

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session Minutes
14 January 2017

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, Lucy Marsh, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Karen Greenler, Rebecca Bergus, Bob Winchell, Kent Tjossem Shana Wagner, Roy Helm, Russ Leckband,

Regrets: Ginny Winsor, Lael Gatewood, George Bergus, Gail Nelson

Staff Present: Alicia Taylor, Thomas Weber, Tim Schulte, Cindy Olivarius, Amy King Weber, Mark Quee, Gabriela Delgadillo

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

"Our whole business then, Brethren, in this life is to heal this eye of the heart whereby God may be seen."
~Augustine of Hippo, Sermon 38 on the New Testament

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on 5 November 2016.

The School Committee and members of Scattergood's faculty and staff gathered together in a spirit of gathering hope and purpose. We heard reports that celebrated the community built this year and the stewardship of the land and facilities. The Academic subcommittee reported that Gabriela is creating a system to track student goals and progress so that faculty and staff can best support students. There is also interest in gaining more expertise in supporting students who need extra academic and other support.

The Development subcommittee shared its concern about the lack of a Development Director and has suggested that we hire a person with less experience and train them to do this work, perhaps a younger candidate who has an understanding of and appreciation for Quaker values and boarding schools. In the meantime, Thomas continues to do this work in addition to his work as Head of School. Staff and members of the subcommittee are all assisting as they can. While the Annual Fund is behind as compared to previous years, but they are hopeful as Scattergood collects most of its revenue for this campaign in the second half of the year. In addition to the reunion next summer there are two social events proposed for alumni— one in Denver and the other in Minneapolis – and the committee is considering how to get more support from alumni who graduated during the 1980s and 1990s.

Admissions is on pace when compared to previous years. We have 2 firm commitments for next year and outreach opportunities such as the art and farm summer classes will be set soon. This outreach is starting to have an impact in the admissions process. Saturday ceramics classes will begin in April and will include both adults and children. Facilities reports that two important projects have been completed: the new LED gym lights have transformed the gym; and the asbestos in the farmhouse has been abated making it ready for demolition. We discussed additional projects such as updating bathrooms, a new water heater for the main building, and radon testing for residential areas. A suggestion was raised that a vehicle replacement fund be created using the current fees for using school vehicles. The Farm

subcommittee shared the possibility of adding more and different livestock to provide more farm experiences for students. A grant is available to support this work, which would include fencing an area, building shelters, and bringing in water. If the school decides to proceed with the project the work will be finished in the summer and the animals will be welcomed in the fall.

Minute: We approve the change in land use for approximately three acres behind the windbreak from row crop to fenced pasture.

The Spiritual and Community Life reported that the housing policy approved in November is in effect and several students are currently utilizing it. The school community is still learning how the policy will evolve, but it is clear that it has had a positive impact on the community and has been welcomed by both students and parents. The school would also like to have more support on campus for students' mental health and is reaching out to the larger counseling and therapy community.

Consultation and Finance reported that, while the operating budget is in a good place, the increased fundraising needs to be successful to support the operating budget. Several expenses were discussed: more money has been spent on technology, but that money is expected to be recouped because expenses will decrease; less money has been spent on development because there has not been a director, but this money will be used for travel in the second half of the school year; less money has been spent on admissions, but this money will soon be spent for marketing.

Minute: We approve the operating statement as of 31 December 2016.

We reviewed the suggested additions to the Staff and Student Handbooks. It is our practice to review and approve changes to the Staff Handbook as the changes could have legal implications. Unlike our handbook, Staff Handbook approvals need only one meeting for review and approval.

Minute: We approve the additions to the Staff Handbook regarding the policy for staff in relation to recent alumni with incorporations and additional input from the authors of the policy.

We reviewed another addition to the Staff Handbook regarding guns and police on campus. We discussed concerns about guns on campus then asked Thomas to bring the concerns back to the committee on campus who is writing the addition. Thomas will bring this back to the school committee for review.

Thomas is currently looking for an Admissions Coordinator to implement a student recruitment plan for the 2017-2018 school year. He also reported that the rules for boarding schools in Iowa have been published for public review and comment and he will be commenting on the rules.

In March the School Committee typically meets off campus because the March meeting falls during the school's spring break. We will meet on March 18 in Des Moines, IA at the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting. Ruth will send out an email to sign up for bringing food. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m..

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

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Young, recording clerk

Next Meetings: March 18 (Des Moines), May 6, July 25