

Scattergood Friends School  
School Committee Meeting  
Open Session Approved Minutes  
17 January 2015

**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, Allan Winder, George Bergus, Rebecca Bergus, Roy Helm, Shana Wagner, Russ Leckband, Phil Henderson, Dan Schlitt, Katherine Young, Karen Greenler, Bob Winkleblack, Ruth Dawson, Harmony Dunn, Doyle Wilson, Claire Cumbie-Drake, Bob Winchell

**Absent:** Debbie Galusha (clerk), Ruthie Hampton

**Staff Present:** Christine Ashley, Louis Herbst, Mark Quee, Thomas Weber, Jody Caldwell, Mark Shanahan

Friends settled into silent worship in a timely manner. The clerk shared with us these thoughts:

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.” Mark Twain

“Education: the path from cocky ignorance to miserable uncertainty.” Mark Twain

“A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions.” Oliver Wendell Holms

**Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on October 25, 2014.**

**Minute: We approved, by email, having Phil Henderson clerk the School Committee meetings in Debbie’s absence.**

**Minute: We approved, by email, the proposed changes to the subcommittee memberships. This includes Shana to serve on Development, Doyle to go off Consultation and Finance, and Bob Winkleblack to go on Consultation.**

We heard informative reports of the many projects and ongoing work of the school. We continue our awe and support of the creative and dedicated staff who often work long hours and with limited finances.

Spiritual and Community Life shared that students are happy with the Thursday Meeting for Worship and, though they did not meet with students, believe that students will continue to meet regularly with Fernando.

The Middle School Planning Committee is collecting interesting and valuable information from their five in-depth interviews. They plan to continue training interviewers. While it appears interest is highest for a middle school in the Grinnell area, the committee is also engaging families in Iowa City, Des Moines, and the surrounding communities. There is cautious optimism that we could build feeder

relationships with existing middle schools or bring a new school under our accreditation.

Consultation and finance reported that the income for the current school year will be below the budgeted amount, mostly due to the low enrollment. This is projected to leave the school with a substantial loss at the end of the year. There are some additional revenue and cost saving possibilities, but nothing assured or adequate to eliminate the loss. Cash flow thus far in the year has been good, however. The line of credit is currently zero and is expected to remain that way until late spring. The detailed financial report and balance sheet will be sent by email to all committee members.

**Minute: We approve the financial report as of 14 January 2015.**

A coordinator is being sought by the development office to plan the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which may suffer from not enough resources.

Thomas reported about the state of Iowa's insistence that school not begin before September and the legislative and lobbying efforts around understanding this restriction, including receiving a waiver or reconfiguring the school's calendar to comply. The visit from the new President of ISACS went well and both Christine and Thomas are looking forward to attending a Heads of School Conference in Chicago. Thomas reflected that he was impressed with the continuing leadership of the senior class regardless of pulls on time and energy.

Thomas shared his picture of private schools. After the Great Recession, schools have seen a reduction in enrollment, scholarships, and general financial health. Currently, the schools most successful at bouncing back from this reduction are those in urban environments catering to families in the top-wealth tier. Schools have found that matching a for-profit element with their non-profit mission is another way to create additional income and support the ongoing health of the school. We will consider this information as we continue to think about how to best serve the school and help it continue its mission.

Capital Campaign and Master Planning reported on the visit by Henry Freeman. The most important learning from this visit was that the capital campaign must to be built around sharing stories and building relationships. Committee members shared their sense that Scattergood, in its mission and action, is uplifting and meets students, staff and parents where they are. Many people are able to find a fit at Scattergood that they have been unable to find elsewhere. People shared that the faculty and alumni from Scattergood seem uniquely changed with life-long impacts by their time at the school. Those who work or attend Scattergood have a deep awareness of the world, a keen work ethic, and have learned meaningful life lessons. It appears that the school, in a variety of ways historically and currently, has saved and transformed lives. These are the stories we hope to hear as we continue to build and follow through on the campaign. We will focus more on fostering and deepening relationships than asking for money in hopes to increase the donation base and maybe even gather enough information for another book about the history of Scattergood!

The master plan is focused on greening the campus and making infrastructure upgrades, while reducing operating costs. The corner stone of the plan is a solar array that would supply all of the electrical power needs for the school. The array could be financed by investors, who would derive income from it through a power purchase agreement with the school, rather than contributions. The committee is working with Eagle Point Solar, a solar panel manufacturer in Dubuque, to design the array and confirm the viability of this approach. This part of the master plan can proceed independently of the rest of the plan. Other components of the master plan include replacing the septic system; upgrades to the wells; addressing the issues with the current heating systems with the possibility of converting at least some of them to geothermal; boys' dorm renovations to improve air quality; and renovating the dining room to increase natural light.

Consultation and Finance asked us to consider the Long Range Plan.

**Minute: We approve the current Long Range Plan as it is currently written.**

Phil, acting as clerk for this meeting, brought our open meeting to a prompt close, and we proceeded into closed session.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Young, substitute recording clerk

**Next Meetings:** Mar 14 (Des Moines), May 9, July 21 (the Tuesday of Yearly Meeting)