

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting
Open Session Minutes – 5 May 2019

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: Charlie Johnson, Ginny Winsor, Lael Gatewood, Bob Winkleblack, Bob Winchell, Rebecca Bergus, Debbie Galusha, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Roy Helm, Russ Leckband, Ann Robinson, Dan Schlitt, Tom Wahl, Phil Henderson

Regrets: Karen Greenler, Lucy Marsh, Kent Tjossem

Staff: Paul Pressler, Kim Jones, Jenn Jansen, Amy Weber, Thomas Weber

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with a minute of silence. The clerk read:

“Sometimes your only available transportation is a Leap of Faith.”

~Margaret Shepherd

MINUTE: The minutes from March 16, 2019 have been approved.

Academics: There will be two students graduating this spring. One graduate needs to prove financial solvency to remain in the U.S. and attend a university. The committee plans to have a conference call with Paul mid-June to further discuss his last report and transition. One major question from the committee’s discussion with Paul is what type of school is Scattergood: college preparatory, therapeutic, inclusionary? The School Committee thanks Paul for his professional leadership and care for the school.

Admissions: The committee met and discussed next year’s enrollment.

Facilities: The committee met and discussed the capital improvement list. It was asked if funding for the sprinkler system could be partnered with a new well. The committee appreciates the effort Harold has made on submitting the report and addressing facility issues as they arise.

Development: The committee met and discussed plans to reach our fundraising goal for this year, and the Scattergoodian Arts Gathering is planned for the last weekend in October, same weekend as Scattergood Days. The committee appreciates the skills Emily brings to the office.

CFC: The committee met. The school will end this year with a deficit of nearly \$97,000. Because there was not a Dean of Students and Facilities Director and other reasons our deficit will not be as large as originally thought. It was advised that the Heinz stock needs to be sold.

MINUTE: The operating statement for April 19, 2019 was accepted.

Head Report: The draft budget was presented with two proposals, a smaller one that assumes a reduced number of staff of about four FTE, including the Assistant Head position, and a reduced number of students. Thomas stated that he believes there is not enough information on the budget for a decision to be made at this meeting. This discussion was postponed until the closed session. This year 42% of our students are minimum pay, and we need five fulltime students to cover the higher proposed budget. With a six-year expectation to finance one phase of the sprinkler system installment and the building of the needed water tank, one estimated cost is around \$360,000, which is beyond our financial ability. Thomas would like to get additional bids on the project and then to call Representative Kaufmann with a possible alternate proposal. The School Committee encourages Thomas in this endeavor and is concerned with the safety of the individuals staying at the school. The financial representative of our main donor called to relay the donor is willing to help finance the sprinkler system. The possibility of a capital campaign was introduced.

The residential student who is graduating, Latif, joined the Committee meeting after brunch. He shared that in his Afghani household chores were only done by the females in the family, and since he has been at Scattergood he has begun to encourage his family to divide chores fairly among all members of the family. He has grown in his sense of equality and justice while being at the School. He also remarked that he has seen people being kind without expecting anything in return, a concept he appreciates. He has been accepted to a university in Canada. Our non-residential student, Gary, is finishing his Scattergood education from his home in Taiwan. Graduation is June 2nd at the Meeting House.

The clerk adjourned open session and proceeding into closed session.

Debbie Galusha, acting recording clerk

Next Meetings: Conference Call after June 20th (date TBD), and July 23 Tuesday of Yearly Meeting