

State College Friends School

Connecting with the Board

October 2009 Highlights

- Welcome to the first 2009-2010 issue of the Board of Trustees' update to the school community. We plan to use this forum monthly to share highlights from our meetings so that you are better connected with the board.
- The board meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month and consists of 13 members, with a majority appointed by State College Friends Meeting. In August we welcomed a new at-large trustee, Rick Witt, and a new member appointed by Friends Meeting, Jonathan Olson. Rick Witt, parent of fourth grader Arina, is an architect and senior manager with the local office of Kimball & Associates, Architects and Engineers, where he specializes in educational facilities, both new building projects and renovations. Jonathan Olson is the busy parent of current 2nd grader, Jordan, kindergartener, Ariana, and 'future' student, baby Isabella. He is an assistant professor in Human Development and Family Studies at Penn State Altoona. Other current board members appointed by Friends Meeting include Mary Boutselis, Polly Dunn, Mardi Frye, Bruce Knox (clerk of the board) and Beth Resko. Other at-large members are Pam Adams, Mary Lou Bennett and Jeff Krantweiss. There are currently two trustee vacancies. Also attending board meetings as ex-officio members will be administrative staff members Dan Hendeby, Beth Giles and Diane Lehman, as well as teacher Sunna deForest, volunteer faculty representative to the board (thank you, Sunna!). As the year gets underway, please visit the board's page on the school website (www.scfriends.org). There you will find a brief biosketch for each trustee.
- At our first several meetings of the school year, trustees reviewed Head of School goals, development office updates and financial reports. Dan reported that, while enrollment numbers are slightly lower than planned, the 2009-2010 budget can handle this, thanks in part to monies raised through the Annual Fund and EITC (Education Improvement Tax Credit) contributions from participating businesses. The board approved the revised budget for 2009-2010, and members were happy to approve Pam Adams as clerk of the Development Committee. Board subcommittees have been formed within the board to focus on annual funds/events, major donors, major campaigns and strategic planning. Dan reported that our summer camp finished a very successful season with a total of 250 students for 9 weeks of camp, thanks to Michele Rivera, Kelly Corradini and the rest of the camp staff. He also expressed thanks to the summer cleaning crew, led by Abby Browne.
- Dan informed the Board that the school is now listed on greatschools.com and board members, as well as parents and alumni, should input reviews on the school.
- In early September, the board hosted an annual get together with faculty and staff for a potluck lunch. That same day Arthur Larabee, the General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, met with the teachers for a discussion of Quaker process and decision making. In October the board benefited from a review on the Quaker decision making process led by Bruce Knox.
- The Quaker Life committee reported working on 3 areas: involving meeting members in the school's Theme Week on Food, planning for a collaborative art project between the Meeting and school families, and holding a conversation about the school with interested Meeting families.
- The board also approved minutes of appreciation for former board members Joanne Green, Campbell Plowden and Ralph Oliva.

Please send comments or feedback to board clerk Bruce Knox (bknox4@verizon.net).

We provide an academically vigorous education in a nurturing environment that inspires a love of learning and prepares students to meet challenges with confidence and compassion. Guided by the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship, we support the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each child.

Mission Statement, State College Friends School