

Wiltwyck School
1947-

Dec. 26 - 1947
1814 Park Ave

Mrs. Roosevelt:

Dear Madam:

*Wm. J. ...
I read in ...
of your ...*

newspapers & your interest in the ...
which called for help: would it not ...
at 4 P.M. two blocks from where I am ...
staying, I was ruthlessly held up ...
by a young negro ruffian, who ...
choked me, kicked my knee till ...
fell to the ground and saw some ...
what incapacitated since then.
The N.Y. Police have the record.

HENRY W. P.
BENJAMIN C.
MRS. FRANKI
ROBERT W. I.
HOWARD A.
CHANNING F.
FRANK M. T.
MRS. MAX W.

ROBERT
Evans

is only for those who help
themselves. Having stated
my grievances I would not
object if you would call this
complaint to the attention
of the Welfare Bureau

Sincerely

Mrs. Louise D. Karameagh

at 125 St. 18 14 Park Ave.,
N. Y. C.

Lectecture Bureau of the East
126 St. station N. Y. C. Lehigh 4-1866.

As the Children courts & Wel-
fare dept. supply the funds
to protect such care how about
the injured citizen, who is
the victim of child delinquency
being helped also. I lost the oppor-
tunity of a good position, am in
debt for my room rent, also you
will find an inclosed expense list.
I owe my family physician also
for medicine & bandages. I tried
to borrow, but it seems Christmas

I am sorry to hear of
your unpleasant
experience. Mr. Wright
is able to teach the boys
& prevent such occurrences.

The only help I can
suggest is the Welfare
Bureau (Return papers)

THE WILTWYCK SCHOOL FOR BOYS, Inc.

Box 71 • Esopus • New York

Esopus 2411

NATHAN STILLMAN, *Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MRS. LOUIS S. WEISS

First Vice President

BENJAMIN DAY

Second Vice President

JUDGE JANE BOLIN

Secretary

MRS. JOSEPH P. LASH

Treasurer

MRS. DAVID M. LEVY

January 6, 1948

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REV. SHELTON HALE BISHOP
HARRY BRANDT
MRS. LOUIS BROIDO
T. M. BUNDRANT, DDS
ALLEN KNIGHT CHALMERS, DD
GEORGE COHRON
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HOWARD A. SEITZ
CHANNING H. TOBIAS
FRANK M. TOTTON
MRS. MAX WINSOR

Miss Thompson
Hyde Park
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Thompson,

The enclosed letter for Mrs. Roosevelt was addressed to our school. We are sending it on to you for any disposition you care to make.

Very truly yours,

Nathan Stillman
Nathan Stillman
Director

N.S.:mj

ROBERT L. COOPER
Executive Director

WILTYWYCK SCHOOL FOR BOYS
ESOPUS, NEW YORK



Miss Thompson
Hyde Park, New York

c/o Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

File

THE WILTWYCK SCHOOL FOR BOYS, INC.

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

January 14, 1947

A meeting of the board of directors of the Wiltwyck School for Boys, Inc. was held at the home of Judge Justine Wise Polier, 175 east 64th St. New York City, on January 14, 1947, at 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following directors were present:

Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop
Dr. T. M. Bundrant
Harry Brandt
Judge Jane M. Bolin
Rev. Allan K. Ghalmers
George E. Gohron
Benjamin Day
Rev. Charles K. Gilbert

Hon. Stanley W. Isaacs
Mrs. Trude W. Lash
Dr. William Lefkowitz
Austin MacGormick
Judge Justine Wise Polier
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Mrs. Louis Weiss

The following directors were absent:

Dr. Viola W. Bernard
Dr. Eugene C. Garder
Judge Hubert T. Delary
Maxwell Hahn
Mrs. Lester Hofheimer
Dr. John H. Johnson
Dr. Marion Kerworthy

Mrs. David M. Levy
Dr. O. Clay Maxwell
Henry W. Pope
Dr. Benjamin C. Robeson
Dr. Robert W. Searle
Howard A. Seitz
Dr. Ghaning Tobias
Frank M. Totton

MINUTES OF
LAST MEETING

The following corrections were made in the minutes of the annual meeting. The name of the Property Committee was changed to Finance Committee and Mrs. Lash's name added to the Foster Home Committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Lash reported that we still need to raise \$29,000 before June 30, the end of the fiscal year. This figure, Mrs. Lash said, is misleading because if we raise only \$29,000 we will not have enough money in the bank to begin the summer. Therefore we must raise \$29,000 plus \$20,000, the amount we had on hand at the beginning of this fiscal year. Much of this must be raised from new sources.

