

December 9, 2014



Dear FSW families,

At the December 1st Board meeting, our FSW Trustees considered a rough draft of our next strategic plan, *Deepening Our Roots, Extending Our Reach*. The draft was a synthesis and a culmination of the work of our Ad Hoc Committee; the input from parents, alumni, faculty and staff; and, the Board's November Retreat facilitated by Mike Hanas, head of Carolina Friends School. Trustees suggested some revisions and then enthusiastically approved the next step: sharing strategic initiatives with members of each of our constituencies. We invite your participation in this crucial step in the process before we publish a final draft in January.

As it stands, this strategic plan holds high expectations for the work ahead, initiatives that are mission-driven, bold, and necessary. Its goals include facilities enhancement, refined market positioning, financial sustainability, and continued curriculum growth. These dreams are within our reach, if we reach for them together.

Lead teachers will focus on the curriculum initiative in the strategic plan when they review the plan next Tuesday, December 16. Then, Rich Ogle (clerk of the Board) and I will meet with parents for sharing and feedback on Wednesday, December 17, 4:00-5:00 in the Math Room @ Peiffer. In early January, I will also be engaging Friends Meeting of Wilmington and various other friends of the school in this important work.

Our hope is to incorporate your feedback and publish FSW's 2nd Strategic Plan, *Deepening Our Roots, Extending Our Reach*, by MLK Day in January. With you, we can then dig in and actively pursue these essential and energizing goals for the future of Friends.

Thinking Friends School,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda Esch', written in a cursive style.

Brenda Esch
Head of School
brenda@fsow.org

Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Members:

Stephen Brock, Karen Daniels, Brenda Esch, Doug Jennings, Mariana Johnson, Lydia Newman, Rich Ogle, Laura Williams