

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session Minutes
17 March 2018

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: Roy Helm, Dan Schlitt, Bob Winkleblack, Ann Robinson, Lucy Marsh, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Rebecca Bergus, Bob Winchell, Kent Tjossem, Russ Leckband, Tom Wahl

Regrets: Ginny Winsor, Gail Nelson, Lael Gatewood, Katherine Young, Phil Henderson, Karen Greenler,

Staff Present: Thomas Weber

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

*“I think 99 times and find nothing.
I stop thinking, swim in silence, and the truth comes to me.”*

~Albert Einstein

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on 13 January 2018.

Tom gave more details about the proposal to convert 8 acres west of the soccer field to a chestnut orchard. We could plant approximately 108 trees per acre starting one or two acres per year and converting the remaining acres into row crops. They could start producing nuts within 2-4 years and may be ready for a commercial harvest in 6-8 years, fully maturing 12-16 years. These 8 acres are not well suited for row crops and are not easily accessible with farm equipment, and the soil is good for chestnuts. This would be a pick-your-own operation to minimize labor, and Tom's waiting list of clients (particularly Bosnian, Korean, Chinese families) indicates we would have no trouble finding a ready market. It was noted that staff can change so there needs to be a way to keep the continuity of care for the trees. Tom is willing to donate much of what is needed and be involved for a number of years as we convert one or two acres per year. The main maintenance is regular mowing (and watering) with the bush hog and tractor from the farm. We felt this was a good project and look forward to how the Farm subcommittee moves with forward with it.

Facilities relayed thoughts for the Capital Budget they will bring in May. They also learned they need architectural drawings for the two dorms to comply with the new state laws for Residential Facilities, which could cost at least \$8,000. Admissions reported the Farm-to-Table camps will be happening for many weeks this summer, we asked that Dana send us promotional material so we can spread the word. Academic shared that Gabriella and Fernando will be moving to Spain this summer, they will be greatly missed. Development is grateful we are doing well in the Annual Fund but there is still much to be done. We talked about the Merit Scholarship proposal. Research shows that having such a scholarship can help increase the number of inquiries to the school, and even if students are not awarded the monies they sometimes still attend the school. The qualifications would include leadership, volunteer spirit and integrity. They are considering naming it the Berquist Scholarship, expanding on the one that already exists.

Minute: We accept the Operating Statement as of March 1, 2018.

Thomas shared that Gabriella and Fernando will be moving to Spain this summer so there are a number of job openings. He will send us the postings.

We spent much of the afternoon exploring the two initiatives and our visits to the monthly meetings. We thought the Script shared by the adhoc committee was very helpful and well written. A few of the suggestions for additions:

- Add definition and brief history of the Scattergood Foundation (it was created to help the school)
 - Clarify why a loan does not jeopardize the school (if school closes the Foundation \$ goes to YM)
 - Three Key Questions: **How long is the loan? How is it paid back? What is it used for?**
 - Many people don't know big picture—we need to emphasize
 - 1) we don't have an alternative and
 - 2) after much deliberation the SC feels this is the best course of action
 - These initiatives are needed and are in line with Quaker principles---needed by community---Redshirt program will allow socio-economically disadvantaged students to go to a prestigious college.
 - This does services for our community, expands our ministry, supports school's long term health
 - Make video 'they may not come as Quakers but they leave as Quakers in how they live lives
 - The character of the students graduating is a Testament to the ministry of the YM
 - Talk about these as **Investments** in these initiatives and the school.
 - Two Questions **1) Do we (SC) understand the initiatives? 2) What Q's will we be asked?**
 - "What is plan B?" we don't really have one, we believe these are the way to go
 - "Who is the deciding body for the proposals?" we think the school and school committee
 - "Who is the body that says 'Yes, you may borrow money'?" Can SC make this decision?
- We want their blessing & support, is that what we are asking for? YM probably needs involvement.
- "Does this jeopardize the YM?" No, if the school closes the money goes to the YM
 - There have been other loans, though the YM wished they would have known about it.
 - Some ym members have resistance to debt of any kind. But **this is an investment.**

Note: Lucy, Ann, Karen and Phil will take these notes and adapt the script. Ruth will send out a scheduling document.

Note: Roy will work on the Self-Survey and send it out before our May meeting.

We discussed the final version of the Firearms Policy. Concern was expressed and it was questioned why any gun ever needs to be on campus. The farm might have occasional need for livestock or rabid animal, and it was pointed out the final approval of a staff member having a gun on campus lies with the Head of School and the Admin Team and this is reviewed annually. We asked for a few additions to the policy. One member abstained from approval of the policy.

Minute: We approve the Firearms Policy with the further amendments proposed during the school committee meeting.

Note: Please let Ruth know of your plans for next year concerning your involvement with school committee: are you serving another year and do you want to stay on your subcommittees?

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

Submitted by Ruth Hampton, acting recording clerk

Next Meetings: May 5, July 24