



May 7, 2021

Dear GMS Community,

The Board of Trustees is thrilled to announce the appointment of Tesha McCord Poe as The Girls' Middle School Interim Head of School for the 2021-2022 school year! In her current position as Director of Advancement at GMS, Tesha is already a core part of the school leadership, working closely with Jennifer, Laura, and the rest of the administrative team. She brings her passion for making the GMS experience of an all-girls, inquiry-based education, accessible to all our families. Tesha will begin her new role on July 1, 2021.

Tesha is a polished executive, visionary leader, and a proud advocate of the GMS mission and core values. She has a wealth of experience working with administrative teams and boards of trustees, deep knowledge of progressive education, and strong connections to the broader community of independent schools. Prior to coming to GMS, Tesha led the development teams at The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, Castilleja, and Hillbrook schools.

A graduate of Barnard College, Tesha earned a JD and an MBA from Northwestern University and worked in several industries including broadcast journalism for NBC News, corporate law in Silicon Valley and as a tenure track law teacher at a community college under Martha Kanter, former U.S. Under Secretary of Education. Currently, Tesha is the CEO and Founder of Joy-Raising, an organization partnering with nonprofits around the country to achieve philanthropic and DEI goals.

Because of the outstanding reputation of GMS, the search committee was fortunate to have excellent finalists. The Board unanimously selected Tesha as our number one choice.

We want to thank the search committee, co-chaired by trustees David Finke and Liz Davis, along with trustees Barbara Schneider and Lisa Coca for their commitment of time and dedication in this search. We would especially like to thank Tiffany Chao and Gaby DiMuro for representing the GMS administration and faculty as members of the committee, their contribution and insights were invaluable.

We are deeply grateful to Laura Reeve, who quickly stepped in as Acting Head of School this spring and will continue in this role through the end of the school year. Laura's leadership and care for the community has provided a remarkably seamless transition; she and the senior administration team are doing outstanding work.

And finally, we are grateful to the GMS community for the unwavering support shown to our Head of School, Jennifer Ayer, as she continues to oversee the care and recovery of her daughter Anna in Boston. The GMS community has shown characteristic strength, patience, resilience, and compassion as we have worked together during challenging times.

Sincerely,
Rich Yang and Megan Miller
Co-Chairs Board of Trustees