

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting via Zoom
Open Session Minutes
10 May 2025

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: Aaron Woolfson, Katie Jacoby, Roy Helm, Alex Lippitt, George Bergus, Linda Corbin Pardee, Eric Stakland, Nancy Jordan, Kent Tjossem, Ruth Hampton, David Wilcox, Monica Beals

Regrets: Kristin Hilgendorf

Staff Present: Ethan Huelskamp, Matt Gauder, Sam Taylor, John Zimmerman

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

“It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning, in this broken world”

~Mary Oliver

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on March 15, 2025.

Minute: We approve the 2025-26 Farm and Facilities Maintenance Capital Budget. (Appendix A)

Report Notes:

Development Notes: Next mailing will cover Hickory Grove and Estate Planning.

Aaron: working on a private fb style community engagement platform for alumni. Can scan photos, etc. Use AI to tag individuals and send out to those individuals -- students can participate by scanning old media (paid?) and create interest in alumni community. Aaron donated scanners and Macs and provided a crew to set it up. John commented that we want to connect recent grads with alumni in their area, Friends of Scattergood could participate by cross referencing where recent grads and alumni are located.

Capital Campaign – last 1m will be from smaller (5k) donors. We can give individual gifts or give gifts as a family. Money for projects was budgeted “as if” there would be no tax credits. Rebates may no longer be available. Budget could be affected by construction costs.

Facilities Farm Notes: Ongoing tree removal;

Farm cottage: the cottage has been vacant 3-4 years, thinking of razing it. However, considering other needed projects it made sense to repurpose it because it has water, fuel and electric available. Projects include adding a couple of permanent bathrooms, a kitchenette, and add an egg processing room. The cottage will need a total gut job to accommodate these three needs.

Another proposal: \$25k greenhouse. Producing as much food for Scattergood’s use will pay off in the future to buffer food costs.

Driveway repair –this will be a multiyear project, starting at Delta Ave with a concrete apron and repairing the drive from there.

One half of the Westwood 2 Account goes to the Capital budget (not operations).

HR – the self-survey was conducted, report will be coming.
Consultation and Finance (part of Head Report in closed session)

Subcommittee discussion--- revisiting the restructure

Spiritual & Community Life – There was some confusion on their meeting schedule and the result is the subcommittee stopped meeting. The subcommittee should meet and consider a regular meeting schedule. Sonia’s role should be changed so her Quaker faith shouldn’t be her “job” too.

Action: 1) Ruth, Roy and John will come up with an overview; 2) meet with Sonia; and, 3) meet with S&CL committee.

Farm and Facilities – Combining these committees has the benefit of bringing Mark into the decisions, and broadens the scope of what can be done under a combined budget.

Trustees: Meet monthly. This is a new committee and is a work in progress. The School Committee self-evaluation document is important to their work. People want financial training, etc. An onboarding or orientation process for SC members should be developed.

Development, HR – no major changes

C&F --- has taken on task of looking at Admissions Reports, and has handed over subcommittee slate nominations to the Trustees subcommittee

SAGE ad hoc: Meets monthly. We may be able to bring in a UI grad student with expertise to help with restructuring.

Admissions & Academics: Academics reporting is included in the HoS report. We could have an annual topic on these reports. i.e. status of STEM on campus. The restructuring has resulted in a more efficient use of time for staff. Admissions Soft outreach – go to Quaker meetings, talk with people. Parents are more likely to send kids to school within 4 hours. Specific recruitment skills would be most helpful on the committee. Some miss the reports. The HoS will integrate more of this in his report.

Overall: clear objectives for each committee. Geographic considerations for SC members.

Minute: We will continue to refine the Subcommittee restructure proposal.

Notes: Trustee subcommittee will work on definitions. Handbook will need to be revised.

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

Next Meeting: We look forward to meeting again July 22, God willing.