School Committee Report
Meeting for Business
09/12/2021

School Committee had their retreat on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021 to develop a 5-year long-range plan. Our attendance was high. We met in person at Friends School wearing masks. A VAIS video was chosen from several videos providing a template and examples of long-range planning from other Independent Schools. The information provided exciting possibilities and raised important strategic issues specifically for Independent Schools. The discussions that followed were productive and dynamic.

The video from Woods Academy seemed to mirror our own projection. We were privileged to have a presentation by Zoom by the head of the academy, Joe Powers who was immensely helpful.

SC was asked to think about strengths and weaknesses of, opportunities for, and threats to, the school. We were able to identify several of our strengths; particularly the School's grounding in Quaker values and the high quality of administration and staff. Overall transparency of operations and the child-centered curriculum were also mentioned. We addressed the precarity of our financial status and the need for better facilities, what to do about marketing, etc. We are also aware of the need to increase teacher salaries to attract high quality professionals at the same time keep tuition affordable. Needing to include Meeting to improve our relationship going forward, wherever we can, was also addressed.

The brainstorming session about the future course of the SLRP process gave all of us the opportunity to identify what each of us saw as strengths and weaknesses. Four Steering Committees were established: Educational Experience and Leadership, Enhanced Campus, Community Engagement, and Financial Sustainability. Initial members were named:

1. *Educational Experience and Leadership*: Patrick Goold (convener), Chris Dotolo and Sandra Fink
2. *Enhanced Campus*: Chalit Fernando (convener), Carrie Watkins, Hank Ghittino, Danny Grondin
3. *Community Engagement*: George Polizos (convener), Kelly Disharoon, Carrie Watkins, Jeanne Crawford, Anna Canada, Sandra Fink
4. *Financial Sustainability*: Joanne Young (convener), Hank Ghittino, Chris Dotolo, Anna Canada

Candice Jarden, DeeDran Talbert and Mike Barclay will serve on all four.

Committees need to meet and write a committee description by October 1. After that time, next steps including when and how to request volunteers to serve on the various committees will be determined.

Mike Barclay gave an update on the application for a CUP modification. It will be submitted on 9/1. Other planning issues were also summarized.

Report by Jean Crawford