

Head of School Search

August 4, 2020

Dear members of the Commonwealth Community,

This letter serves as an update to the search for a new Head of School. We are pleased to announce that significant progress has been made.

In a letter to the Community dated March 16th of this year, we described some key activities of the Search Committee that would ultimately lead us into September with finalist visits to the school.

Since the March update, national events have shaped conversations throughout the educational sector about diversity, equity and inclusion. As reported in the July 13th letter to the community from the Board of Trustees, Commonwealth is engaging with its various constituencies on these complex issues. The Search Committee will continue to evaluate candidates based on the [Position Statement](#) (posted on the school website), and recent discussions have helped underscore and sharpen the priorities guiding the Search Committee's efforts.

Although the Committee was prepared for a more limited number of applications given the pandemic, we were pleased to have reviewed a robust pool of over 30 candidate applications. The candidates comprised a strong group of diverse, talented professionals.

With so many qualified applications, it was not easy narrowing down the list. After a careful review, the Search Committee selected 10 extremely qualified individuals to advance to the semi-finalist round of interviews. The Committee drew upon input from across the Commonwealth community to develop its evaluation criteria. In particular, Commonwealth's Faculty and Staff Advisory Committee provided valuable input to the Committee in the form of high-level prioritizations.

Over the May 30th and 31st weekend, the Search Committee interviewed 10 potential new Heads. We were impressed with the level of enthusiasm and passion candidates displayed for the position, as well as strong alignment with Commonwealth's mission.

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After lengthy and productive deliberations, the Search Committee chose three outstanding candidates to advance to the finalist round in the fall. Since the interview process remains confidential, the identities of the finalists will not be revealed until just prior to candidate visits.

The finalists will separately visit Commonwealth for 2½ days in September. Circumstances may dictate a virtual visit rather than an in-person forum, depending upon health and safety considerations in conjunction with guidance from the state. The school will be fully prepared for that eventuality, and our RG 175 Consultants will help guide us in adopting such a model if necessary. The visits will expose a cross section of the school to the candidates, and a survey will be conducted to gather feedback which will help inform the Search Committee's evaluation of finalists.

In early October the Board will make a final decision.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated as we move into the next phase of the search. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Fred Ewald P '21, Julia Holloway '82, Marie Lossky P '10, '11
Co-Chairs, Search Committee