Mrs. Roosevelt reported on a gift of \$6,000 from Walter Kirschner and gave Mrs. Lash twelve checks for \$500 each dated for each of the twelve months of 1947. Mrs. Roosevelt said that Mr. Kirschner had conveyed in a letter written to her that he would repeat this gift each year during his lifetime and would leave 5% of his estate to Wiltwyck in his will. A resolution was made and passed unanimously that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Kirschner. Mrs. Lash was asked to write such a letter.

THEATRE BENEFIT

In connection with the theatre benefit, Mrs. Roosevelt reported that Mr. Brandt had asked her to have Mr. Arnoff to lunch and ask him to accept the chairmanship of the souvenir program committee. Mr. Arnoff, however, has been ill and she has not seen him as yet.

Mr. Brandt expressed a great concern over the fact that we have made many plans and suggestions but nothing has been accomplished. He said that if Mr. Arnoff would take on the responsibility of the chairmanship of the souvenir program committee he could get someone else.

In relation to the actual play for which we will have a benefit Mr. Brandt said he felt Lee Shubert would be the person to advise us on coming openings. If we decide to have the theatre benefit in April we will not be able to take a play before March because openings are not set farther in advance than that.

WILTWYCK WEEK

Father Bishop reported on Wiltwyck Week. At the meeting of the executive committee in November it was decided that we should set aside one week in the spring during which we would try to get churches and organizations to present programs about Wiltwyck. Programs should be educational in nature but we would not disguise the fact that we are building toward financial support. The first step in carrying out this plan would be for a small committee of the board to work out details. Father Bishop accepted chairmanship of this committee and after considerable delay and difficulty a group got together and has now completed plans for a tea to be held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. E. P. Roberts, 130 West 130th Street, January 26th. Dr. Carder, Judge Polier, Judge Delary and Mr. Cooper are to speak at the tea and we hope Josh White or some other well known entertainer will take part. Invitations have gone out to a guest list compiled by the committee. It includes mostly people from Harlem and we need help in getting people from downtown New York.

In the discussion it was brought out that this tea had originally been thought of as a means for setting up a sponsoring committee for Wiltwyck which was to be observed about two months later. However, the committee now feels that it should be part of a total campaign to raise \$150,000 toward this year's and next year's budget. It now appears that there will be some difficulty about this, too, since the plans for the theatre benefit and accompanying program advertising are still unsettled. However, the tea can be used to present the idea of Wiltwyck Week, to interest people in sponsoring projects and raise definite sums of money to cover specific parts of the work.

It had originally been planned to conclude Wiltwyck Week with a benefit in Harlem at one of the theatres Mr. Brandt had offered. At another time it was suggested that this final affair should be held in Town Hall. As plans developed it appeared that an affair in Town Hall would duplicate the theatre benefit whereas a large affair in Harlem coming almost at the same time as the theatre benefit might create the impression that we were having one event in Harlem for Negroes and another downtown.

MOVIE

Miss Binder reported on the movie that is being made about the work at Wiltwyck by Janice Loeb and Helen Levitt, two young women who are incorporated as Documentary Films, Inc. They wanted to make their first movie about our children because of their interest in Negro children and our work. They have completed a script which some members of the board have read and are now ready to receive a definite decision from the board as to whether they should go ahead or not. It is planned that representatives of the board will meet with them shortly to work out details of the basis on which we would like to have them proceed.

PROTESTANT CLERGY

Bishop Gilbert said he had been thinking about ways in which we could bring information about delinquency in New York City, and about Wiltwyck, to the Protestant Clergy. He had been deeply impressed by Mr. Stillman's talk at a dinner for the clergymen on our board which was recently held at the Faculty Club. He wondered whether we should try to get a group of clergymen together, perhaps for a luncheon, and let them hear from both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Stillman. He emphasized that he thought they should hear about the place of Wiltwyck in the total delinquency treatment picture. Dr. Chalmers felt that if it was planned well ahead, so people would have time to reserve the date and if Bishop Gilbert would take leadership in getting out the invitations we could get a good many people to attend. Father Bishop suggested we ask Mrs. Levy whether the meeting could be held in her home. Mrs. Roosevelt suggested that instead of having people just listen to speakers they be given a chance to sit in on something like a full staff meeting and if possible see some of our children, provided this can be done without making the children self-conscious.

