



August 13, 2021

Dear GMS Community,

This letter is meant to provide an initial update on our process toward recruiting our next Head of School following the recent announcement of Jennifer Ayer's retirement. The Board of Trustees is entrusted with leading the search, and the process is intended to be as thorough, equitable, and transparent as possible to ensure success.

Following our successful engagement in the Spring to recruit our Interim Head of School, we have once again engaged the services of RG175, an internationally recognized search firm specializing in independent schools, to guide us through this critical process. Coreen Hester and Cathy Hunter, RG175's two consultants working with GMS, are both former heads of schools themselves and are now based in the Bay Area. Together they bring extensive independent school leadership experience and knowledge that is highly relevant for GMS. Coreen and Cathy have a genuine appreciation for the unique character, quality, and culture of GMS, and believe the school is well positioned for the successful recruitment of its next Head.

In order to gain a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges at GMS and our expectations for our new leader, Coreen and Cathy are in the process of meeting with faculty and staff, parents, students and alumnae, the Board of Trustees, and other friends of the school. Additionally, as part of the information gathering process, Coreen and Cathy have created an online survey to solicit confidential perspectives from the entire school community. We encourage everyone to participate in this critical process and we welcome your candid views. The survey will be conducted on-line in late-August / early-September, so please be on the look-out for an email invitation to participate in the coming weeks. Based on survey results and input from the various meetings, the Search Committee will develop the position statement to be published when completed and supplied to all candidates.

I am honored to announce the Search Committee that will lead the search effort:

- Catlin Clendaniel — 7th Grade Humanities Teacher, 7th Grade Team Co-Lead, & Admission Associate
- Lisa Coca — Trustee, Class of 2021 parent
- Terry Lee — Trustee
- Laura Reeve — Assistant Head of School
- Raena Saddler — Trustee
- Barbara Schneider — Trustee, alum parent

Our board co-chairs Megan Miller (alum parent, past Director of Admissions), Carrie Coltman (alumna parent), will participate actively with the committee in the search process. Megan, Carrie, and I deeply appreciate the committee's willingness to serve and we thank them in advance for their time and thoughtful contributions on behalf of the school.

The Search Committee is committed to an inclusive and collaborative search process. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress as we proceed.

Sincerely,

David Finke

Head of Search Committee Chair, Trustee, alum parent