

October 25, 2011

Dear Harborlight Community:

I am happy to report that Harborlight's leadership transition is progressing well and hope that you have had the opportunity to meet David Hursty. Since his arrival in July, David has been diligently working to gain an understanding of how our school is positioned, its strengths and challenges, and formulating action plans to continue providing our children with a quality Montessori education.

The Board of Trustees held its annual retreat in August and received David's initial observations and spent a fair amount of time reviewing the strategic planning process to date and establishing future objectives. These discussions have continued among various board committees as well as among the school's management team members. The many conversations that have occurred have focused on articulating our vision for the school's future in a concise, yet meaningful way. We have been taking our time in this process to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcome.

Concurrent with David's arrival, the board formed a permanent head search committee under the co-leadership of Stefanie Landgren, a Trustee and former Harborlight teacher and Laurie Johnson, a long-time supporter of Montessori education and former Harborlight parent. A faculty member was selected from each of the school's five divisions - from Infant/Toddler through Middle School, and they were joined by a current parent, a former Trustee and parent of a graduate, a representative of the local community, and two current Trustees. After an initial organizational meeting, the search firm undertook its careful evaluation of potential candidates throughout the summer and early fall in anticipation of convening to review some resumes at about this time.

However, at its regular meeting last week, the Board of Trustees decided to take an important step in the transition process. We concluded that it was very important to thoroughly evaluate our expectations for Harborlight's future prior to selecting a permanent Head of School. We also noted that we are extremely satisfied with David's transition leadership and want his continuing perspectives and insights to be part of this planning process. In order to achieve our goals in a truly collaborative Montessori fashion, more time is needed to develop a well-thought out strategic plan.

I am therefore very pleased to report to you that David Hursty has agreed to extend his term with Harborlight through the next Academic Year (AY 2012-2013) and we have temporarily suspended the activities of the Search Committee. We remain committed to ensuring the continuing successes of our school as a center of Montessori education.

As we continue the planning process, we expect to solicit the thoughts and opinions of all the members of our extended constituency. The Harborlight Parent Association will be utilized to ensure that your voice is heard. Please be sure to participate in HPA activities whenever possible and, as always check the Harborlight website frequently for more updates and if you have a question be sure to email it to BOT@harborlightmontessori.org.

Sincerely,

Bob Cipriani, President - Board of Trustees