

## Scattergood Friends School Committee Report

August 2, 2013

The School Committee is pleased with the work and vision of Head of School Christine Ashley and with her similarly talented and energetic staff. We hold deep appreciation for the efforts it takes to create harmony with so many intelligent and visionary people, each with their intense beliefs in and about the school and its mission. As practicing Friends, we realize the challenge that is presented when such creative individuals work steadfastly to translate the vision of the School Committee to meet the daily functioning of the school.

We affirm the restructuring that occurred this past year by the addition of the Assistant Head of School. Private schools across the country continue to struggle for maintenance and improvements in their programs. Having an Assistant Head on campus will allow Christine to work on outreach, sharing the incredible opportunities that lie in this Midwest gem, and hopefully broadening our base for students and for donors.

Because of the continual struggle for funds, the facilities are always a bit behind where they should be. We are thankful for the amazing work done with what the funds allow. We are nearly balancing our budget each year now but it's at the cost of infrastructure. While minimal increases of staff salaries are provided each year, the base at which staff enters employment with us makes it difficult for highly qualified and dedicated staff to stay when families grow or student loan debt needs to be paid. With these costly needs facing us, tuition has also increased though we make the effort at keeping it reasonable in order to maintain a diverse student body. The increased tuition and the commendable efforts of fundraising by the school are two of the three legs maintaining fiscal health of the school. The third leg is the contribution of the Yearly Meeting. Staff housing, classrooms, and student housing all suffer from deteriorating conditions that are normal over time. The water system has provided struggles this year, and we dread the overdue date of the boilers and septic system quitting on us.

Organized attention has been given to the vision of the school through discussion with varied constituents and by varied means, one of which happened Thursday at Yearly Meeting. There is awareness that to sustain Scattergood's ability to shine in this age of rapid communication and broadening worlds of our students, vanguard efforts in our program and its presentation are mandatory. The capital campaign discussed in last year's report is nearly ready to begin, its focus likely being on investment in the physical plant that will contribute to the realization of this developing vision. Besides the thoughtful stewardship of a conscientious staff carefully utilizing the school's resources, many Yearly Meeting members give generously of their time and expertise beyond the structure of committees. For this we are grateful.

For the committee,  
Debbie Galusha, clerk