



June 17, 2020

Dear Alumnae,

It has been nine days since the “town hall” meeting for alumni, faculty and board members. I know that for many, this letter comes after an unacceptable delay. I write it in spite of this delay as I feel that it is always important to express that the St. Margaret’s leadership has heard your great pain and outrage.

These last nine days have been spent in listening, discerning and grieving.

I have been listening. To the words spoken in courage and compassion at the town hall. To the convictions of the former students who have written to me and the Board of Governors since this meeting. To my cabinet and advisors.

I have been discerning. What is best for the school? What is best for our beloved students? How can one administration set to right so many years of wrongs?

I have been grieving. I have cried for the girls, now women, who so bravely continue to share their stories. My heart breaks in the knowledge that the reported acts of discrimination at St. Margaret’s extend beyond race to culture, sexual orientation and more. I am dismayed by the inaction to take care of these situations in a timely manner.

Through all of this, I must say again, on behalf of St. Margaret’s, we are sorry. We lament the systemic racism that has plagued this institution and so many for nearly a century. We are sorry for the privilege that allowed some to turn a blind eye, while others endured trauma and pain.

We must do better and we will. As we do the work ahead of us in setting wrongs right, and reconciling the deep breach of broken trust, we will carry your names, and your stories with us.

You will hear more from St. Margaret’s after our Board of Governors’ meeting tomorrow, June 18. You will be represented by letters that have been emailed by your sisters to the school, as well as your Alumnae Association board representative, Mary E. Leipertz ’00, and the Cabinet of the school.

Thank you for your candor, your courage, and your willingness to tell your stories. You have my vow to serve this community with an equal commitment to justice.

Cathy Sgroi P'00
Head of School