

February 6, 2023

Dear GSA Community,

As you know, Tim Seeley recently announced his intention to step down as GSA's Head of School at the end of June. The Board of Trustees has constituted a committee to seek a new Head of School. The Head Search Committee, chaired by trustee and GSA alumna Deb Ludlow '77, includes GSA trustees, faculty, administrators, staff, and at-large members from the peninsula. See below for the names and brief bios of committee members.

The Head Search Committee will establish its deliberative process and a tentative timetable during its initial meetings. We intend to keep you updated along the way.

On behalf of the Board, I thank the committee members for their willingness to serve.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Mills, Board Chair

2023 GSA Head of School Search Committee

Deb Ludlow, Chair (GSA '77): Deb lives in Brooksville, her hometown, and with her husband owns and runs a small family business there. As a GSA alumna and past parent, she has served two nine-year terms as a member of the Board of Trustees. During that time, she was a member of the Head Advisory Committee and the Head Evaluation team and she looks forward to the important work of choosing new leadership for George Stevens Academy.

Ben Astbury (GSA '96): Ben lives in his hometown of Sedgwick, and is the sole proprietor of a family-owned business. He is an alumnus and past parent of GSA. A current member of the Sedgwick Board of Selectmen, Ben has served several stints as board chairman and sits on various regional committees and boards. Ben holds the rank of Operations Captain in the Sedgwick Fire Department, serving his town as a volunteer for 28 years. College educated, he is also a graduate of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, serving the greater Hancock County area in various capacities until his retirement from law enforcement in 2017.

Amy Baker: Amy is a Blue Hill resident, a current GSA parent, and a co-chair of the GSA Development Committee. She was involved in a Head of School search while serving on the Board of the San Francisco Friends School. Professionally, Amy builds presentation skills for the technical sales team at an enterprise software company called Guidewire.

Sara Becton Ardrey: Formerly an educator, for the past 10 years Sara has been a school administrator leading the Alumni and Development office at an independent day and boarding school in Massachusetts. In this role Sara served on both an interim head of school search committee and a head of school search committee at the school, as well as serving on the development and finance committees. Sara has spent nearly every summer in Blue Hill and also serves on KYC Council and on a committee at the Blue Hill Country Club. She is a huge fan of GSA and the value it brings to and impact it has on our community.

Jim Crawford: Jim was a Trustee and Treasurer of GSA's Board of Trustees from 2018 through 2022. He is currently a Life Trustee of Colby College and was Chair of the Board from 1999-2005 and chair of its presidential search committee in 1999-2000. Other academic service includes Trustee of the Collegiate School, an independent grades K-12 school located in Richmond, Virginia, from 1980-1988, and Chair of its Board in 1988-89.

Phelan Gallagher (GSA '02): Phelan grew up in East Blue Hill, graduated from GSA in 2002, and studied jazz saxophone in New Orleans at Loyola University. He has a Masters Degree in Education from Hunter College in New York City and just recently moved back to the peninsula with his wife and baby girl to assume the position of Music Director at GSA.

Tyler Knowles: Tyler is a Blue Hill resident and has been on GSA's board since 2011. She is Chair of the Committee on Trustees and ran the last Head of School Search. Tyler headed the Winsor School's English Department in Boston for 27 years and presently is vice-chair of Colloquy DownEast's Steering Committee and a member of St. Francis' vestry.

Kristyn LaPlante: Kristyn is a native of New Haven, Connecticut. She currently resides in Blue Hill and has lived on the peninsula for 11 years. Kristyn has been employed as an Executive Chef for about 30 years at many restaurants and non-profit organizations such as Yale University, The Hole in the Wall Gang Foundation, The New York Restoration Project, City Harvest, and the Food Bank for New York City (formerly Community Food Resource Center). She currently serves as GSA's Culinary Arts Teacher and the Director of Food Service.

Sue Loomis: Sue is a Castine resident since 1972, current GSA Trustee and member of the Committee on Trustees and Mission Committee; proud parent of two GSA alums; recently retired as Dean Emerita and Professor of Humanities at Maine Maritime Academy; served on three college presidential search committees and three accreditation teams. Served as founding trustee of Bagaduce Music, Colloquy Downeast, and Castine Arts Association, and as a member of the Advisory Committee of Collins Center for the Arts at University of Maine.

Sally Mills (GSA '85): Sally is a Blue Hill native, GSA alumna, past and current GSA parent, and Chair of the Board of Trustees. She is a local attorney and has served on boards and search committees for various Maine non-profit organizations, including Blue Hill Memorial Hospital and the Maine Justice Foundation.

Brock Muir: Brock is the new Director of Finance and Operations at George Stevens Academy. Before this, he was a change management, reengineering, and strategy consultant. Brock identified, launched, and expanded programs, products, and partnerships for a diverse set of organizations (e.g., Lowe's, AT&T, Dollar General, Burger King, Pacific Bell). Brock served on The Lawrenceville School's Alumni Executive Committee and was a class secretary, agent, and reunion planning committee member for more than twenty years. Brock's son is a George Stevens Academy senior. Brock lives in Castine with his wife and three children.

Erin McCormick (GSA '00): Erin is a Blue Hill native and current resident, a GSA alumna, and an eighteen-year veteran teacher of GSA, where she currently serves as Chair of the English Department and Drama Coach. She has served on numerous planning committees during her years at GSA, including multiple hiring committees.

Liz True: Liz is a Brooksville native, past GSA parent, chair of the Union 76 School Committee and a member of the Sedgwick School Committee. Liz began her career in education as a dorm parent, coach, and history teacher at the Hyde School but then moved into higher education. Most recently, she has

served as Vice President for Student Affairs at Maine Maritime Academy and now Eastern Maine Community College. She has served on several college presidential search committees as well as conducted accreditation visits for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Robert F. Vagt: Bobby has spent his working career in business and public service. Most recently, he served for a decade as the president of Davidson College and seven years as the president of the Heinz Endowments. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he and his wife have owned a home in Castine since 2000.