

July 9, 2018

Dear MPH Community,

You are now all aware that Jim Dunaway announced his decision to retire at the end of the next academic year, in June 2019.

As I stated in my previous letter, we accepted Jim's decision with great admiration for him and gratitude for his many contributions to the MPH community. We are very fortunate to be able to benefit from Jim's wise leadership for another year, and we look forward to celebrating his tenure before he and Libby head off to New Hampshire. For now, though, I would like to share with you the details of the search process we have put in place that will lead to the appointment of our next Head of Manlius Pebble Hill School.

The Board of Trustees has appointed a search committee of five trustees, which I will chair. These trustees reflect a broad spectrum of the MPH community including alumni, past parents, and current parents, and possess the critical experience in executive hiring. The search committee members are:

- Candace Campbell Jackson, grandparent of a former student, Trustee since 2017
- Peter Meier, parent of three MPH graduates, Trustee from 2018
- Evan Dreyfuss, treasurer of the MPH Board, parent of two current students, Trustee since 2015
- Kim Townsend, parent of graduate and current student, Trustee since 2017

It will be the responsibility of the committee to screen and evaluate candidates and make a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees, which will make the final decision on the next Head of School. Our current expectation is that this process will lead to the announcement of our new Head before the end of 2018.

Our first action as a committee was selecting Carney, Sandoe & Associates, the most prominent search firm for independent schools, to partner with us in the search process. Carney Sandoe is recognized both nationally and internationally as a leader in recruiting heads and other senior administrators for independent schools. We are very fortunate that senior search consultants Peter O'Neill and Jennifer Christensen will represent us. Peter brings 30 years of experience as a head of independent schools, including K-12 day schools and boarding schools. Most recently he served as the Interim Head of The Hotchkiss School. Jennifer has 25 years of educational administrative expertise in higher education and independent schools; before joining Carney Sandoe, she served as a Director of College Counseling at four independent schools and Director of Admission at Saint Mary's College of California and Claremont McKenna College.

As I mentioned in my letter last month, there will be multiple opportunities for community involvement. We will be actively seeking input from faculty, staff, parents, students, and alumni.

Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Christensen will be visiting MPH on Tuesday July 24 and Wednesday July 25. During their visit parents, faculty, students, staff, administrators, and trustees will have an opportunity to share their perspectives about MPH and their desired qualities in a new Head. These conversations will allow Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Christensen to develop a compelling school profile and a job description that reflects MPH's core values and what we want and need in a leader.

Understanding that this visit comes when school is not in session, we will make every attempt to provide a flexible schedule that allows participation by as many members of our community as possible. To give an opportunity for all voices to be heard, prior to our consultants' visit we will be sending a final schedule for their visit as well as a community survey so that those who are unable to attend can express their views.

This communication is the first of many we will be providing throughout this process. We are committed to appointing as our new Head of School an individual who embraces MPH's mission, values, and traditions and who has a demonstrated record as an outstanding leader.

Sincerely,

John Mezzalingua '85  
President, Board of Trustees