

Minutes of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting

September 15, 2012

Friends School in Detroit, 1100 St. Aubin St., Detroit, MI

Clerk, Marvin Barnes [Birmingham]
Recording Clerk, Tom Blackwell [Ann Arbor]
Treasurer, Inge Brieger [Birmingham]

Attendance:

from Birmingham Monthly Meeting: Ellerie Brownfain, Jonah Brownfain, Marvin Barnes, Ellen Barnes, Harriet Greenwood, Inge Brieger, Geoff Brieger, Wink Covintree, Julie Poll
from Red Cedar Friends: Erick Williams, April Allison
from Detroit Monthly Meeting: Sam Hays, Mike Kelly, Kevin Howley
from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting: Susan Hartman, Helen Fox, Thomas Taylor, Christa Williams, Richard Tucker, Jeff Cooper, Tom Blackwell
from Grand Rapids Monthly Meeting: Amy Ranger
from Pine River Monthly Meeting: Kyo Takahashi, Mary Takahashi
Guest: Ed Harris, Friends School in Detroit

[1] In the morning, by invitation, Kevin Howley from Detroit Monthly Meeting spoke about "Quakers and Social Action", including his current experiences in running for the office of Oakland County Executive. By being a candidate for public office he is able to open a conversation about the future of the community and raise issues which need to be discussed. He seeks to generate a non-partisan consensus on what the real issues are. His focus is on creating a strategic plan for current youth and entrepreneurs in the county, involving education, workforce development and regional transportation. A goal is to create jobs so that children can stay in the community.

[2] Ed Harris, Head of School for Friends School in Detroit gave an extensive report, structured around four areas: academics, admissions, property and finances. For academics, the school has added four new teachers this year, teaching grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 and 5 combined. This creates a need to communicate the culture of Friends School to the new teachers. For admissions, the school opened in September with 106 students. They are running print ads in Metro Parent. Ed plans to hold monthly parent breakfast meetings and to focus on student retention. For property, all of the roof leaks have been fixed, except for ponding at one end of the building. Parents have worked on the landscaping, and the parent organization is more organized this year.

For finance, the school's budget projects a \$5 k surplus for the school year, as opposed to a \$120 k shortfall last year. Arrears to DTE will be paid up by December. All teachers are now on 10 month salaries, and all of the missed pay periods have been fully paid back. The school has increased tuition by 15% over last year. This works out to an average income of \$6800 per student, excluding employee children, or \$6400 per student, including employee children. The overall operating budget for the year is \$1.1 M. A Friend calculated that dividing by 106 students makes the expenditure \$10,400 per student, thus \$4000 per student needs to come from other sources. The school raised \$360 k this past year in development funds. This is higher than in past years.

ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States) has given the school provisional accreditation, with specific objectives to be achieved by December. These include a financial audit for the year 2011-12, a strategic plan, including parents on the board of trustees and a payment plan for unpaid ISACS dues. It was noted that the school's bylaws do not specify having parents on the board. The trustees are beginning the process to develop a strategic plan. This produced some discussion, with encouragement to make this a broadly shared process.

Afternoon Business Meeting:

[3] Roll call:

Ann Arbor	- 7
Birmingham	- 8
Detroit	- 3
Grand Rapids	- 1
Holland	- 0
Kalamazoo	- 0
Pine River	- 2
Red Cedar	- 2

[4] Trustees for Friends School: It has come up that Rochelle Lento, currently on the Friends School Board of Trustees, is in her 11th year as a board member, with a 9 year term limit. The Meeting approved Rochelle Lento's extension to December 2012 as a member of the board of trustees. The meeting further requested that, if any other situation arises where a board member would exceed a term of 9 years, the Friends School Board of Trustees should consider and approve the extension, and then bring it to the Quarterly Meeting for approval.

[5] The clerk reported on his follow-up to the special called meeting in July for Friends School in Detroit. He has requested financial information and the full ISACS accreditation report. Members of the Quarter can be an asset to the School, but we need to have more information about the school's current status and activities.

[6] With the approval of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting, Marvin Barnes will send letters to monthly meeting clerks requesting members for a clearness committee concerning the GPQM Clerk's interactions with the Friends School in Detroit Board of Trustees.

[7] Minutes from the called meeting on July 14, 2012 were read and approved with changes.

[8] Naming Committee: Marvin Barnes will seek one additional member for the Green Pastures Nominating Committee from meetings beyond Detroit. Current members of the Nominating Committee are Sam Hays and Wink Covintree.

[9] Finance Committee: Inge Brieger presented the GPQM proposed budget for 2012-2013. It has no change in expenditures from the previous year's budget. The Committee proposes to retain the existing contributions to both FCNL and the Institute for Global Education. The assessments shown are based on 307 members x \$43 per member. However, the current membership total is 291. The Meeting approved the proposed budget with the revised number of members. The assessment is to remain at \$43 per member, and the meeting will absorb the budget shortfall with carryover from the previous year.

[10] Michigan Friends Center and Friends Lake Community: Richard Tucker reported on preparations for the joint 21st and 50th anniversaries of these two separate but coordinating organizations. Richard is the overlapping member of both boards of trustees. The re-visioning process which began 16 months ago is an opportunity to revitalize and redirect their energies. Two question for Michigan Friends Center are: How specifically Quaker is or should the programming be ? And, how do we reach out to non-Quakers in the community ?

GPQM Budget 2012-2013 (7/1/12 - 6/30/13)

Income	2011-2012 Actual	2011-2012 Budget	2012-2013 Proposed budget	Difference of Budgets 2011/12 & 2012/13
Assessments	14,177.00	14,536.00	13,201.00	
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
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Total Revenue	14,177.00	14,536.00	13,201.00	-976.00
 Disbursements				
Administration	20.00	30.00	30.00	0.00
Adult Program	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
AFSC	8,050.00	8,050.00	8,050.00	0.00
FCNL	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
Friends Lake Community	870.00	870.00	870.00	0.00
Friends School Detroit				
Friends School	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	0.00
McCree Program Ad	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Institute for Global Education	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
Michigan Friends Center	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
Inclusive Justice Program	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Youth Program	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
Total Disbursements	12,840.00	13,250.00	13,250.00	0.00
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Net (Total Revenue - Total Disb.)	1,337.00	1,286.00	-49.00	
 Account Balances				
	6/30/2010 Balance	6/30/2011 Balance	4/31/2012 Balance	6/30/2012 Balance
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Bank Accounts	2,483.88	9,733.38*	2,954.38	3,020.38
CD Suffering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

* 1683.38 after AFSC cashed check on 8/11/11