

Scattergood Friends School
School Committee Meeting in-person and via Zoom
Open Session Minutes
14 September 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: George Bergus, Linda Corbin-Pardee, Ruth Hampton, Roy Helm, Kris Hilgendorf, Katie Jacoby, Alex Lippit, Monica Beals, Eric Stakland, Kent Tjossem, David Wilcox

Absent: Nancy Jordan, Aaron Woolfson

Staff Present: Sonja Spondheim, John Zimmerman, Ethan Huelskamp, Matt Gauder, Mark Quee, Kim Jones, Sam Taylor

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

“Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky.”

~ Kahlil Gibran

MINUTE: We appreciate the work and stewardship in redoing the Instruction building. It looks stunning!

MINUTE: We approve the July 23 minutes, open and closed.

MINUTE: We approve the Subcommittee and Officer Slate 2024-2025.

NOTES:

Development Report

- A suggestion for the reports going forward is to include historical comparisons regarding the status of “where we’re at” in fundraising. Is it going well, better than expected, or short of goal? The benchmarks/points of reference will differ between the Annual Fund and the Comprehensive Campaign.
- Updates on the dorm design: the bathroom plans are being revised. The next step is approval by the School Committee (“SC”), after which designs will be finalized and sent out for bids. The bids for the HVAC and sprinkler systems will need approval by the SC for the bids only, not the design of the system.
- ADA compliance - one of the private baths will be ADA compliant. A potential long-term master plan could involve renovating the lower level of the West dorm to be fully accessible with rooms and bathrooms.

Facilities & Farm Report

- The Committee will need a consultant to help with the Master Plan. A Zoom meeting with John, Matt and Kris is planned to discuss a consultant and if an ad hoc committee should be formed.
- Electrical upgrades to the West dorm will be more expensive than initially planned but there’s money in the budget to cover the potential 12-24% increase in cost. (80K could instead be 90-100k.)

Head of School Report

- *Academic/Admissions* - There will be less emphasis on mid-year transfers.
- *Event:* The Bread & Puppets circus will be a valuable experience for the students as well as an excellent outreach event for the school. Plans are being made for 300 attendees.
- *Student Life* - the new academic year is off to a great start.

- *Spiritual and Community Life*- A very inspiring brainstorming session was held re: the Friends in Residence program. They are researching grants to help with expenses.

Consultation & Finance

MINUTE: We reviewed the operating statement as of September 1, 2024.

School Committee Trustees Meeting

November workshop proposal will be a school focused forum. Departments will give presentations on admissions, Roots and Wings, community life, etc., professional development for committees, and how to talk about the school.

Staff Handbook

SC will review for approval processes for dealing with staff including certain policies re: whistle blower, sexual harassment, malfeasance, compensation, and tuition remission. School admin/staff will work on things like social media/phone policies. Legal consulting will be needed at some point in the process. The handbook will be sent out for feedback early next year.

Friends of Scattergood

Roy Helm is the liaison. A Zoom meeting is planned to learn how to talk about the school. Committees are forming, volunteers welcome. Meetings are quarterly. Outreach efforts are ongoing to build SG alumni networks/connections, including for seniors to encourage them to keep in touch. FoS is not a fundraising effort.

ISAACS workshops

We are encouraged to watch the presentations live. A suggestion was made to set aside time during our meetings to discuss them.

Odds and Ends

How to best utilize Google Drive---we might consider an online Google primer to help us better utilize it.

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

Katie Jacoby, recording clerk

Next Meetings:

November 2, 2024

January 18, 2025 (Zoom only)

March 15, 2025 (Zoom only)

May 10, 2025

July 22, 2025 (Tuesday of IYMC Annual Sessions)