

January 7, 2019

Friends,

The State College Friends School Board of Trustees is delighted to announce the appointment of Donnan Stoicovy as our permanent Head of School. Following an exhaustive international search facilitated by Educators Collaborative, it was determined that our wonderful Interim Head of School would be the best person to lead the school on a permanent basis. This decision was strongly supported by the school community, particularly by faculty and administrators. As we expected, there was some diversity of opinion as the community considered the candidates, but after the board carefully considered input from all constituents, the way forward was made clear. Teacher Donnan's thoughtful educational philosophy and knowledge; her commitment to the school's Quaker values; her outreach to the community; her guidance of and commitment to professional development for the faculty; and the more than forty years of experience she brings to the position were among the many qualities these constituents and the board felt made Donnan the best candidate to lead the school in the coming years.

As we look ahead to a bright future under Tr. Donnan's leadership, we need to pause and thank those who devoted many hours to the search process. In particular, we thank Search Committee clerk Beth Johnston, whose experience and expertise in human resources was critical to the search. On the Search Committee, Sunna DeForest, Michelle Raney, and Joanne Thurston-Griswold spent many hours representing the teachers' perspective; Lisa Gamble and Lori Pacchioli represented the administrative team; Mary Ziegler and alumni parent Virginia Belser added their perspective and helped the committee understand and uphold the history of the school; and board members Jim Frost and Lauren Tomasch, both of whom are also parents of SCFS students, joined Beth Johnston and the board co-clerks in sharing the board's perspective. Doug Jennings, our consultant from Educators Collaborative, provided guidance and found strong candidates while respecting our cultural, financial, and pedagogical needs. Jackie Elliott helped us pull everything together with communication to the school community. We are also grateful for the time teachers, parents, and other friends of the school spent in meetings with candidates and the search committee considering and discussing the strengths and limitations of each candidate, and we thank all of you who provided us with valuable feedback and insights in person and through the candidate surveys.

Please join us in congratulating Tr. Donnan, thanking her for the leadership that has brought new energy to the school, and pledging our support as she leads our school in an exciting new chapter.

In peace,

Ann Sidone and Scott McGrail-Peasley
Co-clerks of the SCFS Board of Trustees