

Brooklyn Friends School Report to New York Quarterly Meeting October 23 2011

During the 2010 - 2011 academic year, the BFS Board of Trustees met monthly to faithfully engage in guiding the work of the school. It was a year of meaningful commitment to the implementation of the strategic plan, bringing to life the Essential Principles developed with our Friends in New York Quarterly Meeting, and developing a collaborative relationship with the new head of school, Larry Weiss, during his first year.

Quaker Life at Brooklyn Friends School

Our care relationship with Brooklyn MM continues to thrive, bringing both communities together in worship and through programming. The meeting invited BFS faculty and staff to worship and dinner, BFS families were invited to attend Sunday worship, and the Care Relation Committee explored other opportunities to come together through programs and events, such as the cemetery clean up and the art exchange with Kisangura Friends. The Board of Trustees invited the Care Relations Committee to a Spring board meeting to discuss our relationships, opportunities for further collaboration, and ideas for future work.

Our new head has collaborated with BMM member Tom Rothschild to implement a new afterschool seminar for high school students. The seminar is scheduled to begin during the Fall 2011 term and will focus on Quakerism.

BFS families, primarily from the lower school, support the Brooklyn MM community dinner on a regular basis.

At BFS, students and faculty worship together regularly by division, as the foundation for the spiritual nurture of the community; in-class periods of silence are used frequently to help students center.

In the academic year, 2011-2012, Brooklyn Friends School will engage in a Quaker Self-Study. The Quaker Self-Study is an opportunity offered by the Friends Council on Education for member schools to explore the nature of Friends Education and the unique way their own Friends school lives out its Quaker dimension. Different from state school accreditation self-study processes, the focus and process of a Quaker Self-Study is entirely school self-determined and provides an invaluable opportunity for each school to explore its own identity and direction as a Quaker school.

Beginning in the fall of 2011 and carrying through to the fall of 2012, there will be occasions for all school constituencies (students, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, and Quakers) to participate in Quaker Self-Study events. There will be opportunities for education, reflection, and the creation of new elements to enhance

the Quaker life of our school.

Each Friends school is unique. Every person in our school community shares a part in defining who we are. This upcoming year, everyone will have the opportunity and responsibility to explore how Quaker values and practices now live at Brooklyn Friends and to shape our collective vision for the future. There will be periodic updates about the Quaker Self Study as it progresses.

New Senior Staff

The school welcomed the new Diversity Director Eddie Moore, Jr. Eddie will be the first Director of Diversity to serve as an all-school administrator who will integrate various aspects of school life, including admissions and retention, recruitment and hiring, and curriculum development and professional advancement. We are honored to have Eddie join the BFS community, because he brings a wealth of experience and energy from his diversity and equity work in schools across the nation.

Horizons summer enrichment program

The fourth year of Horizons at Brooklyn Friends School welcomed 60 dynamic and bright K, first, second and third graders from P.S. 307, P.S. 8, P.S. 67 and P.S. 287, all in downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights. The goal of Horizons is to provide support and enrichment so that students, from underserved communities, maintain academic skills over the summer months. Horizons was staffed by 13 classroom and specialty teachers, along with over 25 BFS upper school student volunteers, who ensured that year four of Horizons at BFS was a success.

Programming included two days of dance with Mark Morris Dance Group, West African Drumming, Chess, Chorus, Visual Art and 3 days of swimming at Long Island University.

Plans to provide Horizon students with access to the Brooklyn Friends School after-school program during the academic year were advanced and funds raised by The Adeona Foundation to ensure viability of this new component to the Horizons at BFS program.

Expansion

The 2011 - 2012 school year marks the fourth year of admitting one extra classroom towards the goal of expanding the school's census by 50%; the original additional classroom is now in First grade. The search for a site intended to house Preschool and Lower School, continued to require significant attention and time.

The Family Center, once destined for closure by the NYC Department of Health, reopened in a new location, thanks to the strategic vision of our new Head of School. Now called the Family Center at Brooklyn Friends, the new facility is located on 189 Schermerhorn street and will welcome an incoming class of 43 students.

Financial Condition

The school completed the year with positive net operating income of approximately **\$470,000**. This marked the **tenth** consecutive year that the school has realized an operating surplus. Preliminary audit figures indicate that net assets, as of June 30th, 2011, will stand at approximately **\$13.8** million.

The Brooklyn Friends Fund, the schools’ annual fund that augments operational costs not covered by tuition, brought in a record amount of \$633,260.

Parent participation was at 68%

Demographics

Total Enrollment: 754 (FC = 43 PS = 96, LS = 258, MS = 180, US = 177)

Total Faculty: 112 (96.0 fte): faculty – student ratio: 1:7.2

Total Faculty/Staff 168 (159.0 fte): all staff – student ratio: 1:4.3

Socio-Economic Diversity

Financial Aid: % of budget	15.8%
% of students on financial aid	30%

Karen Robinson-Cloete and Lisa Sack
Board of Trustees Co-Chairs