

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting via Zoom
Open Session Minutes
18 January 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 Lippit, George Bergus, Monica Beals, Linda Pardee Corbin, Kristin Hilgendorf, Eric Stakland, Nancy Jordan, Kent Tjossem

Regrets: Ruth Hampton, David Wilcox

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

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

“All sound arises out of Silence and dissolves into Silence.
All thought arises out of Silence and dissolves into Silence.
The universe arises out of Silence and dissolves into Silence.
Suffering arises out of Silence and dissolves into Silence.
The unbounded spaciousness of Silence, filled with the clear light of Awareness,
dissolves the roots of pain and sorrow.
Take refuge in Silence and know unshakable joy”

— Lord Dunsany

Announcements: none

Minute: We approve the minutes, both open and closed, of our meeting on September 14, 2024.

NOTES

Development Report – Focused on the campaign – we have reached 78% of the capital project goal; Annual Fund Dec. 31st totals will be amounts printed in the booklet. Booklets will go out late January or early February. We have 13/30 Hickory Grove donors. There is much positive feedback in conversations re: fund raising.

Ethan outlined going public with the campaign.

Costs for the well and sprinklers are covered, so first stage is a success! Next projects are “stretch” projects – bathroom renovations & AC.

Facilities and Farm

We received the report outlining updates on all that is going on improving the campus.

Head of School Report

Community Life initiative – Dorm meetings/MS meetings alternate weekly with a community-wide meeting. Benefits are 1) for staff these now occur during the workday, and 2) meetings now include day students.

Consultation & Finance

The committee meets monthly. The conversion to the new web-based accounting system is ongoing and a difficult transition. Revenue goals are not being met, tuition is down and there are some gaps in the annual fund. Insurance costs increase. Annual cash cycle July-Jan goes up, then cycles down and we may need to tap into reserves to finish out the FY. The school is moving into a more mature budgeting process with varying scenarios. We received \$50k less than expected from Measey Fund. Amounts are based on a formula calculated on how the Measey fund performs. We may need to calculate a 15-20% swing when budgeting. Over the long term we need to work to be less dependent on the Measey Fund.

Financial Literacy Presentation

We will be adding educational focus topics to our meetings. Today's topic is *Fundamentals of Financial Statements*. Suggestions are welcome for upcoming topics. Members are also encouraged to view the ISACS seminars. Some of them might merit discussion during our meetings.

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 March 15, 2025 via Zoom, God willing.