

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session Approved Minutes
7 September 2013

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, Phil Henderson, Russ Leckband, Dan Schlitt, Allan Winder, Doyle Wilson, Bob Winkleblack, Harmony Dunn, Ruth Hampton, Katherine Young

Absent: Lucy Hansen, Bob Winchell

Staff Present: Christine Ashley, Rüdiger Rückmann, Thomas Weber, Alicia Streeter, Mark Shanahan, Louis Herbst

Guests: Barb Garlinghouse of the SFS Foundation

Friends settled into silent worship in a timely manner. The clerk then read the following quotation:

“There are, it seems, two muses: the Muse of Inspiration, who gives us inarticulate visions and desires, and the Muse of Realization, who returns again and again to say "It is yet more difficult than you thought." This is the muse of form. It may be then that form serves us best when it works as an obstruction, to baffle us and deflect our intended course. It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work and when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not

employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.”
~Wendell Berry

New staff introduced themselves and we welcome them into the community: Thomas Weber (Assistant Head), Alicia Streeter (Admissions Director) and Louis Herbst (Academic Dean).

We also welcome our new School Committee members: Bob Winkleblack, Harmony Dunn and Katherine Young.

Minute: We approve both the open and closed minutes from our July 30, 2013 meeting.

We heard reports from the subcommittees and thank the staff for their great work on these summaries that keep us informed. Spiritual and Community Life are working on the student handbook becoming a living document with student participation in the recommendations. Facilities proposed the idea of patching the main campus water into the Boy’s dorm well until a new well can be drilled. Development is working on bringing our main donors up to the next level of contribution. Facilities and Development are working together on a long-term campus plan for the capital campaign. Academic subcommittee brought the results of the staff survey which we discussed. Farm reported that the farm is feeling the affects of this year’s drought, and that they are excited that the vegetable packing building is basically finished except for installation of the walk-in cooler. Admissions is looking at our low enrollment at the start of the year, and is encouraging all of us to participate in referrals to build the database. Consultation and Finance Committee gave an overview.

Minute: We approve the current financial report as of September 1, 2013.

Minute: We approve a 5% tuition increase for the 2014-2015 school year. Tuition for full boarding students will be \$28,980 and day students will be \$17,800.

Minute: We give a final approval to the change to the School Committee Handbook approved at the July 2013 meeting.

Minute: We approve the following change to the School Committee Handbook to add to the July calendar:

“We will approve reports from the School Committee, Head of School, and Farm Manager for Yearly Meeting.”

Minute: We approve to close the U.S. Bank account that had a balance of \$600 for several years.

Minute: We approve the clerk signing the contract with Latta Harris for the annual review.

Minute: We approve the closing of the lock box at U.S. Bank and opening of a lock box at Hills Bank with authorized signatures of Head of School, Business Manager, and Clerk of School Committee.

Minute: We approve the slate for subcommittees for the upcoming year.

We affirm the work by the Human Resources subcommittee for their work on the clarification of Clearness Committee procedure and look forward to the final draft.

We affirm the Human Resources committee doing the evaluation of the Head of School.

Minute: We approve the School Committee Handbook.

Minute: We reaffirm our mission statement.

Minute: We reaffirm our non-discrimination statement.

Admissions will work with Christine on a November retreat for School Committee.

A reminder to School Committee that our goal is 100% participation in donating to the school.

Christine will attend a hearing in Des Moines on September 10th about proposed changes of the manner in which Iowa independent schools are accredited.

The clerk concluded our open meeting to continue with a closed meeting.

Ruth Hampton, recording clerk

Calendar: **September 14** Clerking Workshop; **October 19-20** Scattergood Days; **November 2-3** FCNL Climate Conference/Earth Walk; **November 8** Long Range Campus Planning Retreat; **November 9** School Committee meeting