

April 18, 2011

Dear Harborlight Community,

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees met on April 14, 2011, voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Search Committee, and appointed David N. Hursty to be Interim Head of School for Academic Year 2011-2012, effective July 1, 2011.

The Search Committee chose David from an extensive pool of candidates recruited through the efforts of our search firm. The committee carefully reviewed the resumes of all qualified candidates, personally interviewed a number of those who seemed best suited for our needs, and selected three finalists for day-long campus visits with school administrators, faculty/staff, and members of the Board of Trustees. The committee then reviewed feedback obtained from confidential surveys administered by the search firm along with supporting information provided by our consultants in order to make its final recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

David is a seasoned and well-respected educator whose professional career spans 40 years with positions of increasing responsibility ranging from history teacher (and tennis coach) to academic dean and ultimately several headmaster assignments. He has been a director of technology and strategic planning, and assistant to headmaster for admissions and development. He has worked with children of nursery age through high school/post graduate. Since his retirement as Headmaster of Bridgton Academy (Bridgton, ME) in 2008, David has traveled throughout the United States, done some consulting work with small schools, and been an active board member of a number of non-profit organizations. Currently he is finishing up an assignment with a school in Maine that is transitioning from a founding head to its next leader.

The committee was pleased to note that David has a strong interest in Montessori education and has been involved with progressive schools that share core educational philosophies with Montessorians. He has taught and led in schools that are very child-centered and draw on children's natural desire to learn. David and his wife both grew up on the North Shore and have family roots here. He is a graduate of Salem State College and received his Master's Degree from Georgetown University.

An opportunity to meet and welcome David will be scheduled prior to the end of the current school year. Thank you to all who participated in the campus visit activities and a special thanks to the volunteer members of the search committee who spent countless hours "doing their homework" so that we could feel extremely confident in our final choice.

With warm regards,

  
Bob Cipriani, President  
Board of Trustees