

November 14, 2014



Dear FSW Families,

After a final meeting of our Strategic Planning Ad Hoc committee on November 3, our full Board and committee gathered for a Strategic Planning Retreat on November 7 and 8. Providing inspired facilitation, Mike Hanas, Head of Carolina Friends School, led all 17 people present through a series of questions, small and large group discussion, and finally, to a clear sense of unity on priorities for the coming years.

My gratitude to this group of volunteers is enormous. Their skills, their time, and their love for Friends School were all generously offered. The group shared a palpable sense of community and possibility, recognizing that a Friends education is one that can transform the lives of students, families, and the many employees who work on their behalf. Similarly, we recognized that FSW is on the cusp of its own transformation, moving out of its youthful phase and into one in which it can become an enduring facet of the Wilmington community. The path to this transformation needs to be clearly addressed in our next strategic plan.

Clerk of the Board, Rich Ogle, and I have been tasked with integrating the drafts and ideas that coalesced last weekend into a first draft of our strategic plan to be submitted for consideration at the Board's next meeting on December 1. After that, we will report the specifics to all of our constituencies, asking for your feedback before revising and polishing a final draft for which we will seek approval at the January Board meeting with plans to publish widely by mid to late January .

In this 20th birthday year, the momentum is building, not just with a strategic plan but with the strategic thinking that is going on in every corner: attention to curriculum, teacher professional development, communications and publications, Open Houses early and often! Thank you for your contributions in all the ways that help us strengthen our core as we stretch into our 3rd decade. Do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Strategic Planning Committee in the coming days with your ideas and enthusiasm. It is not too late to join us in this process.

Thinking Friends School,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brenda
Head of School
brenda@fsow.org

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