

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session Minutes
26 July 2016

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: Dan Schlitt, Katherine Young, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Roy Helm, Lael Gatewood, Ginny Winsor, Lucy Marsh, Doyle Wilson, Rebecca Bergus, Bob Winkleblack, Bob Winchell, George Bergus, Karen Greenler

Regrets: Shana Wagner, Phil Henderson, Russ Leckband, Lucy Hansen, Gail Nelson

Staff Present: Thomas Weber, Tim Schulte, Andrew Orrego-Lindstad, Gabriella Delgadillo

Friends settled into silent worship in a timely manner. The clerk read a message:

*“I have come to this world to see:
the sword drop from men’s hands even at the height of their arc of rage
because we have finally realized there is just one flesh we can wound.”*
~Hafiz

Minute: We approve the open and closed minutes of our meeting on May 14, 2016, with correction.

Minute: We approve the Scattergood Friends School Capital Expenditure Policy, dated May 14, 2016. This is the second and final approval.

This past year has included many transitions: a new head of school, a new development director, a new Strategic Plan, a new focus for the academic program, a new facilities director. But hope and joy are woven throughout all of these changes and each time the School Committee meets we, too, are infected with these emotions. It is the hard work of the faculty and staff, often with limited time and money, that manifests this ‘experiment in love’. The School Committee is renewed in its belief that Scattergood’s mission is embodied daily by all members of the community. It is a lovely thing to witness.

As we gathered on the opening of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), we heard reports from many committees and faculty members. Facilities reported that work on the well-head interconnection begins soon and that tree maintenance due to storm damage will also happen. This year has seen many completed facilities projects even as unplanned repairs also occurred. Development reported that this year fewer people gave gifts, but that the value of the individual gifts was greater than in years past. Andrew continues to work on developing the alumni groups and building a stronger alumni base. His research of the donor pool will find ways to appeal to more people within the larger Scattergood community, and he has reached out to firms to assist with branding, marketing and general outreach to help provide consistent messaging. We anticipate welcoming 14 new students this year, and admissions work continues. Outreach at Friends General Conference, this year held in Minnesota, was very beneficial and included a Scattergood presentation about the Farm Immersion Program as well participating in a workshop about Quaker education, giving examples of how it is facilitated at Scattergood. The Farm is very productive this year, and we were all encouraged to eat our vegetables which will be available to all at yearly meeting. We are grateful for the artful report provided to yearly meeting by Mark.

Minute: We approve the July 2016 Farm Report to the Yearly Meeting.

The committee officially welcomed our new Assistant Head of School, Gabriella Delgadillo. Her experience in creating academic programs for diverse learners and in fostering communication between all people in order to further common goals will greatly benefit the school. She truly exemplifies the Quaker adage: First we listen and then we speak. We are all excited to have her as part of our community. The committee requested that the Academic subcommittee review the Academic Report to the Yearly Meeting to include information about the exciting new programs that were part of the 2015-2016 school year, as well as a welcome to Gabriella. The subcommittee will meet to revise the report. The Academic Report to the Yearly Meeting is a relatively new report. The purpose of this report is to show the work done by the students during the previous school year and enumerate any exciting new initiatives that are being planned. It is the sense of the committee that this report is important because it gives insight into how the school is achieving its mission to challenge students with a college-preparatory curriculum.

The Community and Spiritual Life subcommittee continues to support the work of inclusion, especially around issues of gender identity, happening on campus. To facilitate this work of inclusion, staff will undergo Safe Zone training as part of orientation this year.

The Consultation and Finance subcommittee reported on the status of the finances. This year we are incredibly grateful to the Scattergood Friends School Foundation for their work in supporting us financially. All feel that there is now a better working relationship between the Thomas, the School Committee, and the Foundation. While we did not meet our annual giving goal this year, there is hope that next year with the hard work of Andrew, Thomas, and the staff we will be able to meet next year's goal as well as the new initiative of the 3-year Contribution. The School Committee acknowledges the hard work of all staff and faculty to be mindful of spending even as they create amazing academic and social programming for our students and work to create a dynamic and safe campus environment.

Minute: We approve the Operating Statement as of 30 June 2016.

We were given the subcommittee roster to review. No additional changes were made and we will make our final approval by email after yearly meeting's annual session. In September we need to consider whether or not to change our tuition structure. Rebecca, Ginny, and Thomas will work together to create a proposal for our September meeting.

Minute: We approve the following dates for Committee Meetings: September 24, November 5, January 14, March 18, May 6, and the Tuesday of Yearly Meeting, date TBD.

We reviewed the Head of School Report and shared our gratitude for the hard work Thomas has done this year with both the known and unforeseen challenges.

Minute: We approve the July 2016 Head of School Report to the Yearly Meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Young, recording clerk

Next Meetings: September 24, November 5, January 14, March 18, May 6,
and Tuesday of IYMC annual session