

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting via Zoom
Open Session Minutes
20 January 2024

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: Kristin Hilgendorf, Katie Jacoby, Nancy Jordan, Roy Helm (assistant and acting clerk), Eric Stakland, Alex Lippitt, Monica Beals, Matthew Gillespie, Linda Corbin-Pardee, David Wilcox, George Bergus

Absent: Ruth Hampton (clerk), Karen Greenler, Kent Tjossem, Aaron Woolfson

Staff Present: Kim Jones, John Zimmerman, Jamie Newton, Ethan Huelskamp, Sam Taylor, Sonja Sponheim

Friends settled into silent worship in a timely manner. The clerk shared with us this quote:

“Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new beginning.” ~ Carl Bard

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on September 16, 2023.

Minute: We approved, via email in November 2023, that the school take on a \$280,000 bank loan for the solar array project.

Minute: We are very appreciative of the informative reports from staff and subcommittee members. They provide thorough updates of happenings, concerns, and new ideas for going forward. Thank you!

NOTES

Academic Committee – reviewed -updates on accreditation status, teacher vacancies (Spanish and social sciences), data re: scores and discussion thereof, particularly math and process in general. Empty dorm space – how to fill. Discussion of three new “concentrations”- Sustainable Agriculture, Arts, Community Leadership/Quaker Leadership.” Our STEM is “living STEM” project based, not high tech. Writing, math. Discussed business component to curriculum. Touched on AI and its implications.

Development Report – Capital Campaign – visits from engineers to look at capital projects and will be receiving estimates soon. Well – \$150,000- 200,000. Hired a campaign consulting firm. Annual Fund is lagging, as the emphasis has been on capital campaign. Initial meeting with consultant – talked about culture of school. (John Z – discuss in future re: Naming opportunities i.e. Leonore Goodenow)

Calls to action

- **April 20**, 8:0pm Eastern (7:00pm Central) benefit concert for comprehensive campaign with John Z in Princeton – “telethon” streaming.
 - SC will be expected to donate immediately when comprehensive campaign begins.
 - **May 1** – meet the seniors 7:00 central time – online interviews of seniors by John
- Friends of Scattergood alumni group, also includes former staff members, Scattergoodians,

Admissions

Report is encouraging re: inquiries, funnel and international students. Open house was successful. Will provide afterschool transportation for MS. Committee will meet with families in their geographic area. MS is very valuable as a feeder school. Should look at scholarships that are not need based.

(voucher students: 9-10 down to 7-8) Program is working well for us, a year or two will provide more info. Minimal payoff for our school – better for students as to financial impact. In response to certain social media posts we clarify that we quit using a “sliding scale” two years before ESAs were available.

Facilities

Solar is up and running. Other projects are moving along swimmingly.

Farm

Report is robust and informative. A list is being prepared about future use of the farm and space.

Community and Spiritual Life

Community service is a requirement for graduation. The criteria are being standardized. Kinship Community, Milwaukee, and Faces of Hunger Training were set forth as an example of a service trip possibility.

Finance Report

We are deeply appreciative of Kim and her team’s efforts on the day-to-day finances and forward-looking challenges as well. Measey fund is a valuable backup source of emergency funds and providing scholarship monies. Quaker and Farm scholarships are possible now.

Head of School Report

- SFSC Strategic objectives to guide our 5-year plan

- Increase Enrollment-- Marketing, Relationship Building, Reputation**
 - Engage Larger Support Network-- Friends of Scattergood, Comprehensive Campaign, MidWest Friends Cohort*
 - Focus of Work—Board/SC Development, Mission/Vision, Business Model**
 - Deepen Our Program-- Focuses, Staffing, Curriculum Development*
 - Plan for Our Future-- Campus Master Plan, Long Term Financial Planning*
- *DEI especially important in these two areas.*

Questions:

-Where does DEI fit in? How do you set goals v. a mindset towards openness and belonging.

-What kind of graduate are we trying to produce? Visioning work needed on this.

-Increase enrollment and broaden our community.

-Explicitly state “leadership” in social justice focus. Community Leadership. Semantic debate on what we’ll call that focus. Broad element of justice and Quakerism and leadership.

-How will Scattergood be marketed – prep school v. these three focuses (John’s resp: student classes will revolve around the area, and will be prep for secondary education. More discussion in late February among staff etc.)

-Scattergoodian – confident with land, discernment, service, hard worker, kind, broad view of the world.

-Marketing - need a "corporate brand" we create. We don't want to be reductive but need to hold up a few key things. (John Z).

Book: Good to Great. Flywheel at center of an organization...once it is spinning energy is minimal from when building momentum. John's enthusiasm is contagious!

Minute: We reviewed the operating statement as of January 11, 2024

The clerk brought our open meeting to a close, and we proceeded into closed session.

Katie Jacoby, acting recording clerk

Next Meetings: We look forward to meeting again March 16, 2024 via Zoom, God willing.