**Draft Minutes**

**Concord Quarter/Delaware Valley Friends School Care Relationship Committee**

**March 4, 2019, at Delaware Valley Friends School,**

Present: Susan Brodesser (Birmingham Meeting), Clerk, Tom Ceresini (Middletown Meeting), Ginny Sutton (Westtown Meeting), Gray Goodman (DVFS faculty), Christa Harp (DVFS Trustee, parent), Lynne Piersol (CQ Coordinator), Kirk Smothers (DVFS head of school)

By phone: David Calamaro (DVFS associate head and academic dean)

1. We introduced ourselves and settled into a few minutes of worship.
2. Recorder: Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator agreed to take minutes. Since the meetings will be open to all those in the DVFS and Concord Quarter communities, the minutes will be public and be posted on the CQ Website.

1. Approval of agenda – approved with the addition of deciding when the school would report to Concord Quarter. It was shared that Concord Quarter Planning Committee asked for no later than January 2020.

1. Overview of potential benefits and challenges of the care relationship. The group reviewed the Care Relationship document.

Benefits:

* Closer relationship because the geographical distances are smaller..
* Opportunity to nurture Quakerism at the school (they have 6 Quaker staff now).
* Opportunities to be enriched by active Quakers. Although they don’t have a Quakerism curriculum, it pops up in different subjects. They have a social justice class, and they do talk about Quakers there. SPICES are embedded in the curriculum. Quakers in the Quarter could be resources.
* Opportunity for student government to learn more explicitly about Quaker practice.
* Will be exciting for people in the Quarter to come in contact with the students at DVFS.
* Opportunity for DVFS to speak to the Quarter about learning differences, and how the school saves the lives of children and families. There are many out there who could benefit from learning more about learning differences through the lens of a Quaker school.
* Opportunity for supporting and caring for the school spiritually, including the board, especially when a difficult issue comes up.
* Opportunity to benefit the Quarter and the School by participating in the school’s meeting for worship.

Challenges:

* Requires new actions on both Concord Quarter’s and DVFS’s parts; DVFS didn’t have to do much in the prior relationship because of the distances involved.
* We need people to be involved beyond the committee.
* The students come from 47 different school districts, so families may be hard to get involved.
* Possible pitfall is there are families out there whose children who were not admitted so there to could be some difficult feelings.

1. Student partners in the care relationship. DVFS used to have student leaders reporting to the Quaker Life QLC Committee (Board Committee) about what they were doing. It hasn’t met this year yet. Would there be a way to facilitate learning and discussion with the student leaders (versus reporting)?. For example, have a discussion for 45 minutes about a current issue that is actively being worked on in a meeting in the Quarter during the Community time slot. There are 4 different diversity clubs (LGBTQ, Black students, LatinX, Feminists). Other committees include equity, service.

1. Tasks/Activities: Ideas included:

* Speaker at Community time or connecting members of a particular Committee or club with the DVFS diversity person. Invite students to talk to meetings?
* Plan something for faculty first? Students first? Families will be harder to gather.
* Come to meeting for worship at DVFS. Thursdays 10:05 - 10:30 or a little longer. Occasionally it doesn’t happen. School has a standing invitation to the Quarter, but those attending must check in with Kirk, Gray or David to be sure it is scheduled and allow the school to be aware that outside people are coming.
* Special meeting for worship followed by a tour of DVFS.
* Special invitations to faculty to attend meeting for worship in the Quarter.

We agreed to:

* Concord Quarter inviting DVFS faculty, staff, students and families to the next CQ Quarterly Meeting which will feature Dr. Amanda Kemp (April 28)
* Susan will do a short presentation on DVFS at Birmingham Meeting and also at West Chester Meeting. Ginny will do it at Westtown Meeting.
* Kirk will connect Lynne with the DVFS communications person for specific events to publicize in the Quarter. Events to publicize include the DVFS Arts Fest, the Musical (written by students) (April 11-12), Founders Day, Speakers Series in the fall, and the Gala. We also agreed to encourage folks to personally invite those in the Quarter to attend these events whenever possible.
* Meeting for worship at the school (see above under ideas). Lynne will publicize, noting that visitors from outside need to RSVP (and make sure it is on schedule) to either Kirk, David or Gray.
* Annual Dinner for Religious Life Committees of Quaker Schools will meet April 11, 6pm. At Lansdowne Friends School. Tom Ceresini is interested in going along with Gray Goodman.
* Gray will talk with students about topics they might like to discuss, and the Quarter can also look for folks with an interest they could share. (ideas might include reparations, gun violence, Middle East, homelessness, gender issues)

1. Next meeting - May 6, 3:15-4:45pm at DVFS, open to public.