

**Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting**
Open Session Minutes
18 March 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, Dan Schlitt, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Karen Greenler, Bob Winchell, Kent Tjossem Roy Helm, Russ Leckband, Ginny Winsor, Lael Gatewood, Gail Nelson

Regrets: Phil Henderson, Bob Winkleblack, Katherine Young, Lucy Marsh, Rebecca Bergus, Shana Wagner, George Bergus

Staff Present: Thomas Weber

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

“We are not for names, nor men, nor titles of Government, nor are we for this party nor against the other...but we are for justice and mercy and truth and peace and true freedom, that these may be exalted in our nation...”

– Edward Burrough (1634-1663)

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on January 14, 2017.

The School Committee and the Head of School gathered at the Des Moines Valley Meetinghouse. We heard the committee reports that had been able to meet by phone conference in the weeks prior to the full Committee meeting.

The Farm Committee didn't meet but reported that the memorial meeting for Belle Hinshaw, former staff member and Farm Manager, was well attended and there was a palpable appreciation of her impact on the lives of those present. The Facilities Committee relayed there were questions about the budget figures for capital improvements; it was noted that these numbers would be firmed up by May so the priorities list could be created. The priorities list would balance planned projects (prioritized with help from Scattergood staff) with the need for maintaining contingency funds. Van replacement is probably at the top of the list. The farm house can be razed in May. The asbestos abatement is done and the bids need to be re-solicited. There was discussion about the bathroom renovation project. The first step is to get a small number of meaningful designs and cost estimates that could be taken to potential donors for their input. The farm classroom project is still in process.

The Admissions Committee didn't meet but Thomas noted that the new web site is almost ready for its focus group launch with messaging as suggested by Kelsh Wilson. This includes a focus on Scattergood's ability to offer students opportunities for personal growth, personal identity, and meaningful work. We will have more opportunity to tweak the website with the current platform, allowing Scattergood to adjust the focus of its message and freshen the content. Videos by a local professional filmmaker and shorter snapshot videos created by a recent alum are in the works. Jennifer Jansen has accepted the position of Admission Director and will start in May. Alicia will help train Jennifer and continue to work as backup support.

Current stats:	March 2016	March 2017
Returning students	23	20
Tours/interviews	10	10
Info requests	32	42
Applications	9	7
Acceptances	3	2

Academic reported there was discussion of the possibility of extending the Farm Immersion program into the upper grades for mixed amounts of time. The committee noted the success of a couple of student support programs: the support study-halls and the ELL training manual. Harold is convening the steering committee for the self-study group for ISACS. There will be a kick-off meeting with ISACS staff on either June 7th or 8th which School Committee members are encouraged to attend.

Development shared that though the Annual Fund is behind when compared to other years, we had just received some hearty contributions to bring its balance up to about \$160K to date. The spring appeal will highlight three students with inspiring stories and will be sent to everyone, not just those who have not yet contributed. Contributors will be urged to set up monthly sustaining donations. The mailing will be followed by student calls. Two alumni gatherings are planned, one in Minneapolis and one in Boulder. Work on hiring a new Development Director continues.

The Consultation and Finance Committee met and discussed the current financial situation, the cash flow crunch the school is experiencing, the fundraising efforts, and first draft of the proposed budget for next year. The committee appreciated the conservative budget that the school is preparing.

Minute: We approve of the operating statement of February 28, 2017.

Head Report: The first draft of the proposed budget was presented with three scenarios, positing 33, 38, and 40 students. The budgets projected a (loss) or gain of (\$37,288), \$38,442, and \$68,710, respectively. Health care costs are the real wild card this year, with the normal uncertainty magnified by the political situation. Scattergood needs to find a way to have mental health coverage on campus, and a part time counselor is in the new budget. There was discussion about liability concerns and different models that might lessen the schools vulnerability to liability. This will require further research.

Other: The work on the Strategic and Implementation Plan continues apace. The plan needs to include concrete initiatives to meet the twin goals of increased financial sustainability and increased enrollment. We also need a vision statement for the plan. One shared idea was, "Now more than ever, the world needs Scattergood and Scattergood needs the world." If time the School Committee may explore these documents at the May meeting.

Tuition: Ginny, Rebecca and Thomas will look at the various questions regarding tuition and fees, reporting back to the May meeting. Ginny will convene.

We need an ad hoc committee for our own School Committee self-study. How can we expand the questions we ask ourselves and thus expand our usefulness to the school? The ISACS instructions and resources from FCE may help us develop those questions. The survey should go out mid-April for tabulated results by the May meeting. Ruth will ask individuals to form the ad hoc committee.

Karen Greenler, acting recording clerk

Next Meetings: May 6, July 25