

Scattergood Friends School  
School Committee Meeting  
Open Session Minutes – 21 September 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, Charlie Johnson, Bob Winkleblack, Lucy Marsh, Rebecca Bergus, Roy Helm, Kent Tjossem, Debbie Galusha, Ann Robinson, Tom Wahl, Alex Lippitt, Ruth Hampton (clerk), Karen Greenler

**Regrets:** Bob Winchell, Dan Schlitt

**Staff Present:** Thomas Weber, Dilek Aksu, Kim Jones, Kendall Smith, Amy Weber, Matt Gauder

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

*“We are reminded that the purpose of any meeting for business is to come into the presence of God; decisions that emerge from the unity experienced in that presence are by-products.”*

~From a Lake Erie YM epistle

We welcomed Kendall, Dilek, and Matt. Other new staff members were on the Earlham College trip.

**MINUTE: We approve the sub-committee list for 2019-2020.**

**MINUTE: We approve the minutes, open and closed of 7/23/19.**

Admissions: We have 25 students on campus this year with three more prospective late adds. Dilek is working in the local community and making local ad buys in cinemas and on Iowa Public Radio. We discussed how much personal (aggregate) information it was useful for the School Committee to know about our students. Care needs to be taken in how the information is presented and shared.

Development: We appreciated the timeline that came in the development report; it helps us understand the shape of the year from a development perspective. Kendall is working on recreating many digital files, as they appear to have been lost since Miranda was here.

*All School Committee members are urged to contribute to Scattergood now so the school can claim that 100% of the governing body supports the school.*

Spiritual and Community Life: The sub-committee met with Sonja and discussed the Dean’s Advisory Committee and increasing student involvement in that body. There has also been discussion about students’ desire to be able to journal, read, or draw during meeting for worship. For some students the silence is emotionally difficult. However, if they are allowed to use external materials, other students would like them too. Discernment is ongoing around what is appropriate policy.

Facilities: The sub-committee met with Matt and had a long and productive conversation. There is more money in the capital budget this year due to Westwood II disbursements, but the need for prioritization remains. A top priority this year is to get a pickup truck which could also help with snow plowing. Kent has volunteered to help with some excavating when the weather improves.

Farm: The farm is doing very well, which is surprising given the weather. Another acre of chestnuts has been planted this fall, thanks to Tom, which is useful as both a cash crop and environmentally.

Academic: Because Sam went on the Earlham trip, the sub-committee met by conference call earlier in the week. Sam outlined goals in his July report and is making progress. The new administrative team is forming and functioning well. There is some serious work underway on an integrated middle school curriculum.

HR: A Head survey will be forthcoming.

Consultation and Finance: This year our conservative budget predicts a deficit of over \$100,000. Increased funding from the Foundation accounts, larger payouts from the Measey Foundation, and prompt tuition payments have been helpful and may reduce the deficit. We will have higher insurance costs due to having more single and older staff. Way was found to increase the Admissions budget from \$30,000 to about \$60,000. This is an improvement, although not the \$90,000 that was recommended by ISACS. We will have a full audit this year, which could cost up to \$20,000.

**MINUTE: We accept the operating statement of 9/11/19.**

Head of School: The other good financial news is that our overall liability is very small. We are whittling away at our long-term loans and we have a zero balance on our line of credit. With the strength of our cash position, we may not need to use the line of credit until the new year. The Annual Report will soon be ready to go out. There were good visits by Practical Farmers of Iowa and the Xerces Society. There is a potential donation to help cover the fire sprinklers and Thomas is thinking it may be sensible to wrap this need and the potential donation together with some other capital needs (bathrooms, HVAC improvements) for a larger capital campaign. The time may be ripe for a middle school as those grades are overcrowded because of merging in the Iowa City public school system and parents are quite concerned. An integrated, project-driven curriculum is being further developed and there is an open house planned for October 20<sup>th</sup> to judge real community interest.

**MINUTE: We approve the following High School tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year:**  
**\$4,650-\$18,600 for day students**  
**\$8,875-\$35,500 for boarding students**

**MINUTE: We approve the following middle school tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year:**  
**\$8,000-\$12,000, with possible downward adjustments pending enrollment.**

Mission Statement: There was a discussion about the length and purpose of Mission and Vision Statements.

**MINUTE: We affirm the current Mission Statement.**

**MINUTE: We will review the mission and vision statements. We will also review the School Committee handbook concerning these statements. An ad hoc committee will report back by the May meeting.**

*NOTE: In closed session, the committee decided to postpone the formation of an ad-hoc committee to work on these statements until other pressing issues have been satisfied.*

Thomas and the administrative staff will meet to discuss potential changes to the School Committee Handbook calendar so as to align with the needs of the school. It was also suggested we form ad hoc committees during our July meeting to review the items we affirm in our September meeting.

**MINUTE: We affirm our statement of non-discrimination.**

**Minute: We affirm the Scattergood School Committee Handbook and the implied school governance structure within.**

The clerk moved the meeting into closed session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Greenler, Recording clerk