



Dear Schoolhouse Families,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I have bittersweet news to share. Carol Swainson will be leaving Schoolhouse after the 2022-23 school year. She has accepted the position of Head of School at the Bermuda High School for Girls in Pembroke, Bermuda, which is news they are sharing with their community today as well. We are excited for Carol on her next chapter and how much this move to Bermuda, where she has familial roots, means to her. Attached you will find a letter from Carol to the Schoolhouse community.

Over the past four years, Schoolhouse has not only blossomed into an inspired, dynamic, and community-oriented institution under Carol's steadfast leadership, but it has grown stronger as she led us in navigating the pandemic's uncertainty and challenges, prioritizing our community's safety while centering students' joy and celebrating their resilience in learning during an unparalleled time.

Carol's contributions to Schoolhouse are exceptional. She spearheaded the development of our middle school program, which graduated the first two classes of 8th graders. Her transformative leadership and work in hiring outstanding staff enabled us to double the number of students and families that Schoolhouse supports and set us on a course for future growth. Carol was a key part of the search and procurement of our beautiful new campus that brought the elementary and middle school students under one roof. And as the pandemic shed further light on the inequities of our world, Carol continued to inspire social justice practices that all members could engage in – from community cultural celebrations to student learning of social justice movements to educational workshops for families. Most notably, she is a passionate leader dedicated to the pursuit of a curriculum that celebrates and invests in our students' unique strengths, talents, and differences.

One of the important roles of the Board is to remain prepared for continuity in leadership, as changes in leadership are not uncommon at independent schools. Many of you may remember that Carol joined Schoolhouse as an interim head in 2018. Her fulfilling experience with students, staff, and families as well as our unfailing confidence in her expertise and leadership convinced her to support our community for three more years. Over the past year, our board and Carol have been collaborating on transition planning, which led to Carol's commitment to the



2022-23 school year as well as our board finalizing a successor, which we plan to announce by early in the school year.

I, along with all board members, many of whom are also parents at Schoolhouse, understand the weight of this announcement and the desire for any uncertainty around leadership to be alleviated. The board and I appreciate your patience as we work through the transition process and hope you will join us in celebrating Carol's contributions, congratulating her on an exciting new endeavor, and continuing to support her and the Schoolhouse staff's important work over this next year.

It has been my privilege to work closely with Carol for the last four years. I look forward to our ongoing partnership during this upcoming school year and transition. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank Carol for her extraordinary leadership, boundless energy, and commitment to co-creating what Schoolhouse is today and what it will become because of her lasting imprint.

In community,

Erin Cooney
Board Chair