's Conference on December 2nd .
- On December 9th our cadets participated and led the Cayce-West Columbia Holiday of Lights Christmas Parade. The President and CEO of the Chamber informed me that we have led the Parade for 20 consecutive years. A couple of photos are included of our parade unit.
- On January 4 th , Mrs. White and Cadet Brookshier appeared on WCIV-TV's "Low Country Live" to promote the School.
- Our Legislative Luncheon is next Wednesday February 14. If you would like to ride please let Christine know. We plan to leave about 10 am.
- The Board meeting dates for 2024 are included in your materials.
- Included are the notes from Rep. Neal Collins' who is a member of our Ways and Means Sub-Committee and his FB posting about our program.
- Proviso 1.99 advising the State Department of Education to publish a list of alternative schools that can award a high school equivalency credential. To include the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. We have experienced a lot of comments and questions about this Proviso. Especially from counselors and principals. Representatives of the School Boards Association inquired about the best way to communicate this information at the Counseling Conference.
- Finally, a reminder that the Statement of Economic Interests are due March 30. A link to that website is included in the cover letter for your information for the meeting.

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### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

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

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Ms. Fralick reported on the Senate Finance Subcommittee presentation held earlier. She also referred budget questions to Ms. Key. There were no questions.

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

#### **Student Care Review**

Brenda Arant, Lettice Glenn, and Diane McNinch updated the board on the various aspects of student care. Including student physical and mental health, intern utilization and family.

#### **“Who Moved My Cheese”**

Joyce Legree and Robert Isom explained how they had used the theme from the book into student success.

Scott Gaines showed a short video on the utilization of the Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine in the shop class. Several examples were presented of the variety of items that can be produced.

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Abbott updated the board on the B-Dorm shower/bathroom renovation, cafeteria freezer/cooler and breezeway project. The cafeteria project is scheduled for bid opening in March. The B-Dorm project awaits JBRC (Joint Bond Review Committee) approval for architectural fees. The breezeway project is awaiting project approval.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

No Report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old Business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Cooner introduced the school calendar for 2024-2025. Mr. Dobson made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 school calendar. Mr. Lindsey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on the proposed “Buddy Trainer” for new board members. Ms. Blalock made a motion to adopt the “Buddy Trainer” as informal. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Lindsey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Moss seconded the motion. Motion passed.