

Scattergood Friends School Committee
Approved Minutes
14 January 2012

Mission Statement

Scattergood Friends School challenges students with a college-preparatory curriculum, farm experience, a shared work program, and community living in the spirit of Quaker faith.

Present: George Bergus, Rebecca Bergus, Claire Cumbie-Drake, Ruth Dawson, Debbie Galusha (clerk), Karen Greenler, Lucy Hansen, Phil Henderson, Russ Leckband, Callie Marsh, Sylvia Sanford, Dan Schlitt, Doyle Wilson, Bob Winchell, Allan Winder

Absent: Lorene Ludy

Staff Present: Christine Ashley, Margie Figgins, Rüdiger Ruckmann

The clerk opened the meeting at the appointed time with a time of worship. She then read the following passage:

²My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. ⁶But ask in faith, nothing doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

James 1:2-6 NRSV

Minute: We approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 November 2011.

Minute: We approve the change of name of the School Committee Handbook from “Rules of the Scattergood Friends School Committee” to “Responsibilities and Guidelines of the Scattergood Friends School Committee.”

Christine Ashley reminded Friends that the ISACS accreditation team will be at the School on 18-19 March 2012. A reception and dinner will be held in the evening on the 18th. Debbie Galusha, Callie Marsh, Bob Winchell and Allan Winder agree to be present for the reception and dinner, and, if possible, on

Monday for interviews. All School Committee members are encouraged to attend if possible.

Rebecca Bergus reported that Margie Özemet has been updating the web site, which is both beautiful and doing well. Open houses are planned.

Sylvia Sanford and Rüdiger Ruckmann reported that there are more donors to the School this year, and that donors are giving more to Scattergood. We are \$20,000 short of the \$240,000 goal for the annual fund, which is substantially improved over last year at this time.

Christine Ashley recognizes Margie Figgins' nine years of work in the Development Office with much appreciation.

Rüdiger reminded Friends that when we make designated donations to the School, they do not go into the Annual Fund. We need 100% participation in giving to the Annual Fund. 83% of the School Committee members have currently made contributions.

Christine reported that the student Spiritual Life Committee has established an optional meeting for worship on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. The students have also worked with Christine to find a way to have a Quaker youth retreat (Quake) at the School 2-4 March 2012.

Russ Leckband reported that Gokhan Özemet's recent detailed overview on the collection and septic system is very helpful to the Committee. We are happy to report that the leach field is in good condition.

The Facilities Committee is also considering a long-range goal of sustainability in the septic system. Land is available for a gravity septic system, which with an estimated investment of \$12,000-\$15,000, could eliminate the current cost of electricity of \$2800/year to run the pumps.

Christine asked that we think about finding someone who could bring skills in landscaping. We also need to remove several trees. Russ Leckband will initiate inquiries with someone he knows in Iowa City.

Lucy Hansen reported that the USDA loan is still in process.

The Consultation & Finance Committee is satisfied that our budgeting and finances are in good shape. The auditors may have the audit for us in the next few days. The clerk of the School Committee will be in direct communication with the auditors, and she will then communicate with the Consultation & Finance Committee.

Minute: We approve the financial report as presented on 20 December 2011.

The clerk reminds us that our March meeting will be in Des Moines. We will be exploring car-pooling possibilities. Sub-committees will need to meet before that meeting, perhaps the week before because staff will be leaving on 2 March 2012 for spring break. Conference calls can be used to accomplish those meetings.

Karen Greenler and Callie Marsh will plan the retreat for the March meeting. The plan is to have conversations about why we have chosen to serve as Committee members, what keeps us involved, what the challenges are, and what our vision is for the school. We look forward to getting to know each other better. The discussion questions will be sent to us before the March meeting. Those who will be absent may send in their responses to be shared.

The clerk needs reports from a few more sub-committees from the work at the November retreat on setting goals and refining the job descriptions. The clerk will distribute the goals when she has them all.

We discussed the scheduling of the State of the School meeting with the staff, which would ordinarily have happened last night. Circumstances around the departure of a student and an Appreciation Circle held for him last night took precedence. If the staff feel a need for this meeting, Christine will arrange it with the clerk. Friends agree that Debbie and Callie will attend if such a meeting occurs.

We are encouraged that Christine is building good relationships with various community leaders in West Branch and the surrounding area. A two-week summer program is being developed with the US/China Association. Possibilities for sharing resources with the Hoover Library are under consideration. This kind of outreach is valuable; we commend Christine for her work in this area.

The meeting closed, and we continued in a closed meeting to consider the report of the Human Resources Committee on its evaluation of the Head of School.

We look forward to meeting again, God willing, at 9:30 a.m. on 3 March 2011 at the Des Moines Valley Meetinghouse in Des Moines, IA. Coffee, tea and visiting will be from 9-9:30 a.m.

Callie Marsh, recording clerk

