

Dear AMSA Community,

Ms. Ellen Linzey has recently announced her plans to change roles after the 2022-2023 school year and step down as Executive Director to focus on supporting the Capital Campaign and our facilities build out project starting July 2023. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to express our support and to celebrate Ms. Linzey's accomplishments as a school leader while we work to prepare AMSA for a new chapter in its history.

We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for Ms. Linzey's passion, personal sacrifice, and unquestionable commitment to our mission and our core values (integrity, excellence, and community). During her tenure as Executive Director, Ms. Linzey and her team established a high level of professionalism and trust. Each day, and one staff member, student, or family member at a time, Ms. Linzey built relationships centered on empathy, respect, and empowerment. Each day, she encouraged others; each day, she cheered others; and each day, she listened.

The accomplishments of Ms. Linzey and her team are many. Working collaboratively with our teachers and administrators, as well as parents and students, Ms. Linzey oversaw the renewal of our charter with no conditions, successfully negotiated three union contracts, and the implementation of numerous social and emotional learning initiatives. Ms. Linzey also spearheaded the revitalization of our ELL program and our Special Education Department. She also, as recognized by our ranking as the second-best high school in the state by *U.S. News and World Report*, oversaw the continued academic success of our wonderful students.

While doing all of this, Ms. Linzey was also able to resolve a multi-year litigation with our landlord and ultimately build the foundation for investing in our facilities by acquiring the buildings that we can now say will be our long-term home. When Ms. Linzey transitions out of her role as Executive Director, she will have left our beloved school - our home away from home - stronger, more united, and more able to provide all students of all backgrounds and abilities the opportunity to succeed.

The Board of Trustees has started planning the search for our next Executive Director. Specific details on the timeline of this search will be shared as the plan is further defined by a dedicated task force that will include stakeholders from the AMSA community. We expect to have our new Executive Director identified and ready to take office by the end of the 2022-2023 school year, which will allow a smooth transition as Ellen serves in her new role starting July 2023.

The task force will seek input from every stakeholder group within the AMSA community as we look to build on our recent successes while safeguarding our core values. In addition to current trustees, we plan for the task force to include at least two faculty members, parents, and members of AMSA's Advisory Council. As a former Executive Director and a trusted leader, Dr. Anders Lewis will be a key member as well.

Ms. Linzey's one-year Executive Director contract ending in June 2023 is expected to be approved at the Board of Trustees meeting in May.

We understand that change can leave room for concern, but we are confident in the fact that Ellen's outstanding passion is not unique at AMSA and look forward to continuing to build on her legacy as we write an exciting new chapter for our school.

We invite you to watch this [video message](#)\* from Ms. Linzey and Dr. Lewis, who share more details about the upcoming transition along with other updates about AMSA.

Sincerely,

Roger Jarrett, Chair  
Raul Porras, Vice-Chair

*On behalf of the AMSA Board of Trustees*