

THE NUEVA SCHOOL

December 18, 2019

Dear Members of the Nueva Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to announce that Lee Fertig will become Nueva's next head of school. Lee currently serves as director of the International School of Brussels. The Search Committee recommended Lee to Nueva's Board of Trustees, and the board unanimously supported the recommendation.

During the past decades, Lee has held leadership roles in schools on four continents. After double majoring in math and psychology at Oberlin, Lee began his career in education as a math teacher at the Fieldston School in New York City. Intrigued by the possibilities in international education, he quickly took on his first leadership role as a high school principal in Ethiopia, followed by work as an upper school principal at the American School of Rio de Janeiro. After four years conducting doctoral work in educational policy and administration and teaching at the University of Minnesota, headships followed at a magnet school in Minneapolis designed to voluntarily integrate students, the American School of Barcelona, the Graded School in Sao Paulo, and the International School of Brussels.

As the Search Committee got to know Lee over the past few months, it became clear that his educational philosophy and leadership style align particularly well with Nueva's values and our aspirations for our next head. Lee understands our need to be forward thinking in a rapidly changing educational landscape, while attending to the organizational systems and structures that support our ethos of caring and innovation. He seeks to empower diverse voices and perspectives, and to do so in a way that builds on the best of our programs in social-emotional learning, environmental citizenship, and design thinking. He understands that enabling gifted learners to flourish requires a deliberate and focused attention on the needs of these deep thinkers.

Lee writes, "I am truly humbled and honored to have the privilege to lead one of the very best independent schools in the United States, one that increasingly is becoming a global leader in learning for gifted students and other best practices in education. The fact that the entire Nueva community genuinely embraces the central role that social and emotional learning plays in education, especially for gifted learners, makes this professional leadership opportunity even more exciting for me. Needless to say, I am impressed by the school's mission, learning principles, educational programs, and core values. However, it is obvious that it is the people behind all of this who make Nueva so special. Without exception, I have been inspired by everyone's passion, dedication, intellect, ambition, and heart. I cannot imagine anything more invigorating than to be fully immersed in this amazing ethos. I assure you of my own commitment to continue the wonderful work already done at the school and to honor the mission-based integrity that is already so evident within the community

The Board of Trustees joins me in thanking our consultants from RG175, Search Committee Co-chairs Susan Barnes and Kathleen Donohue, and the members of the committee who dived enthusiastically into a comprehensive search that led to consideration of a number of exceptional candidates. We are indebted to the Nueva community, whose valuable input helped to crystallize Nueva's values and unique culture, forming the framework used to attract and assess candidates.



Lower & Middle Schools Campus | 6565 Skyline Boulevard | Hillsborough, CA 94010
Upper School Campus | 131 East 28th Avenue | San Mateo, CA 94403

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Lee will join Nueva in mid-August. We look forward to introducing Lee to the Nueva community in the near future. In the meantime, please join me in congratulating Lee and welcoming him and his family into our community.

Best regards,



Bruce C. Cozadd
Chair, Nueva Board of Trustees