ACADEMIC SCHOOL

Mrs. Weiss reported on the changes that are planned for our academic school. Two years ago an attempt was made to get a bill through the legislature for a union free school district which would allow Wiltwyck to get its own teachers. The bill was introduced too late and was not passed. During the academic year 1945-46 an experiment was made with teachers from Poughkeepsie Day School giving a special in-training service course to the teachers at Wiltwyck. This attempt did not succeed very well and the conclusion arrived at was that the teachers were not ready to accept this kind of help. The situation continues to be serious. A bill is again being presented in Albany at the current session of the legislature and there is every hope it will pass and we will be able to establish our own school. Meanwhile, a remedial reading teacher has been employed and is doing successful work with as many children as she has time for. If the bill should not pass the legislature we may be able to work out other plans with the board of education. The board is aware that the teachers they are able to send are not well equipped for the job they have to do.

GROUP HOMES

Mr. Cooper reported on the progress toward establishing a group home. Mrs. Audrey Delany of Riverdale and her staff have been the best source of information. They have recommended to Miss Dunbar and Mr. Cooper that we employ a staff person for about three months on a project basis to set up our first group home. A meeting

was held with the foster home committee of the board and it was suggested that we discuss with Mrs. Delany the possibility of her agency finding a home for us with Wiltwyck assuming the cost of such an operation including the salary of the worker who did the job. Mrs. Delany has been on vacation since the meeting of this group home committee of the board and this proposal will be discussed with her upon her return.

Another suggestion has been that a small committee of persons residing in a particular community be got together to help us find a home. Mr. Cooper pointed out that homes within the five boroughs of New York City must be licensed by the board of health and any outside the city must be licensed by the state department. The question was raised as to whether we could consider homes outside the city. For instance, Poughkeepsie and Kingston. Mr. Cooper said this was possible but it would present a difficult problem in supervision since our casework office is in New York City.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. Cooper presented a request that the board approve a scholarship for Creed Upshur who has been a member of the Wiltwyck staff for a number of years first as a counselor and more recently as a worker in training on our casework staff. Mr. Cooper pointed out that the staff and the board at meetings of various committees had expressed a belief that Wiltwyck should take responsibility for training promising people. He believes that Mr. Upshur is an exceptionally promising worker. The amount of the grant asked is \$800 to cover Mr. Upshur's tuition for two quarters at the New York School of Social Work and \$75 a month toward his maintenance for six months. Mr. Upshur will return to Wiltwyck after he has completed his training. Mrs. Weiss said she would like to see us take some responsibility toward having a school developed for counselors in institutions as there seems to be nothing for them at the present time. Mr. Ochron suggested this as a project which we might ask a community group to take on.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the board grant the payment of Mr. Upshur's tuition of \$175 a quarter for two quarters and \$75 a month toward his support for six months and that Mrs. Lash be authorized to notify Mr. Upshur to this effect.

DR GARDER'S RESIGNATION

Judge Polier called attention to the letter from Dr. Carder copies of which were in the hands of each person present. She said that it was with great regret that she had to announce his resignation since it would be extremely hard to find someone equally qualified to act as president of our board. She called attention to the great help Dr. Carder had provided at the time that this board was organized and pointed out that we probably could not have continued the school after 1942 if it had not been for his interest. The hope was expressed that Dr. Carder would continue as a member of the board so that we would not lose entirely the contribution which he is in a position to make.

A motion was made by Mrs. Roosevelt, seconded by Mr. Day and unanimously carried that Mrs. Lash, the secretary of the board, write Dr. Carder conveying to him the regret of the board over his decision to resign, thanking him for his past services and asking him to continue as a member of the board.

Judge Polier stressed the importance of our getting a new president immediately so there will be no long period during which the agency will be without an official head. Mr. MacCormick pointed out that the president of an agency such as this should be chosen with as much care as an executive since the leadership of the agency is in his hands and he is our most important representative with the public. Mr. MacCormick mentioned that Lloyd Garrison is in New York and might be a person to consider. Judge Polier will appoint a committee to bring a recommendation to the board.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. Cooper reported that E. I. McCaffrey had made a survey of our water supply and sewage disposal system and has recommended changes. The cost of a new sewage disposal system cannot be estimated but a new water supply system would be in the neighborhood of \$1500. Mr. Cooper asked if the property committee would be the proper one to represent the board and discuss these changes with an engineering group. It was agreed that this be referred to the property committee.

