

October 28, 2014



Dear FSW Families,

Thanks to all of you who have participated in our strategic planning process so far this year. Many of you have seized the opportunity to voice your insights and feedback through “Bagels with Brenda” sessions, the parent survey, and focus groups. If you missed these opportunities, it’s not too late. We will continue to collect data, to hear your joys and concerns, and to gather your ideas as this process unfolds. Doug Jennings will be available for further focus groups if you request them. I am happy to meet with you one-on-one. Or catch up with any member of our Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee (listed below). We very much want to hear from you.

The parent survey that was recently completed by 95 FSW parents showed an uptick in confidence about our overall program and an appreciation for the work that teachers are doing to provide vigorous academics and important enrichments. Some parents asked for increased rigor, more technology training, and increased diversity at FSW. Containing tuition was a concern for many. Feedback regarding facilities included a focus on safety and enhancements, particularly an indoor space/multi-purpose room/gym that could accommodate a multitude of activities. While added cost is a potentially prohibitive factor, many of you were enthusiastic about the advantages of a unified campus. You also shared an appreciation for our values-based Montessori/Quaker philosophy.

Yesterday, our Ad Hoc Committee met to thresh the details of parent data along with feedback we have received from alumni, alumni parents, faculty and staff, groups that reflected a loyal connection to FSW and detailed the benefits of a Friends School education.

You can imagine that our session required lots of discussion and listening as we worked to hear all the points of view. It is an invigorating process!

We are now in the midst of collating and organizing all that we have learned and planning for our Board Retreat November 7 and 8. The goal of that retreat is to use this data – your insights, ideas, and collective wisdom – to identify 3-5 goals that will guide us in the short and long-term. We will incorporate these goals into our next strategic plan, a draft of which I hope to present to you by January. This plan must be nimble, clear, and inspiring to make it worthwhile, so that’s the goal!

Again, I urge you to participate if you have not done so already. Our Ad Hoc committee meets again next Monday to finalize plans for the Board retreat. Do not hesitate to contact any of us to jump into this process.

Thanks very much,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brenda'.

Brenda  
Head of School  
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Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Members: Stephen Brock, Karen Daniels, Brenda Esch, Doug Jennings, Lydia Newman, Rich Ogle, Laura Williams