Dear TCS Community,

The energy and eagerness that our students brought to their return to school has been truly invigorating, and it is with that same spirit that I am writing to update you on our search for the next permanent Head of The Country School.

As I shared in August, Emily Beck has stepped into the role of Acting Head of TCS, supported by a strong leadership team. The TCS Board of Trustees is grateful for the stability this team is providing as we begin the school year. Their commitment was evident at our September Board meeting, where Ms. Beck shared their focus on leading TCS with an emphasis on continuity, clarity, and community. The Board wholeheartedly shares those priorities. We are grateful to Ms. Beck and the entire TCS faculty and staff for the strong and positive start they have provided our students.

The Board's most important responsibility is to ensure that TCS has the long-term leadership it needs to thrive for years to come. With that responsibility in mind, the Board has established a Search Committee of Trustees to lead the process of identifying our next Head of School. The Committee is co-chaired by Sarah Baugh, a TCS parent and attorney in the community, and Thomas Nammack, who brings extensive independent school leadership experience, having served for 16 years as the Head of Montclair Kimberley Academy in Montclair, New Jersey. The Committee also includes Robin Davenport, who served as Executive Director of CASA of the Mid-Shore for 36 years and is a past-parent; Jon Ryan, a TCS alum, parent and independent investor; and me, a parent with a professional background in Public Affairs.

The Search Committee has engaged search consultants Highley Thompson and Mike Murphy of Educational Directions. Highley and Mike bring significant experience working with independent schools and real connections to TCS and our area: Highley was a teacher, coach and lead administrator at his alma mater, The Severn School, and is married to a former TCS faculty member. Highley and Mike will begin their work immediately.

We recognize that our community has experienced more than one leadership search in recent years, and we share the desire for stability, continuity, and a leader who will be here for the long term. We take our responsibility very seriously. Our goal is not simply to identify a strong candidate, but to find the right leader for TCS – someone who understands and embraces our mission, can build trust across our community, and is prepared to lead TCS with vision, confidence and care into its next chapter.

As we begin this work, the Committee will build upon the materials, insights, and lessons from the previous two searches while bringing a fresh and thoughtful perspective to the process. We are committed to conducting a search that is both thorough and efficient, and we will keep the community informed as the process moves forward. We anticipate sharing dates for parent and faculty focus groups within the next two weeks. These conversations will be important opportunities for members of our community to help us understand the qualities, experience, and leadership characteristics that will be most important in TCS's next Head of School.

We look forward to working with you throughout this process. Thank you for your continued confidence in our acting leadership team and the faculty and staff who are caring for and educating our children each day. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Sarah, Tom, or me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Woody
President, The Country School Board of Trustees