



# The Walden School

Dear Walden Community,

As you may have heard, Mary McKeon has announced that after 35+ years of service to Walden she will be stepping down as Head of School at the end of the school year. Her tenure as Head has been a remarkable one that has seen momentous occasions, like our 50-year anniversary, and great challenges, such as the ones posed by the ongoing pandemic. Her leadership throughout this time has kept Walden strong and continued the path laid by her predecessors. Over the next several months, I encourage you to join me in celebrating Mary's achievements as we see her off to her next adventure.

I am sure you are wondering what happens now. The choice of a Head of School is one that does not happen often, this is only the third time it will happen in Walden's history, and one that we, as the Board of Trustees, do not take lightly. I want to assure you that the Board's selection will be made with broad input from our community, and that it will be driven by our continued Mission and Philosophy, in order to safeguard the environment and people you have come to love.

The Board is creating a special Search Committee to lead the selection of our next Head of School. The committee will be composed of members representing our main stakeholders. Their first task will be to define a vision and job description for the new Head of School. To do this they will be looking to gather input from a wide range of viewpoints and opinions. They will then engage in a comprehensive search to assemble a diverse pool of candidates, which we expect will also include internal candidates. Candidates will then be interviewed by the committee, with the help of key Walden community leaders.

We have set the goal that the selection of the new Head of School will be announced in the spring. You will be hearing from me throughout this time to keep you updated and to request your feedback. While this is underway, please join the Board in showing your appreciation for Mary's hard work and dedication, to ensure that her remaining time is filled with joy and celebration.

If you would like to learn more or have specific comments, please reach out to me. Thank you, and Thank You Mary!

**Daniel Neubert**

President & Chair of the Board of Trustees