NEW BUILDING

Mr. Cooper reported that the new kitchen and dining hall are well under way and would probably be ready for use by spring. He expressed some concern over the lack of supervision by anyone representing Mrs. Levy and Mrs. Hofheimer. Theoretically the architect is responsible but a number of things have come to Mr. Cooper's attention which have led him to believe that it would be advisable to have closer supervision. One of these things was the use of green lumber. Mrs. Roosevelt said that this should be reported to the Hofheimer Estate at once and they be asked to send someone to supervise. Mrs. Lash was authorized to get in touch with Mr. Goldwasser about it.

The meeting was adjourned.

AGENDA

for

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.30 p.m. January 14, 1947

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Financial report -Mrs. Lash
3. Wiltwyck Week -Fr. Bishop
4. Theatre Bebenefit -Mr. Brandt
5. Announcement about movie -Miss Binder
6. Changes in academic school -Mrs. Weiss
7. Reports from Mr. Cooper regarding:
- a. Group home
 - b. Scholarships for casework
 - c. Water supply and sewage disposal
 - d. New Building
8. Resignation of Dr. Carder

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JULY 1st to DECEMBER 31st, Inc. 1946

BALANCE ON HAND JULY 31st, 1946 \$ 20,265.94

RECEIPTS JULY 1st to DECEMBER 31st, Inc. 1946

City of New York 22,542.66
Greater New York Fund 6,475.00

FOUNDATIONS

Wm. T. Morris Foundation	\$ 100.00	
Herman & Amelia Ehrman Fund	1,000.00	
Baldwin Fund	800.00	
Daily Vacation Bible Fund	75.00	
Adale R. Levy	2,500.00	
Marion R. Ascoli	1,500.00	
Grant Foundation	100.00	
Nathan Hoffheimer Foundation	5,000.00	
Frank E. Clark Charitable Trust	500.00	
Blue Hill Foundation	1,000.00	
David Baird Fund	137.00	
New York Foundation	2,500.00	
Marshall Field	5,000.00	
Turrell Fund	500.00	
Stettenheim Fund	500.00	
	<u>500.00</u>	\$ 21,212.00

General Contributions and Income from Mailings 4,923.20
Refunds - (Insurance - City of N.Y. etc.) 498.78

TOTAL \$ 55,651.04

Balance July 1, 1946 20,265.94

Total \$ 75,917.58

DISBURSEMENTS JULY 1st to DECEMBER 31st, Inc. 1946

58,862.49

BALANCE ON HAND GENERAL ACCOUNT
CHASE NATIONAL BANK DECEMBER 31st, 1946

\$ 17,055.09

SPECIAL ACCOUNT CHASE NATIONAL BANK

BALANCE JULY 1st, 1946 - \$6,398.00

Dental Clinic	398.00	
Arts & Crafts	1,900.00	
Sewage Disposal	4,100.00	
	<u>4,100.00</u>	\$ 6,398.00

Receipts JULY 1st to DECEMBER 31st, Inc. 1946

Dental Clinic	169.62	
Foster Home	150.00	
Sewage Disposal	2,058.07	
Remedial Reading Supplies	50.00	
	<u>50.00</u>	2,419.69

BALANCE CHASE NATIONAL BANK DECEMBER 31st, 1946 \$ 8,817.69

- 2 - FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31st, Inc. 1946

Amounts Assured but not yet received

City of New York	\$ 32,000.00
Marshall Field	2,500.00
New York Foundation	3,750.00
Stettenheim Fund	500.00
David M. Baird - (200 shares Liberty Magazine Stock)	1,000.00 (Approx.)
Phelps Stokes Fund	<u>50.00</u>
	\$ 39,800.00
CASH BALANCE JULY 1st, 1946	\$ 20,265.94
Receipts July 1st to December 31st, Inc.	55,651.64
Amount not yet received	<u>39,800.00</u>
	\$ 115,717.58

BUDGET

Less \$145,000.00
115,717.58

\$ 29,282.42 AMOUNT STILL TO BE RAISED

Eugene C. Gardner

Butler Hall, 400 West 119th St. New York, N.Y.

January 10, 1947

To the Board of Directors of
The Wiltwyck School for Boys, Inc.

Dear Friends:

Since the next meeting of the Board called for January 14th will not bring out more than approximately one-half of the membership I am presuming to write a brief report for mailing to the entire Board as well as for presentation to the forthcoming meeting. Since my personal situation is such as to make it mandatory for me to sever my connection with the Board at this time I feel it incumbent upon me to offer something in the nature of an accounting of my stewardship and to give some information as to the situation as I see it.

