

Tampa Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Called Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Minutes

13 Eighth Month 2023

Clerks: Chris Hugues (clerk for this meeting), Nil Wilkins (Stand-in Recording clerk).

Attendees: Kelly Curtis, Jan Dahm, Miki Epperson, Lisa Erasmus, Chris Hugues, Steve Kinney, Dustin Lemke, Karen Putney, Nil Wilkins, and Cecilia Yocum.

Tampa Friends met regarding a request from Jennifer Perella to open a private micro-high school called Fortitude Prep (www.fortitudeprep.org) on meetinghouse property. Jennifer is a veteran teacher (25 years) who quit her position in the Spring, mostly as a result of the onerous restrictions that teachers are dealing with under the DeSantis administration. The school's proposed curriculum will address racial, gender, sexual, and other issues that are unavailable in state funded schools while also focusing on preparing children for the "real" world and facing some of the major issues of our times. Jennifer has had a wide array of experiences including dealing with special needs children, a variety of ages, and various subjects. Her plan is to be a school of 6-15 children with no more than 3 faculty. She has chosen to focus on high schoolers because there is lack of options (especially with this philosophy) for that age group as many private schools only run through middle school.

Tampa Friends approved Jennifer using the meetinghouse grounds as the location of the school, so she can begin the process of gaining required approval to open the school.