
**A MESSAGE
FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PRESIDENT JOHN MEZZALINGUA '85
MPH**



Dear MPH Community,

As President of the MPH Board of Trustees, I'm writing to let you know that Dave McCusker will serve his term through the end of the next academic year, June of 2023, and we will begin the search the process for his successor this month. As he noted in his letter, Dave had originally intended to serve as our head of school on an interim basis, and we are very fortunate that he caught the MPH bug and extended his commitment to what will ultimately be a four-year tenure. We are also grateful that Dave has given us 18 months to make the transition to new leadership for MPH. He will continue his tireless efforts in support of the School, and we have much to accomplish over the next year and a half before Dave and Steff return to New England.

Dave has had a positive impact on our school since he joined the community in July of 2019. In collaboration with the strong administrative team he established and because of the exceptional dedication of our outstanding faculty, the School has been strengthened in significant areas: a highly flexible response to COVID, which has led to an uninterrupted MPH learning experience; a more-intentional focus on student health and well-being within the curriculum, as well as a commitment to overall community health and safety in the general sense — particularly timely given the backdrop of a pandemic; and an improved and expanded curriculum that includes, among other initiatives, a well-designed and effective student life program.

Dave has made a significant commitment to supporting the School's Admissions efforts with enhanced programming and staffing that have contributed to solid enrollment growth, which is up 15 percent since his arrival. He has brought that same attention to enhancing school operations and financial practices, addressing inefficiencies and improving systems and business standards. With an eye to long-term financial sustainability, it is noteworthy that the MPH endowment has seen a 32 percent increase in the last three years. Our facilities have improved in several areas, as well, with the most recent project of restoring the Farmhouse due for completion this spring. Substantial progress has been made on our *Strategic Plan MPH 2025*, and Dave will continue to work with his administration, the faculty, and the Board of Trustees to further those goals through next year.

We have retained Carney, Sandoe & Associates to partner with us in the search process. We are fortunate that Peter O'Neill, who collaborated with us in recruiting Dave to MPH, will again assist with our search. I will provide you with additional information in the coming weeks as we form a Search Committee and finalize details of the search process. In the meantime, there is much good work ahead to secure a bright future for MPH, and I look forward to partnering with Dave and his team to the end and before we bid a fond farewell to Dave and Steff in the spring of 2023.

Sincerely,

John Mezzalingua '85
Board of Trustees, President

Mr. John Mezzalingua '85
Board of Trustees, President

Dear John,

With deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Head of School since 2019, it feels bittersweet now to share my decision to make 2022-2023 my fourth and final year at MPH.

Steff and I began this current adventure with the idea of an interim headship, and yet neither of us regrets the expansion of that original idea. Along the way, we have developed a genuine fondness for Central New York, its beautiful natural environment, the area's rich history and exceptional cultural, medical, and educational options, and the overall high quality of life we have discovered here. Still, it will soon be time to return to our roots and be closer to our family.

Thinking back to the earliest conversations you and I had in the winter of 2018, I want to thank you for your visionary leadership and steadfast partnership. I am grateful as well to the Board of Trustees for its abiding commitment to a shared goal of building an exceptional and enduring school for our students today and for future generations.

To that end, much of our work in recent years has focused on structural, operational, and cultural priorities. We also recognized that MPH had many significant existing strengths, most notably the close relationships formed between students and their caring and talented teachers.

Given the backdrop of a global pandemic and the extraordinary commitment from this community to ensure the health and well-being of all members, I couldn't be more pleased with the number of significant initiatives that nonetheless have been accomplished, are in progress, and/or have been identified for the future. MPH is blessed with a team of talented educators and dedicated professionals who are leading important areas of school life, each of whom looks to our mission and core values to guide their efforts. And during a tumultuous period for everyone, my respect and appreciation for the partnership of our MPH families could not be greater.

The future is bright for MPH! Each day, I am energized by the mission and good work we are doing for our students, as well as by the goal to envision and realize the compelling promise of our school. I am fully committed to ensuring a smooth and healthy transition when the time comes, and I will be forever grateful for the privilege of being part of this very special community.

Sincerely,

Dave McCusker
Head of School

MPH