

WILL ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
May 12, 2011

The Executive Committee of the Will Rogers High School Community Foundation, Inc., met on May 12, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., at the Kendall-Whittier Library, 21 S. Lewis Avenue (1st and Lewis), Tulsa, OK 74104. Due notice was given. The meeting was called to order by Paul Thomas, president. Other Executive Committee members present: Dick Risk and, via video teleconferencing, Sherryl McGuire, constituting a quorum.

Minutes of three previous Executive Committee meetings were approved by separate motions, for the following dates: November 26, 2010, December 7, 2010, and April 6, 2011.

Paul Thomas reported that the agreement with the American Theatre Organ Society local chapter has been executed, with modifications to their grant request suggested at the April 6, 2011, meeting of the Executive Committee, which caps the contribution at \$5,000 and eliminates the obligation of the organ group to refund any amount not required to cover expenses. The check has been delivered to ATOS and the trip to Round Rock, Texas, to crate the Wurlitzer organ being donated by the Wright family and transport it to Tulsa for storage at Will Rogers High School until further work is funded is imminent. This agreement covers only the acquisition of the Wright organ and that the acquisition of the Smith organ and eventual consolidation are beyond its scope. The Executive Committee weighed the cost of insuring the organ for the trip against the risk and decided not to obtain insurance. Dick Risk is planning to meet with Bob LaBass of TPS to prepare a draft of a joint Memorandum of Understanding with the school district for the Wurlitzer organ project, to be presented to the Executive Committee for ratification.

Sherryl McGuire expressed a need to identify potential donors to fund the Wurlitzer organ project, which has a total estimated cost of \$125,000. Frank and Carol Walsh Morsani (both '49) have donated the first \$25,000 to the project with a pledge to fund the last \$25,000 if the additional \$75,000 is raised within a year. Other groups, including the ATOS and the Will Rogers Rotary Club were reported to be considering donations earmarked for the organ project. Dick Risk proposed to prepare an appeal from Sherryl on behalf of the Foundation to be sent to directors and advisors, asking them to assist in the drive by identifying potential donors.

Dick will also work with Sherryl to develop a general three-panel, double-sided color brochure as an envelope-size marketing piece for the Foundation. John Owen ('59), a graphic artist, has agreed to put the brochure in final form, ready for printing.

The Executive Committee discussed the recent approval by the Board of Education for the Operation Schoolhouse proposal to close Will Rogers High School (WRHS) to its current students, beginning in the fall of 2011 and reopen over a three-year period as a college preparatory academy. Dick will invite Kevin Burr of Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) and a representative of Tulsa Community College, which is the partner with TPS in the associate degree program, to the next Board of Directors meeting for an informational discussion of plans.

Dick announced that Lyda Wilbur, principal at WRHS, had sent an email that she would be leaving that post as of June 30, 2011, to assume another leadership position within TPS. (It was announced the next day, May 13, 2011, that Stacey Vernon, current principal at Edison Preparatory School, would become principal of the “soon-to-be transformed Rogers High School.”)

The four standing committees established by resolution on August 26, 2010, to parallel the four project teams organized by the school likely will be terminated if the project teams are terminated as part of the transition to the school’s new mission. This should be an action for the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee acknowledged that the formation of new standing committees should be considered in order to adapt to the new mission.

Dick reported that world class flamenco guitarist Ronald Radford (’62), a member of the Will Rogers High School Hall of Fame, is currently performing at Tulsa schools on a grant and that he has consented to serve as a member of the Board of Advisors and the Hall of Fame Committee. His appointment will be an agenda item for the next Board of Directors meeting. Dick also announced that Jeff Greer had submitted his resignation as a director of the Foundation, citing other commitments, and suggested that the board should consider filling the vacancy at its next meeting. (Jeff’s term expires at the end of 2011. His replacement is eligible for re-election to a full three-year term.)

Dick has drafted a letter, circulated to Executive Committee members and Steve Wright and Jo Anne Lewis of the Hall of Fame Committee, to be sent to stakeholders, including Foundation directors and advisors, past inductees of the Hall of Fame, and the school principal, announcing the proposed slate of candidates to be inducted in October, on a date and at a location to be announced. This would be accompanied by a biographical sketch of each candidate and offer the opportunity to comment on any selectee, prior to announcing to the candidates themselves and to the public. The letter would invite nominations for future induction classes but would state that no further names would be considered for this upcoming group.

Sherryl reported that the main event would be an evening dinner and induction ceremony, tentatively to be held at the University of Tulsa’s Allen Chapman Activity Center, pending confirmation of a date. The candidate slate will be announced at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting and, hopefully, the date will be set by then as the notification process will require some time to complete and the inductees should be given adequate advance notice so they can plan to attend. Estimated cost per ticket is in the \$40 to \$50 range. Sherryl announced that a prior free daytime event with refreshments served is also planned to be held at WRHS, probably in the library, as an opportunity for everyone who is interested to meet and greet the inductees. Dick suggested that the inductees each might be invited to tell about themselves at this informal event at the school.

Sherryl confirmed that the evening program for the Hall of Fame induction would include a visual presentation on the Foundation, which will be handling the induction for the first time.

The Executive Committee considered a request for a grant submitted by Wanda Liz Dickenson of the school for \$500 to be applied to the expense of feeding some 87 faculty at a teacher

appreciation luncheon. The Executive Committee considered that this request was reasonable inasmuch as this would be the last such occasion for the faculty before the closure and “restart” of the school, and that this is the type of project discussed with the Oxley Foundation executive director during a recent visit to the school. The Oxley Foundation has donated \$5,000 to the Foundation.

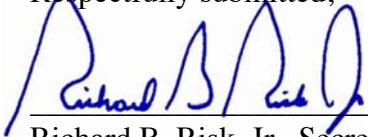
Motion: The amount of \$500.00 from general funds of the Foundation is authorized to be paid to offset the cost of a “Teachers Appreciation” luncheon. Passed.

There was a general discussion about establishing regular meeting times for the Board of Directors, to fulfill the requirement of four per year, and that an informal poll would be conducted at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting set for Friday, June 3, 2011, at 1 p.m., at Braden Park Baptist Church, 4739 East 5th Street, Tulsa, OK 74112.

Sherryl suggested that an orientation of the Foundation’s website recently developed and published by Dick (www.willrogersfoundation.net) be made an agenda item for the Board of Directors meeting.

The date of the next Executive Committee meeting will be called prior to the next Board of Directors meeting, Friday, May 27, at 3:30 p.m., to be held again at the Kendall-Whittier Library, with video teleconferencing available. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Risk, Jr., Secretary