

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session
25 July 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: Dan Schlitt, Katherine Young, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Roy Helm, Laël Gatewood, Ginny Winsor, Lucy Marsh, Rebecca Bergus, Bob Winkleblack, George Bergus, Karen Greenler, Lucy Hansen, Kent Tjossem, Bob Winchell

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

Staff Present: Thomas Weber, Tim Schulte, Gabriella Delgadillo, Miranda Nielson, Lisa Kofoed

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

“When we are together, more becomes possible. When we are together, joy is available.”

~Margaret Wheatley, The Gift of the Servant Leader

Minute: We approve the open and closed minutes of our meeting on May 6, 2017, with a minor correction.

The School Committee met on a beautiful summer morning the day Yearly Meeting was to begin. Facilities reported on the septic field, its life expectancy issue, and that Tim is mindful of not developing that portion of the grounds. Development relayed that the reunion was well attended, many good connections were made, and there were offers of help with work projects around the campus. There was also verbal support given for creating an alumni association. We still struggle with connecting to alumni from the eighties, nineties, and early aughts. We celebrated Miranda Nielson’s talents and abilities, especially her grace in hitting the ground running. One of the projects Miranda Nielson will be working on this year is updating contact information, especially for younger alumni to increase the number of connections with the school after graduation. Unfortunately, we did not meet our Annual Fund goal this year. We hope that with a dedicated Development person we will meet our goal in this 2017-2018 year. We reviewed historical data about the Annual Fund that is being collected to help drive the development planning for the upcoming year. Admissions reported that our enrollment is consistent with the past few years, but is still lower than is sustainable. We will get a final report of admissions in September. There were a number of sponsors supporting students this year and we hope that trend can continue. We heard from the Farm subcommittee about the work that went into creating a green house on the south face of the barn. The EQIP grant was signed the day before our meeting. We are still waiting on the farm house demolition.

Minute: We approve the July 2017 Farm Report to the Yearly Meeting.

The Academic Subcommittee reported great student success and diversity this year. Leadership from students led to a diversity conference with several schools participating. The Farm Immersion Program has evolved and the 2017-2018 school year will begin with all students working and taking classes on the farm. The subcommittee also congratulated Gabriella on her work creating and formalizing

a support team to help students succeed academically.

Minute: We approve the July 2017 Academic Report to the Yearly Meeting.

We reviewed the Operating Statement. Due to the growth from the stock market, we realized more from the Measey Foundation and the Scattergood Foundation. We paid less this year for worker's compensation and health insurance. The added expense of our investment in technology will realize savings in the coming years, and this also helps with recruitment---both in our ability to do online interviews and as a selling point of having fiber optic connections as a school.

Minute: We accept the Operating Statement as of 30 June 2017.

We were given the subcommittee roster to review. We hope to add more members, especially those interested in Development and Farm subcommittees. We could also look into ad hoc members for certain subcommittees. We expect Yearly Meeting to nominate an additional member, and one member could be nominated by FUM to replace Lucy Hansen. With a potential co-opted member, we may have three new people at our September meeting. The clerk will submit a final subcommittee list after IYM(c)'s annual sessions and we will make our final approval by email at that point.

Minute: We approve the following dates for Committee Meetings: September 9, November 11, January 13, March 17, May 5, and the Tuesday of Yearly Meeting, date TBD.

Lucy Marsh is planning a shadow day for September 8. School Committee members will be able to go to classes and meet students and staff the day before our September meeting. Please let her know if you would like to come.

In September we need to consider whether or not to change our tuition structure. Rebecca Bergus, Thomas Weber, and Gabriella Delgadillo will work together to create a proposal for our September meeting.

Thomas Weber reported that the challenges faced by the school are significant, and yet hope persists. Students returned during the summer to help because they care about the school. Students and staff celebrate the ability they have to live, work, and speak with integrity at the school. And through that there is a strong commitment to the school. Plans continue to make Scattergood an important place for diversity conversations, to increase enrollment through building connections, and seek opportunities for increased philanthropic support.

Minute: We approve the July 2017 Head of School Report to the Yearly Meeting with minor corrections.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Young, recording clerk

Next Meetings: September 9, November 11, January 13, March 17, May 5, and the Tuesday of Yearly Meeting, date TBD but likely July 24