

Scattergood Friends School  
School Committee Meeting at Des Moines Valley Meeting House  
Open Session  
Approved Minutes  
15 March 2014

**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:** Lucy Hansen, Claire Cumbie-Drake, Russ Leckband, Allan Winder, Bob Winchell, Bob Winkleblack, George Bergus, Rebecca Bergus, Ruth Dawson, Debbie Galusha (clerk), Ruthie Hampton, Karen Greenler

**Absent:** Doyle Wilson, Katherine Young, Phil Henderson, Harmony Dunn, Dan Schlitt

**Foundation Member Guest:** Gordon Bivens

Friends settled early into silent worship. The Clerk read the following poem by Percy Bysshe Shelly:

And Spring arose on the garden fair,  
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;  
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast  
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

**Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on January 11, 2014.**

Subcommittees elaborated on the informative reports from staff. The academic subcommittee has revamped the social studies program, and students won “Best Game Award” at a “Code Day” event focused on computer programming. The subcommittee was asked to consider about what type of credit psychology is eligible for in the way it is currently taught. Admissions continues with numerous outreach activities and is cautiously optimistic about finding thirteen more students for a total enrollment of 46 students next fall. Development is working on the large gap remaining with the Annual Fund, and will bring a gift policy revision to the May meeting. A few donors are creating a challenge grant that will be announced after the Spring Appeal and we hope the School Committee will participate.

**To Note:** There will be Individual and Corporate options for the challenge grant, and the idea was posed that the School Committee be an entity within the challenge. More details will be sent to School Committee soon about how to participate.

Rüdiger will leave for a new job next week and we are grateful for his work and his contributions to the school. The Foundation is working on a statement to reflect changes intending to maximize its payout to the school while honoring the wishes of donors and to establish a policy for assisting the school if dire needs arrive. Facilities plans to reroof and eventually rehab the Farm cottage, and is looking at options for the failing boiler in the science building: repair the boiler; replace the boiler; or install a geothermal system. Farm has been busy with numerous curriculum and outreach activities, and is looking at decreased income this year. Spiritual and Community Life reports that numerous indoor activities helped keep morale up throughout a long cold winter. The students also are working on a regional interfaith Spiritual Life Retreat scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>.

We reviewed and discussed HR’s proposed revisions to the Staff Handbook’s Grievance Policy. They will bring a recommendation to the May School Committee meeting for final approval.

Consultation and Finance is looking at the critical cash flow issues we are facing.

**Minute: We approve the financial report from March 10, 2014.**

ISACS questioned reasons for the drop in SC approval from 2004-2010 and recommended an annual board evaluation from the greater community of Scattergood. This second evaluation template is being worked on and will be sent to the Yearly Meeting, staff, students and parents.

**Minute: We approve the following response to ISACS:**

**During this interim of concern, the school was in flux with leadership and financial reporting. The leadership has been more stable since that time, and the financial reporting system has been tightened and standardized. It is believed that the change in confidence in the School Committee reflects the anxiety particularly staff and others had at this time. The School Committee does an annual self-evaluation, a structure which was more formalized in 2012. A new evaluation form is being considered for distribution to interested constituents.**

**To Note:** School Committee's self evaluations need to be finished and sent, either electronically or hard copy, to the School Committee clerk by April 1, 2014.

The Head's report addressed many activities and challenges we are facing this spring. Emma Condori will return to Bolivia because of immigration issues. It is likely tuition will need to be raised next year, but the main focus needs to be on increasing the number of students paying full tuition. The question was posed if we should be anticipating a long-term trend of smaller student enrollment. Next year's budget is being revised and will be given to Consultation and Finance after April 1<sup>st</sup> when insurance quotes come into the business office.

The Master Planning committee set housing for staff and students as the priority of their investigations, and the boys dorm would be the first project. They are determining room and space requirements and hope to bring in an architect soon to assist with feasibility, placement, and sustainability elements.

The clerk brought our open meeting to a timely close, and we proceeded into closed meeting after lunch.

Ruth Hampton, recording clerk

**Next Meetings:** May 3, July 22 (the Tuesday of Yearly Meeting)