

Scattergood Friends School Committee Report

July 30, 2010

July 1 saw the culmination of the year-long permanent Head search as Christine Ashley joined the staff in that position. Christine comes with a long history of educational experiences from all over the world, though most recently from the Washington, D.C. area. Please join us in welcoming her and her husband, Mark, and their children to the Scattergood Friends School community. The School Committee is appreciative of her energy, intelligence, enthusiasm, and kind but direct approach to working with others with the concerns of the school, evident already in this first month.

While Christine entered the community of Scattergood, Ginny Winsor planned her move back to Omaha. She has left her role as Interim Head but now becomes a part of the extended community that living at the school provides. The School Committee is forever grateful for Ginny's service to the school this past year and wishes her rewarding years of retirement.

We are faced with significant financial challenges. Our immediate cash flow is an impending worry. For the long term, we have a progressive strategic plan in formation, but this cannot address the concerns facing us today. Currently, the School Committee is beginning the research and planning for a capital campaign. Areas to be addressed in the drive will include staff housing and facilities. At the farm, we'd like to establish a new residence for two families and a food processing building. Many of our beloved facilities are in profound need of repair or upgrading as small issues have developed into larger issues from being left unattended over time from continued lack of funds. We also have an ambitious goal of increasing staff salaries 50% over five years, our salaries being either the lowest or some of the lowest in comparable schools throughout the country.

The School Committee and the Head believe strongly in the unique program and its opportunities that exist for students at Scattergood. Students leave Scattergood with skills, knowledge and a strong sense of self that stay with them as they become adults. We know we need to market the school even more effectively to share the gifts the school offers. As always, the Yearly Meeting's involvement is of the essence, and as the Head and the School Committee members visit Monthly Meetings, we hope to expand the dialogue and avenues by which to advance this wonderful institution.

For the School Committee,

Debbie Galusha, clerk