



RABUN GAP

RABUN GAP-NACOOCHEE SCHOOL

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Rabun Gap Names Robert “Bob” Ahrens as 12th Head of School

February 25, 2026

Dear Rabun Gap Community,

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Robert “Bob” Ahrens has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as Rabun Gap–Nacoochee School’s twelfth Head of School, effective July 1, 2026.

Following a comprehensive national search, his appointment received unanimous recommendation and approval from both the Head of School Search Committee and from the Board of Trustees.

Throughout the search process, Mr. Ahrens distinguished himself as a strategic leader who is inspired by Rabun Gap’s history and mission. He recognizes the distinct needs and contributions of both boarding and day families, and is committed to preserving the unique character of our Rabun Gap student body. He leads with a purpose-driven, collaborative spirit. Mr. Ahrens possesses a genuine gift for connecting with others, and he looks forward to deeply engaging with our students, employees, alumni, and parents.

Mr. Ahrens will join Rabun Gap at a time of remarkable strength – a direct reflection of the work of our employees and the commitment of our families. He is a leader who respects our legacy, and he is a dynamic partner who will champion the incredible work already happening on our campus and accelerate our momentum to new heights of excellence.

As we look toward this new chapter, we do so with gratitude for the strength of our community. Bob Ahrens’ appointment is a significant milestone, and we are excited about the energy and vision he will bring. Please join us in welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Ahrens and their family to Rabun Gap.

Warm Regards,

Mr. Niles Bolton, Trustee
CO-CHAIR, SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dr. Kate (Oliver) Maine ‘85, Trustee
CO-CHAIR, SEARCH COMMITTEE



ABOUT MR. AHRENS

Mr. Ahrens is an accomplished educational leader with more than 25 years of experience leading boarding and day schools across the country. He has led strategic planning efforts that bring school communities together with aligned goals to enhance student success.

With demonstrated leadership in academic programming, co-curricular integration, faculty development, and operational oversight, Mr. Ahrens is a student-centered leader who values the unique experience independent boarding and day schools provide.

Most recently, Mr. Ahrens has served as Head of School at Saratoga Independent School (SIS) in upstate New York. In his five years serving SIS, the school benefited from enrollment growth, record increases in philanthropic support, a successful implementation of the school's strategic plan, expansion of faculty professional development, and innovative curriculum design.

His deep expertise was forged through two decades of leadership in Ohio. At Andrews Osborne Academy, he served as Assistant Head of School for Academics and Director of Upper School, where he established a prestigious Global Scholars Program and expanded academic offerings. His career is marked by a diverse range of roles that impact the whole student experience, including Dean of Students, Dean of Middle School, Academic Director, and mathematics teacher. Bob holds a Bachelor of Science from The Ohio State University and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Villanova University. He is also a respected voice in the national education community, frequently presenting at conferences and leading accreditation reviews.

Mr. Ahrens and his wife, Lindsey, are the proud parents of Brady (25), Ryan (23), Ashley (20), and Finnegan (12). The family will live on the Rabun Gap campus beginning in July 2026.



From my earliest conversations with members of this community, it was clear that Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School is far more than a school. It is a family united by mission and shared values. I am humbled and honored to serve as the next Head of School. The dedication of the faculty and staff, the strength of the Board of Trustees, the partnership with parents, and the accomplishments of the students and alumni all speak to a thriving and purposeful community.

I am deeply grateful to the Board of Trustees and the members of the search committee for their trust and confidence throughout this thoughtful process. I am also mindful of the strong foundation built under the leadership of Jeff Miles, and I look forward to building on the many remarkable accomplishments achieved during his tenure. My family and I look forward to embracing the beauty of the local area and immersing ourselves in the daily life, traditions, and spirit of Rabun Gap.”

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ABOUT THE SEARCH

The appointment of our next Head of School is the culmination of a comprehensive national search that attracted an incredibly strong pool of candidates. This journey was rooted in our commitment to the mission of Rabun Gap–Nacoochee School, and we extend our deepest gratitude to the entire community—faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and students—whose active participation was so vital to this process. Since the initial announcement of the search in November, the Board of Trustees has worked in close partnership with our consultants at Carney, Sandoe & Associates. We are thankful for their expertise and diligent work in helping us navigate this pivotal moment in our school’s history.

Following intensive review and semi-finalist interviews with the Search Committee, we welcomed four finalists to campus for multi-day visits. Each finalist met with the Committee and a broad representation of our community, including employees, parents, alumni, and students. Their feedback was instrumental in the Search Committee’s unanimous recommendation of Mr. Ahrens as the next Head of School for Rabun Gap.

We are exceptionally grateful to the Head of School Search Committee for their service during this extensive search process.

Search Committee Co-Chairs

Mr. Niles Bolton
TRUSTEE; BOARD VICE-CHAIR

Dr. Kate (Oliver) Maine ‘85
TRUSTEE; ALUMNA

Search Committee Members

Mr. Steve Gilliam ‘66
TRUSTEE; ALUMNUS

Dr. Mason West, III
DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION;
PARENT OF ALUMNI

Mr. John Rice
TRUSTEE

Mrs. Lynda White
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Mrs. Bethany Weisser
TRUSTEE; CURRENT PARENT

Mr. Omar Zavala ‘99
TRUSTEE; ALUMNUS;
CURRENT PARENT AND PARENT OF ALUMNI

Our Mission

Rabun Gap–Nacoochee School prepares young people for college, career, and a lifetime of leadership and service. In our beautiful mountain environment, we inspire students to grow in character, intellect, and spirit. We value educational accessibility and foster a community of learners whose diversity is honored and reflects the world.