



WASHINGTON EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

January 14, 2010

Dear WES Community,

As part of the Board of Trustees' commitment to keep our community informed about the search for a new Head of WES, I am writing to give you a brief update on our progress so far.

Shortly after Stu Work announced he would be stepping down as Head of School at the end of the next school year, the Board began its discussions of the transition process. Our first task was to identify a search firm to assist in this process. After considering a number of firms, and interviewing three finalists, we have engaged Jim Maggart and Jean Lamont of Educators' Collaborative (EC), a national consulting firm specializing in head of school searches for independent schools, to help us with our search. Both Jim and Jean have served as heads of school and as trustees in independent schools, in addition to managing head of school searches for a number of schools here in the U.S. and abroad. After speaking with their references, we know we are in very good hands with Jim and Jean advising us in this important transition of the School.

We have also appointed a Search Committee of the Board to conduct a comprehensive, national search for a new Head of School to assume responsibility in July 2011. I have asked trustee and current parent Jim Young to chair this committee. The other members of this Search Committee will include: trustees and current parents Patti Collins, Harry Dematatis, Laura FitzGerald, Brenda Ortega, Hamilton Peterson, and Cynthia Stroman, former faculty member and current trustee Charlie Miller, founding parent and former trustee Kathleen Patterson, and WES alumnus and trustee Britt Snider '88. I am deeply grateful to Jim and the other committee members for agreeing to take on this responsibility.

Although this committee itself represents a wide range of WES constituencies and brings a breadth of perspectives, we also plan to form advisory groups that will include faculty, administrators, staff, parents, and students. These groups will meet with all candidates invited to visit the school and will share their impressions about these candidates with the Search Committee. Our objective is to create a process that will give everyone opportunities to share their thoughts about the process and the next Head of School. The enclosed letter from Jim Young describes the online survey that will be the first step in this process of gathering a wide range of input.

Over the spring and summer the consultants will be advertising the opening, contacting potential candidates directly, soliciting recommendations from selected educational leaders, and begin interviewing interested candidates. The Search Committee will meet this summer to review the pool of candidates and to select from them a group to meet with the Search Committee for an initial interview. Candidates selected from this process will be invited to WES and meet with representatives of the faculty, administrators, staff, parents, and students. From this group, finalists will be selected for a second visit to the school for final interviews. Our goal is to complete the search process and announce the appointment of a new Head of School by late fall 2010.

If you have suggestions or concerns, I encourage you to talk with members of the Search Committee. In the meantime, the Search Committee and Board of Trustees are grateful for your support and will continue to keep you informed of our progress through further correspondence and updates on the WES website.

Sincerely,
James P. Durling
Chair, Board of Trustees