

June 11, 2018

Dear MPH Community,

I am writing to share that I have notified the Board of Trustees that the 2018-19 school year will be my last as Head of Manlius Pebble Hill School. By next spring, at my fifth MPH graduation, I will be 70, and it is time to turn over the reins to a younger leader who can guide this great school into its bright future. A more important factor in my decision than my age is that this summer my wife, Libby Barlow, will leave Syracuse University for a new position in New Hampshire. While she will work some of the time from Syracuse, we will also find ourselves commuting on many weekends. Having already done that several years ago, we certainly don't want to do it again for more than a year.

Leading this school has been among the great privileges of my 40 years in independent school education. I have had the opportunity to work with extraordinarily committed and talented faculty, staff, and administrators, and I have come to know many wonderful alumni and alumnae and MPH families, both past and present. I also have been fortunate to have had an exceptional working relationship with our Board of Trustees, especially Board President John Mezzalingua, whose support, encouragement, and friendship have inspired me on a daily basis. Because I am assured of John's continued commitment and that of our Board, the administrative team, and our faculty and staff, I have full confidence that MPH will not just survive, but flourish. I know my successor will enjoy the same support I have received from so many people over the past several years.

While I have no specific plans for the next phase of my life, I certainly don't intend to be idle. There are many unread books in my library, a couple of unfinished book-length manuscripts in my desk, and I have a variety of other exciting ideas about ways I might spend my time. Just as several years ago, when I followed my wife to Syracuse and had no idea what was in store for me here, I am confident now that new, unanticipated adventures and opportunities await me in the coming years. Whatever I do, I will look back on this time and this community as among the greatest blessings of my life. For me, coming to MPH was a stroke of genuine good fortune.

For the coming year, there can be no slacking off, no "lame-ducking." I pledge to move forward with initiatives we already have begun at MPH and will continue to do my best to lead the school toward financial sustainability and continued fulfillment of its mission and core values. I trust I can count on your support of MPH next year and well into the future.

Best,

Jim Dunaway, Head of School
Manlius Pebble Hill School