

A Special Announcement *from* the Trustees

August 15, 2016



The Chestnut Hill School
Educating. Engaging. Inspiring.

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Dear Susan,

As I approach my tenth year at CHS, I am filled with pride about the special magic that informs everyday life in such a vibrant place. To me, this is evident not just in the high quality teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms, but also in the unique nature of our community life. I am mindful of the ways in which our programs have grown and confident in our ability to help our students to become their best possible selves.

I feel really good about my ten years at CHS, and yet I am ready to move on to a new challenge at the end of the upcoming year. I truly believe that the Chestnut Hill School has a bright future and am confident that it will be ready for a leadership transition in June 2017. For ten years I have been inspired by the quality of our teaching, and my belief in the school's ideals has been unwavering.

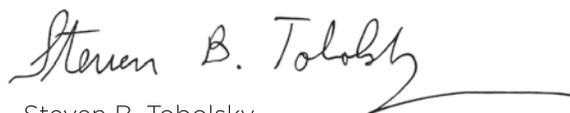
“Thanks to a dynamic partnership between our teachers and families, CHS students take with them a remarkable legacy of learning and advocacy for social justice.”

I have always admired the fact that CHS is a small school that dares to think big. This allows our students to feel both nurtured and inspired, and it also encourages school leadership—trustees and administrators alike—to remain focused on mission-level ideas while continuing to support individual children. One of the great blessings of such a structure is that it affords opportunity to connect with interesting adults and highly engaged students on a daily basis.

As someone who has worked for forty years in independent schools across the nation, I am actively grateful for the decency and dedication of our families. The quality—and volume—of our volunteerism is striking, and our students continue to distinguish themselves as curious and informed learners. Thanks to a dynamic partnership between our teachers and families, CHS students take with them a remarkable legacy of learning and advocacy for social justice.

As CHS prepares itself for a transition in leadership, I am confident that the many talented individuals already in the community will form a close partnership with the new Head and that together they will continue to grow a great school into an even greater one. In the year ahead I am energized by the prospect of supporting the goals of the Strategic Plan, helping to tweak the inevitable bugs in the new website, implementing the work of the summer DEI Task Force, and working with and mentoring Deb Sullivan and Michael Coppola as partners in secondary school counseling.

Connie and I are grateful for the support that you have extended to us during your years as Board Chair, and we cherish the many fulfilling relationships that we have enjoyed at CHS. Please know that I will work tirelessly in the year ahead to help ensure the smoothest possible transition and to make the upcoming year another great one. With lasting appreciation,



Steven B. Tobolsky
Head of School

August 15, 2016

Dear Chestnut Hill School Community,

I am writing to share Steve Tobolsky's letter announcing his decision to step down as head of The Chestnut Hill School in June 2017. Steve will continue as Head of School throughout the upcoming school year, completing a full decade of service to CHS.

“As we look ahead to Steve’s last year and a transition to new leadership, I hope you will join me in appreciation of his legacy and confidence in our school’s very bright future.”

I am grateful for Steve's dedicated partnership with the Board and impressive contributions to CHS during his tenure as Head of School. He has shaped an academic program that is stronger than at any time in our 156-year history, growing stronger still through an enhanced STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) curriculum and thoughtful DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) instruction. Chestnut Hill School students are thriving at the most selective secondary schools in

our region, not just welcomed to those schools but routinely recognized for their academic achievements and personal leadership. CHS is far sounder, financially and operationally, than it was when Steve joined us in 2007, including through the establishment of business and advancement offices and substantial growth in the annual fund and financial reserves. Steve has played a critical role in setting and achieving strategic priorities for the school in 2010, renewing the school's commitment to its mission in 2014, and refreshing our strategy in 2016 with initiatives that will guide us well into the future. To all of this work he has brought immense energy and educational vision, along with an unwavering commitment that CHS remain a place where children have the time and space to be children as they learn and grow.

As we look ahead to Steve's last year and a transition to new leadership, I hope you will join me in appreciation of his legacy and confidence in our school's very bright future. I look forward to community-wide engagement on the transition to a new Head of School, a process I am committed to making as inclusive and transparent as possible.

To that end, a few announcements about the work ahead. Steve will be working closely with the Board on the leadership transition, but his primary focus in the months ahead will continue to be the day-to-day operation of the school. Trustees Melanie Hoffmeister and Sanjay Shetty will Co-Chair the Head of School Search Committee. They expect to finalize and announce the full Search Committee during the first week of September. A Search Committee e-mailbox, searchcommittee@tchs.org, has been established for your questions and input and we will be posting search FAQs and updates on the school website after it goes live later this month. The Search Committee will host a series of initiatives through the fall, including Q&A sessions, a community survey, and advisory groups, to ensure robust community input.

To assist the Board and the Search Committee, we have retained Clay Stites, President of the educational search firm Resource Group 175. Over the past 19 years, Clay has run more than 100 school head searches and specializes at the elementary school level. He is a former head of two independent schools, Friends Academy and the Curtis School, and is a trustee at Buckingham Brown & Nichols. Assisting Clay will be his partner Tom Olverson, former head of

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the Rivers School. With their assistance, we anticipate that the Search Committee will make a candidate recommendation to the Board for its approval by the December 2016 break, with the new head's arrival planned for July 2017.

Finally, the Board has established a Transition Team, co-chaired by Assistant Head of School Deb Sullivan and Trustee Dean Kolbas. While the Search Committee focuses on identifying an exceptional next Head of School, the Transition Team will ensure that CHS is as well-prepared as possible for the arrival of the new Head and that we are laying the right supportive groundwork for his or her future success.

Our return to school this fall will be a busy one, but I look forward with gratitude to Steve and Connie Tobolsky for their continued commitment, with full confidence in our team, and with great enthusiasm for the brilliant future of our school. Thank you for your invaluable support of CHS.

Very truly yours,



Susan McSwain, Board President



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