

Scattergood Friends School and Farm  
School Committee Meeting  
Open Session Minutes – July 23, 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:** Laël Gatewood, Dan Schlitt, Lucy Marsh, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Rebecca Bergus, Bob Winchell, Roy Helm, Kent Tjossem, Tom Wahl, Ann Robinson, Bob Winkleback, Charlie Johnson, Karen Greenler,

**Regrets:**, Debbie Galusha

**Staff Present:** Thomas Weber, Sam Taylor, Alicia Taylor, Amy King Weber

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

*“There is no solution; seek it lovingly.”* -Socrates

**MINUTE: The minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, open and closed, are approved.**

New contact information from Karen Greenler: Email: [kgreenler@gmail.com](mailto:kgreenler@gmail.com) Phone: 608-354-4535

**Facilities:** The sub-committee met with Matt and went over things, helping him get oriented.

**Development:** The sub-committee met with Kendall Smith, our new Development director. She has a lot of experience with boarding schools and is very enthusiastic about working at a Quaker school. We very nearly met the Annual Fund goal, which is not bad considering the loss of personnel. After Emily left we decided to postpone the Arts Reunion on Scattergood Day weekend this year, possibly shifting to next year.

**Farm:** The subcommittee didn't meet but the report is complete. The farm is beautiful and things are moving smoothly.

**Academic:** The subcommittee met with Sam, and we are very glad for the experience that Sam brings to the position as Academic Dean. He's constructed a new weekly schedule that will respond to concerns of the students without sacrificing academic rigor. The subcommittee wishes to be a resource to Sam and focus on the ISACS review process for the next two years.

**Admissions:** Thanks to Alicia for stepping into that role on an interim basis. She is working to complete a course catalog, which should help prospective families. The new director will arrive shortly and she has an excellent background. Next year's enrollment is safely 24 and there may be a few more that decide to come in the last weeks of summer.

**Consultation and Finance:** The balance sheet is better than expected. Due to staff attrition, cost cutting, lower than expected expenses, and the use of the Taber estate the original projected year-end deficit of \$250,835 ended up being only \$14,326. The projected deficit for the 2019-2020 academic year is \$105,125. We used the estate bequest instead of a line of credit this year so we still have an untouched line of credit from the bank. It is unlikely, however, that we will replenish the money for an operational reserve at this time unless enrollments increase. It was noted that the new staff members in revenue-producing positions (Development and Admissions) are far more seasoned than those we've had in several years. The Operating Budget printout needs the salary line added, which was accidentally omitted.

**MINUTE: We accept the Operating Statement (short form) of 6/20/19 with the addition of salaries under the expense column.**

**Sub-committee Nominations:** We need to wait until after Yearly Meeting to know who will be approved to the School Committee from the Yearly Meeting. Ruth will send out a list later and we can approve it by email, minuting it formally at that time.

**Head Report:** Thomas is excited about engaging with the current staff and the newly hired staff who are coming in with enthusiasm and experience. There was appreciation voiced for the energy that was required for dealing with the challenges of this year; there were numerous weighty issues. We have admiration for the stalwart faith of the staff who kept the school in balance.

There was some discussion about the Mental Health First Aid program that will be offered to students and that it might be helpful for staff as well. Staff Days were focused on clearer conflict resolution processes that are being developed to be included in all handbooks: Students, Parents, Staff.

Work with the middle school is continuing, but carefully, being sure to give all concerns their due diligence. The middle school could start by using the basement of the science building, allowing us to open without a large capital investment. Thomas will share some of the draft materials being developed.

We met Kendall Smith, the new Development Director.

The Admissions subcommittee will function as an ad-hoc committee for reviewing the 2019-20 tuition.

Alex Lippet will be joining us as a School Committee representative from Illinois Yearly Meeting. The importance of inter-visitation of yearly meetings was noted.

Meeting Dates: September 21, November 9, January 18 (clerk will be absent) March 14, May 2, and July 21 (Tuesday of Yearly Meeting week). Please note that there may be some changes to the 2020 Yearly Meeting schedule.

We proceeded into closed session after lunch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Greenler, Recording clerk