

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

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
Ms. Sonya White

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.