

Scattergood Friends School

School Committee Meeting Open Sessions Minutes 25 July 2023

Hybrid Meeting

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.

Members Present: Ruth Hampton (clerk) Roy Helm (assistant clerk), Laël Gatewood, Kris Hilgendorf, Katie Jacoby, Alex Lippitt, Eric Stakland, George Bergus, Linda Corbin-Pardee, Nancy Jordan, Aaron Woolfson, Matthew Gillespie

Staff Present: Kim Jones, John Zimmerman, Ethan Huelskamp, Jamie Newton, Dana Chastine

Regrets: Karen Greenler, David Wilcox, Kent Tjossem

The Clerk opened with the following:

“If you are going to walk on thin ice, you might as well dance.” ~ Inuit Saying

MINUTE: We approve the minutes, open and closed, of the 12 May 2023 meeting.

We determined to deviate from the agenda for efficiencies sake and relied on the reports from respective sub-committees and departments to provide us with updates and information.

Admissions: We were presented with the new approach to Admissions that was implemented in April/May of this year. This is now a team approach, which is called the Admissions Team, and includes Jamie Newton as clerk, Sam Taylor, Sonja Sponheim, Dana Foster, Dana Chastine, John Zimmerman and to a degree, Kate Furman in her role as Registrar of the Business Office. While this new process is getting grounded, they are seeing some tangible results and are striving to be more professional in their outreach and response to inquiries and follow-through with potential and prospective students. This new process will also ensure that the folks having conversations are the ones who manage the programs and actually run the school, thereby offering more “reliable” information and support. There will also be a stronger focus on marketing the school during outreach events.

Facilities: Current focus will be three (3) primary projects: Siding and Exterior work to the Instruction Building (10K), Gym roof Repairs (20 K), and repair/replacement of the roof of the Cottage (10 K). It has also been decided to move forward with the solar grid and panel projects, with the school electing to go with a 7-year lease plan – at the end of the lease, the school will then purchase the system outright. This system and grid do allow for future expansion as may be necessitated and is projected to save about 1 K per month on utility expenses, which can be rolled into a savings plan for the purchase of this system. The decision to move forward in this manner is an attempt to keep this project as “cost neutral” as possible and practicable.

Consultation and Finance: There was a review of the year-end financial numbers and a note that the amount requested from IYM-C was reduced from 54 to 50 K. One of the objectives is to keep the school from being overly dependent on Measey Foundation and Scattergood Foundation funds for fiscal solvency, with the intent being that any “additional” Measey Foundation funds received will not be included in the budget but in solidifying it and repaying any monies that may have been taken out of other reserve funds as may have been necessary during the fiscal year.

We heard and reviewed the Financial Reports along with the Head of School Report.

MINUTE: We approve the Financial written, the Year End Statement, and the Head of School Report for the 2023 IYM-C Annual Sessions.

MINUTE: We approve the 2023 Farm Report for IYM-C Annual Sessions.

Development: The Scattergood Reunion has nearly 100 registered to participate and it is anticipated that this will be an exciting event! John and Ethan will be traveling far and wide in the coming year, combining fund raising and recruiting in these endeavors in order to maximize their potential. The full public launch of the Comprehensive Campaign has been delayed in order to receive more specific bids and timelines – things just need to be more specific before they are finalized. The Feasibility Study results are contained in a power-point presentation.

John offered a heartfelt thank you to Lael for her service on the school committee and noted that she will be missed.

MINUTE: We offer our heartfelt gratitude for all of the hard work that has been done by the Staff and for the attention to detail in their reports. Thank you!!!

Dates for next year’s School Committee meetings: Sept 16, Nov 4, Jan 20, 2024, Mar 16, May 11, Jul 23 (Tues of IYMC). For the March meeting, subcommittees are urged to meet during the week before spring break (March 4-11) so staff are able to enjoy their break.

Respectfully,
Roy Helm, acting recording clerk