

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session
Approved Minutes
21 July 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, Phil Henderson, Dan Schlitt, Bob Winkleblack, Katherine Young, Ruth Dawson, Ruthie Hampton (clerk), Karen Greenler, Doyle Wilson, George Bergus, Rebecca Bergus, Bob Winchell, Shana Wagner, Roy Helm

Regrets: Allan Winder

Staff Present: Alicia Streeter, Louis Herbst, Amanda Paul, Thomas Weber, Jody Caldwell, Catherine From, Tim Schulte

Friends settled into silent worship in a timely manner. The clerk shared the following poem:

Praying

It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

-Mary Oliver

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on May 9, 2015.

We listened with care and concern to the in-depth reports from the subcommittees. We welcomed Tim Schulte, our new Facilities Manager. The care and upkeep of our facilities continues to be a challenge, yet we are grateful for the many hands that make the work lighter. We are excited to see how new classes might help address some of the opportunities our facilities present. We are grateful for all the people who made 125th Reunion a success and who helped us exceed our Annual Fund goal. One result of the reunion was offers from several individual donors who wanted to help with specific projects, such as the girl's bathroom and a farm classroom.

Note: We acknowledge that development is approaching individuals for monetary assistance for specific, smaller capital fundraising projects. This is a new process for us and we will be mindful of how it might impact other donations and other facilities projects.

Minute: We approve repurposing the capital campaign seed money for use as seed money for two smaller capital fundraising projects (farm classroom building and bathroom renovations in both dorms), pending individual donor approval.

Visa work and additional recruiting have kept Admissions busy. Likewise, the Farm has been busy. Mark and Thomas will work to bring a list of needed projects to the September meeting so the School

Committee can better understand the challenges facing the farm. The farm is an important element of our culture and academics; it is an important marketing tool and admissions benefit.

Minute: We approve the Farm Report to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, 2015.

The Academic Committee raised the issue of asking students to be named to the committee. The committee is reminded that our open sessions are open to all; students may join as they are led.

Note: We will discuss the role students might play in School Committee and on subcommittees within the Spiritual Life and Academics committees. Catherine From will convene this effort.

Minute: We approve the Academics Report to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, 2015, with minor corrections.

We welcomed Catherine From to her new position as Director of Residential Life. She reports that her big challenge this year is to foster leadership among the students, and she working to teach students to be leaders in all areas of the school. Communication between and among students and faculty members will be important for next year to be successful.

Consultation and Finance reports that there are no budget surprises. The 2014-2015 end of year report is not yet complete due to the short number of weeks between end of year and Yearly Meeting, which also included the reunion. We were also reminded that the line of credit terms have been changed to begin and end in September, which better coincides with the school's cash flow.

Amanda Paul will be resigning to work for the University of Iowa. We are grateful for her hard work in creating addressing issues in the Business Office and creating better processes to help the school run more smoothly.

Minute: We received and reviewed the financial report as of June 30, 2015.

Note: We will approve the final financial report when all the numbers have been collated.

Minute: We approve the slate of recommended school committee members for Iowa Yearly Meeting's Nominating Committee.

Minute by email quorum: We approve Gail Nelson as a co-opted school committee member.

Note: The proposed dates for next year's school committee meetings were read and we confirmed them: September 12, November 7, January 16, March 12 (Des Moines), May 14, July 26 (tba). *(We won't know July's until Yearly Meeting dates are determined.)*

In addition to his report as Head of School, Thomas reported that Scattergood Friends School remains in good standing as a fully accredited school. He provided a calendar that outlines the continued requirements to keep our accreditation, but pointed out that we are now on a 10-year cycle instead of a 7-year cycle. To keep in good standing, Thomas will work with the School Committee to update Scattergood's Long Term Strategic Plan. Thomas continues to work on his goals, and will present them to School Committee at the September meeting. He remains hopeful that the school will be able to address issues of low enrollment.

Minute: We approve the Head's report to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, 2015, with editorial corrections and changes.

Friday night, 24 July 2015, the Yearly Meeting will hold a session about the school and the relationship between the two. This will be an opportunity to hear from monthly meetings regarding the queries set by the School Committee and the clerk of the Yearly Meeting last year. We hope that this session will be a way for the school and Yearly Meeting to look forward together. Karen Greenler will take note of any issues, concerns, joys, and/or suggestions that are shared. In addition, students and faculty will have a presence at yearly meeting: wearing Scattergood t-shirts, having office hours, and leading tours.

Master Planning reported that it's work my shift in the coming months. It requests that several more members be added to the subcommittee.

The clerk adjourned the open meeting to proceed into closed session.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Young, recording clerk

Next Meetings: September 12, November 7, January 16, March 12 (Des Moines), May 14, July 26?
(We won't know July's until Yearly Meeting dates are determined.)