Minutes of Meeting - Juvenile Welfare Board - July 29, 1948

The Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board met in Clearwater at 9:45 A.M. on July 29, 1948, with the following persons present: Mrs. Holland, Chairman, Miss Phillips, Judge Marshall, Mr. Fuguitt, Mrs. Bartlett, Dr. Williams and Mr. Rogero.

The minutes of July 15 and July 23 were read and approved.

Bills amounting to $303.48 were presented.

MOTION: Miss Phillips moved that they be paid. Mr. Fuguitt seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Williams read a proposal (copy attached) concerning the repayment of funds embezzled by Virginia Bilderback Jackson and the bonding of all staff members connected with the Board and the Juvenile Court. In the general discussion that followed it was shown that the Board was deeply appreciative of Dr. Williams' proposal, but felt that individual members wanted to donate also towards this misappropriation by one of its staff. Mrs. Holland stated that outside persons had asked if they might be allowed to give also; but it was the concensus of opinion that although this desire showed a fine spirit, it might be a bad policy to accept.

MOTION: Judge Marshall then moved that Dr. Williams' offer be received and accepted, but that Board members be granted the privilege of paying any sum they wished to minimize this loss; that the suggested bond for members of the staff be secured in the amount of $3,000.00 for the Director, and $1,000.00 each for all other positions, and that the suggested method of issuing and signing checks be adopted. Mr. Fuguitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Williams reported that two meetings had been held in which the directors of District 114 Welfare Board, the County Welfare Board, City of St. Petersburg Welfare Board and the Juvenile Welfare Board participated, and that great progress had been made in integrating various programs towards needs, in stretching services, and in defining areas of responsibilities, particularly regarding runaways, transients, and emergency care for families. Still being studied is the need of rent payments for families, also the need for milk for children throughout the county. Miss Phillips suggested that powdered milk be added to grocery lists for needy children, and that the Health Department be contacted to help mothers plan towards this diet.
Dr. Williams asked if shelter care for delinquent children didn't belong to the Board rather than to State Welfare, and thought that shelter homes might be worked out for the "in-between" delinquent. Mr. Rogero suggested the Board ask the County Commissioners to provide space in the new building for the bad cases over fourteen years of age, or ask the Commissioners to give the Board the present jail to be used as a detention home. No action was taken.

The Board was unresponsive towards Mrs. Joan Waechter's request for an increase in salary and referred the matter to Mr. Rogero.

Mrs. Bartlett suggested that measures be taken soon to move the two older boys from the Juvenile Home to boarding homes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 A. M.

[Signature]

Marymeade Blocher Bartlett
Secretary
It begins to appear that there will be no restitution of the remaining shortage resulting from the embezzlement of funds by Virginia Bilderback Jackson, either by Mrs. Jackson or by her family.

In view of the fact that the Juvenile Welfare Board has voted to hold the individual members of the board responsible for this shortage; and, in view of the further fact the director of this agency feels that public spirited, unselfish citizens who give of their time and energy in the interest of unfortunate children by serving on boards and taking an active part in the care of deprived children should not pay the penalty for dishonest acts on the part of a trusted member of the salaried staff; and, because no member of the board should, in the director's opinion, be held personally responsible except for the proper performance of the duties of his or her office;

The director proposes that he be allowed to donate $50.00 per month out of his present salary from the Juvenile Welfare Board to the funds of the Juvenile Welfare Board until the shortage of $1034.79 existing as the result of the dishonesty of Virginia Bilderback Jackson is wiped out. This gift is offered to the board purely as a gift, and not otherwise, for the purpose indicated above.

The director also proposes that suitable arrangements be made with a bonding company to cover against possibility of loss and to protect each member of the board and each member of the staff against loss in the future except that resulting from the individual's own gross negligence or dishonest acts.

The director further proposes that no checks be signed by the members of the board authorized to sign checks until and unless they have the signature of the director on them and have been completely filled out, including the director's signature.