



August 2, 2021

Dear GMS Community,

With sadness and understanding, The Girls' Middle School Board of Trustees acknowledges the receipt of Jennifer Ayer's letter resigning her position as Head of School. Her resignation has been approved, and her final day of work was June 30, 2021.

We are grateful to have had Jennifer's superb leadership for eight years. Jennifer gave much of herself to our school and our community. She has a true love and passion for the mission of GMS, and we are so grateful to her for her extraordinary and visionary work over the years. Her deep dedication helped GMS become recognized as a leader in progressive education, and her many accomplishments have benefited the school immeasurably. Her brilliance as an educator and a business person made her uniquely suited to this role.

Personally, her heart and her humor made her not only a wonderful colleague and friend, but her personal connection with the students made her an exceptional head of school. She made everyone feel comfortable and included. She will be missed by all.

Jennifer played a key role in strengthening the connection between the Board of Trustees and the GMS Administration, expanding the Bennett Scholar Program by increasing the number of scholars enrolled each year and increasing the wrap-around support the scholars and their families receive both during their time at GMS and beyond. She led and facilitated the Five Year Strategic Plan that has guided us so well in these last years, prioritized our work in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, and moved us forward in our long-term goal of a new site and a capital campaign to support the new site and endowment. Furthermore, she managed the enormous challenges brought forth by the pandemic.

As chairs of the Board of Trustees, we are keenly aware that our most important duty is to ensure that The Girls' Middle School has strong, capable, caring leadership with a commitment that furthers the GMS mission and ideals. We have asked David Finke, GMS trustee (parent '14,'19), to chair the Search Committee. We have hired RG175, the firm that successfully conducted our Interim Head search, to

partner again with David and the GMS search committee. Details outlining the search committee's work will be provided in a letter from David in the coming week.

We are confident that the GMS mission will continue to thrive under the care of the newly appointed Interim Head of School Tesha McCord Poe and our strong administrative team, faculty, and staff. We look forward to finding a great Head of School to lead us into the future!

Gratefully,

Megan Miller and Carrie Coltman

Chairs, The Girls' Middle School Board of Trustees