Let me at once express my deep personal gratitude for the amazingly generous and whole hearted support which the School has received and is receiving from the members of the Board. Such devotion in terms of time and thought as well as in money deserves far more cooperation and participation on the part of the Protestant Community in general than has been forthcoming. However, in stressing the failure of the Protestant people to take over and carry the whole load we ought not to ignore the very considerable support we have gotten from Protestant sources and particularly should we not forget that the initial gift of the property at Esopus, which is the greatest asset we have, came directly from Protestant sources in the first place and came to us directly from a Protestant denomination, the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York City. This is not only true of the physical property but obtains also with respect to the sensing in the first place of the responsibility of the Protestant people for the under-privileged and delinquent boys of Harlem.

It is highly gratifying to be able to report at this juncture, namely the middle of the School year, that the possibility of raising the current budget by the first of July is promising though it is in no sense assured and a deal of effort has yet to be spent on it.

In my opinion the time has come when The Wiltwyck School must set up a central administrative office that will give oversight and direction to all of the activities that are now divided among the office at Esopus, the office at 125th St. and the office at 9 East 46th St. I am not disposed to project my own ideas into the problem other than to raise the question as to whether or not the time has not come to consider giving the Director of the School an over all responsibility for these matters and arrange such adjustments at Esopus and in the City as may prove to be necessary. Other alternatives will undoubtedly be considered. I present this suggestion merely for what it may be worth.

It is with deep regret that I present herewith my resignation from the Board and relinquish such committee assignments and other responsibilities as I have been carrying. I think I owe it to the Board as well as to myself to explain that the immediacy of this action is dictated by the fact that as of January first I severed my connection with the Protestant Council and thereby separated myself from office and secretarial resources that are essential to the carrying of even the inconsequential stint of detail that I have assumed over the years. I could not have served as President of your board at all if it had not been for the generous attitude of the Riverside Church in granting me time and

The Wiltwyck School for Boys, Inc.

BOX 71 - ESOPUS - NEW YORK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

EUGENE C. CORDER, D. D.

First Vice President

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Second Vice President

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Secretary

TRUDE W. LASH

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BENJAMIN DAY
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Bishop CHARLES K. GILBERT
MAXWELL HAHN
RUFUS M. HARTHILL
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MARION E. KENWORTHY, M. D.
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O. CLAY MAXWELL, D. D.
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HENRY W. POPE
BENJAMIN C. ROBESON, D. D.
Mrs. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
ROBERT W. SEARLE, D. D.
HOWARD SEITZ
CHANNING H. TOBIAS
Mrs. LOUIS S. WEISS
MAX WINSOR, M. D.

ROBERT L. COOPER
Executive Director

January 15, 1947

JL

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Val-Kill Cottage,
Hyde Park, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

On December 13, 1946 we received a letter from Mr. William Roth, General Sales Manager, Rig-A-Jig Toy Company, Inc., 1202 Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. The letter advised that "At the request of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt we have shipped at no charge 72 sets of Rig-A-Jig toys for distribution to the children in your school."

On Saturday, January 11, 1947 the toys reached Wiltwyck. Our children have already started using the toys and are displaying a great interest and curiosity in working and playing with them. We have just dictated a thank you letter to Mr. Roth, copy of which is enclosed.

Allow us to thank you, also, for the book which you sent to me and for the dolls which you sent to our daughter, Lisle. The "Trude Doll" was the most exciting thing that she got for Christmas. She is constantly amazed that the doll has three faces.

Thanking you for your continued interest in Wiltwyck and our children, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Robert L. Cooper,
Robert L. Cooper,
Executive Director *R.L.C.*

Copy:
Miss Binder

January 15, 1947

Mr. William Roth,
General Sales Manager,
Rig-A-Jig Toy Company, Inc.,
1202 Venice Boulevard,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Roth:

On Friday, January 11, 1947 we received 4 cartons of Rig-A-Jig toys. We wrote to you on January 6, 1947 stating that the toys had not yet been received, but are happy to report now that they have been received and came in excellent condition.

The toys are already in circulation among our children. They have displayed real interest in working with the toys and seem terribly enthusiastic about the number of different kinds of things that they can make with them. I am sure that we will have many extremely interesting hours during our long winter months making intricate as well as simple designs, toys, etc.

It was extremely kind and gracious of you to send these toys for our children. It is persons like yourself and Mrs. Roosevelt, who is one of our hard working Board persons, who give us added faith in the validity of what we are attempting to do with these unhappy children who are committed to us for care.

On behalf of our children, our staff and our Board of Directors, we say, thank you.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Robert L. Cooper

Robert L. Cooper,
Executive Director