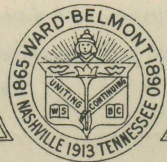


WARD-BELMONT

A JUNIOR COLLEGE, A PREPARATORY SCHOOL
AND A CONSERVATORY FOR YOUNG WOMEN



BELMONT HEIGHTS

NASHVILLE 5, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 9, 1951

TO ALL PATRONS AND ALUMNAE:

Unavoidable circumstances have forced us to delay giving you an accurate account of the recent change in our Board of Trustees and the reasons therefor. The facts are these:

(1) On June 30, 1949, the Board of Directors of The Ward-Belmont School agreed to serve as members of the Board of Trustees of Ward-Belmont, Inc., a non-profit institution, until a more appropriate board could be found.

(2) The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools had for many years prior to 1949 been insisting that the school change its legal status to that of a non-profit institution. (It had been "non-profit" in fact for more than twenty years.) Recently this regional accrediting association indicated that the school must secure an endowment or other permanent commitments that would guarantee the school annually some \$17,500 in income over and above all student fees. Every effort was exerted to this end; but, having changed to a legal non-profit status so recently, at least a period of years would be required to raise such a sum. Furthermore, the alumnae had not been organized with a financial drive primarily in mind.

(3) The financial agents of the school rightly did not feel justified in entering upon a period of universally lower college enrollments and accordingly upon an extended period of deficit financially, especially with the possibility that the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools would refuse accreditation of our college work because of a regulation that, in our case, was based upon entirely hypothetical, financial grounds. Although this regulation might have absolutely no relationship to real educational standards, a withdrawal of accreditation would make the very existence of the school uncertain even if there were not the slightest change in traditional scholastic standards and campus life.

(4) During the last several years the school has made noteworthy progress. Some \$200,000 has been paid on indebtedness and a like amount has been spent on permanent improvements in the physical plant.

(5) The Board of Trustees, who had agreed to serve only until a more suitable group could be found, felt that they had no right to jeopardize the accreditation of the work of the students and even the existence of the school. So, after some preliminary discussions with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, a special meeting of the Board was held. At this meeting each member of the Board tendered his resignation and a group of men selected by the Tennessee Baptist Convention were elected.

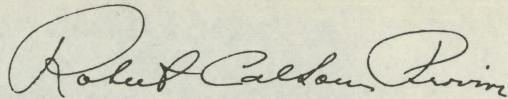
(6) The new Board of Trustees met immediately and passed resolutions guaranteeing the continuance of the school for the remainder of the current academic year on exactly the same basis, with the present administration, faculty and staff.

(7) No sale or purchase of the school or of any of its properties was involved. The same corporation continues but with a different Board of Trustees.

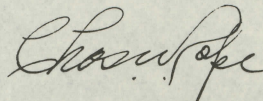
(8) A commission has been appointed to re-study the whole school and to develop long range plans. To date no definite plans or policies have been formulated.

The school will, of course, continue. Any developments will be worked out by the new Board of Trustees. Meanwhile the usual work of the school will go on in the same manner with the same faculty, administration and staff. Enrollments and re-enrollments are naturally subject to patrons' approval of any changes that might be made and the school's offering the particular curricula in question.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Calhoun Provine
President



C. W. Pope, Executive Secretary
Tennessee Baptist Convention