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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1954 : 01 : 28 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting of January 28, 1954

Held in Clearwater

Present: Mrs. Harrison, Chairman; Mr. Parry, Secretary; Mrs. Holland; Mrs. Jackson; Mr. Christian; and the Director, Herbert D. Williams; also present as a visitor was Mrs. Margaret Berg McKeown.

Motion: Letters
Letters to Mr. Parry, Mr. Cooperman, and the Chairmen of the Democratic Club and Republican Club were approved on motion by Mr. Christian, and seconded by Mrs. Jackson. The motion carried.

Motion: Minutes
Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion, that the Minutes of the December 10, 1953 Meeting and the Minutes of the December 22, 1953 Meeting be approved as submitted to the membership.

Motion: Expenditures
Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion that the expenditures as listed for December 30, 1953 in checks #3371 through #3380 in the General Operating Account and checks #134 through #137 in the In-School Counseling Account and check #17 in the Trustee Account; for January 15, 1954 in checks #3381 through #3391 in the General Operating Account and checks #138 through #139 in the In-School Counseling Account; for January 30, 1954 in checks #3395 through #3412 in the General Operating Account and checks #140 through #143 in the In-School Counseling Account, be approved for payment. The motion carried.

Mrs. Holland and Dr. Williams reported on Christmas gifts supplied by the Faleha Sunday School Class of the First Baptist Church, Pasadena Women's Club, and the Toy Shop of the Community Welfare Council.

The Juvenile Court reports for November were reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Parry reported that the Police Department of St. Petersburg and other individuals had commended the work of Mr. Leonard Summers, Assistant Counselor of the Juvenile Court.

Motion: Letter of commendation to Mr. Summers
Mrs. Holland moved and Mr. Christian seconded a motion that the Secretary of the Board, Mr. Parry, write a letter to Mr. Summers commending him for his outstanding work. The motion carried unanimously.

A request by the Children's Service Bureau for support of Baby Girl Davis, pending adoption, was presented to the Board.

Motion: Support of Baby Girl Davis
Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded the motion that support be granted for a three-months period and that a request for extension be made if the period exceeded three months. The motion carried.

The Director reported that as of December 31, 1953, the Juvenile Welfare Board was supporting, in whole or in part, 59 children in foster care at a total expense of $3,255.37 for the month. Parents and relatives, either directly or through the Juvenile Court, contributed $622.12 toward this amount; $400.96 was collected by the Juvenile Court toward the children's support, and the remainder was paid in directly by the parents and relatives. In addition, the Board provided $8 during December for emergency shelter care.
The Director reported that the court order regarding the underwriting of the support of the Rever children had been amended following the petition submitted by Mr. Leonard Cooperman, attorney for the Board.

In discussing the problem of selecting the Juvenile Judge, Mr. Christian suggested that the Board give some thought to legislative changes in the Juvenile Court Law to provide for the appointment of the Juvenile Court Judge by a board, such as the Juvenile Welfare Board. He stated that the position of Juvenile Judge required training and experience somewhat analogous to that of a Superintendent of Public Instruction, and that a carefully selected Citizens Board would pick the Juvenile Judge on the basis of his qualifications for the job rather than on any political basis or on the basis of his belonging to any one profession. The Board requested the Director to bring together some material for further consideration of this matter.

The Director reported on a TV panel discussion in which he participated along with the Juvenile Judge and the President of the Child Guidance Clinic Board.

Mr. Christian reported on a panel discussion at the University of Florida on Juvenile Delinquency, held in conjunction with a meeting of the County School Superintendents of the State.

The annual report, which had been sent out to the members of the Board in advance, was discussed, approved, and adopted.

**Motion:** Mr. Parry moved that the annual report be approved, Mr. Christian seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The Director gave highlights in regard to the activities reports for November.

Mr. Parry reported that he had spoken to the Gulf Beaches Business and Professional Women’s Club on facts and figures regarding juvenile delinquency in Pinellas County.

**Motion:** Following this, Mr. Christian moved, Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion to adjourn, which carried.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on the second Thursday in February, February 11, 1954.

The other members of the Juvenile Welfare Board wish to express their appreciation of your services to the Board during the period you have been a member and to tell you how glad they are that you are making the sacrifice to remain on
the Juvenile Welfare Board during the coming year.

We have depended upon your interest in and understanding of the problems of children in need. We know that you have been a militant defender of the rights and needs of children when they have been under attack. We hope you will continue to be a member of our Board.

Sincerely yours,

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

By

Virginia D. Harrison
(Mrs. Baya Harrison)

LETTER TO MR. COOPERMAN

Mr. Leonard W. Cooperman, Atty.
109 Sixth Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida

Dear Mr. Cooperman:

The Juvenile Welfare Board wishes to express its appreciation to you for your continued, unselfish, dedicated service to this Board and to the principles for which it stands.

We have been deeply appreciative of the services which you have rendered to the Board, both directly and through your community and civic efforts, in behalf of children.

We are particularly indebted to you for being willing to accept the Chairmanship of the Citizens Committee to investigate and clarify the situation in regard to delinquency in this county, particularly in the St. Petersburg area.

Another service which you rendered to the Board has been in getting a clarification regarding the law pertaining to the election of the Juvenile Judge. We appreciate your prompt action, which makes it possible for orderly elective processes to be carried out during the primary and general election this year.

For these and many other evidences of your devotion to the cause of children and to the Juvenile Welfare Board, we give you our deepest thanks.

Sincerely yours,

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

By

Virginia D. Harrison
(Mrs. Baya Harrison)
LETTER TO CHAIRMEN OF REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

Mr. Charles E. Fisher
Chairman, Executive Committee
Republican Club
St. Petersburg, Florida

Dear Mr. Fisher:

As you know, the Juvenile Welfare Board is tremendously interested in the children of this county. It has been active in developing, strengthening, and providing many needed services to children in the county. It has done this through the assistance furnished to individuals, agencies, and organizations.

The Juvenile Court is one of the organizations the Juvenile Welfare Board started out early to assist in developing a better, more adequate type of service for the children of the county. The Juvenile Court is a keystone in the arch of successful work with children in the county. It is for this reason that the Juvenile Welfare Board is particularly anxious that everything possible be done to develop the Pinellas County Juvenile Court into one of the better juvenile courts of the country.

The key person in the Juvenile Court is, of course, the Juvenile Judge. If he is thoroughly conversant with the various resources in the community, with the needs of children, and understands the basic disciplines that are needed in solving the problems of disturbed and delinquent children, then he can work cooperatively with the agencies, and assist them in mobilizing the resources of the community for the aid of a child which comes before him. If he has had no experience in dealing with agencies or children, then he has little to contribute and, quite frequently, he can be of real damage to children.

We are writing this letter with the hope that your organization will use its best influence to secure a suitable, trained, experienced person as a candidate for this vital position in the next primary and general election. An individual who has served on boards of children's agencies, or who has taken an active part in the development of welfare programs for children would be the kind of person who, it seems to us, would be most likely to succeed in this position.

Appreciating your cooperation in this matter, we are

Sincerely yours,

By
Virginia D. Harrison
(Mrs. Baya Harrison)

Above letter sent to:

Mr. E. G. Redinger
Chairman, Executive Committee
Democratic Club
159 - 3rd Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida