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February 21, 2018

Dear MICDS Community:

By now you have heard that Lisa Lyle has announced that she will end her tenure as MICDS head of school at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year. I am truly honored to be appointed chair of the Search Committee to lead the Board of Trustees' effort to select our next head of school. As an alumna, parent and immediate past board chair, I have deep affection for our great school and am committed to ensuring its bright future.

MICDS is in an excellent position – academically, administratively and financially – to attract another extraordinary leader to shape the future of our School. Our students are excelling academically. MICDS' average ACT and AP scores are at the highest levels since the School began tracking them. Collectively, 55% of our recent graduating classes attend schools ranked "Most Competitive" by Barron's, including Princeton, Yale, MIT, Stanford, Duke, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Cornell and many more. The School is financially sound, and we are nearing the end of our Capital Campaign, which has raised more than \$90 million to date.

As we embark upon this important journey to identify our next head of school, I would like to introduce you to our Search Committee and briefly outline the next steps in our search process.

Appointed by the Board of Trustees, the Search Committee has the responsibility – with significant input from all constituencies within our community – to identify a successor head of school to be presented to the Board for approval. The following Search Committee members are current or former trustees, have demonstrated leadership of and commitment to MICDS and are critical thinkers imbued with the ethos of the School.

- **Spencer Burke '65** – Past Board Chair, Past Head of School Search Committee member, parent of Susanna '99, Mac '01 and Morgan '07
- **Michelle Cohen '88** – Board Vice Chair, Past President of the Parents Association, parent of Annie '17 and Jane '23
- **Parker Condie '81** – Past Board Member, Past Finance Committee Chair, parent of Parker '09, Teddy '11 and Peter '14
- **Andy Cowen** – Board Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, parent of Maddy '21
- **Edes Gilbert** – Board Member, past Head of School of Mary Institute (1975-1983) and The Spence School (1983-1998), former educational search consultant, co-author of The NAIS Head Search Handbook, parent of Sarah '78
- **Jeff Giles '94** – Board Member, parent of William '21, Charlie '22 and Anna '25
- **Janet Horlacher '76** – Board Member, parent of James '14
- **Julie Lilly '86** – Search Committee Chair, Past Board Chair, parent of Drew '16 and Arden '19
- **Carla Pace** – Board Member, parent of Justin '18, Jalen '21, Kendall '23 and Landon '24
- **Bill Polk '74** – Board Chair, parent of Olivia '14, Jack '16 and Finn '19
- **Mark Proctor** – Past Board Member, parent of James '16 and Olivia '19
- **Kent Rapp '76** – Board Member, Past President of the Alumni Association, search industry executive, parent of Alex '05 and Andrew '08

I am extremely grateful to this group, which includes current parents with experience in all three divisions, alumni from four different decades, past parents, a former head of school and two professional search consultants. This Committee is fully committed to finding an outstanding candidate who possesses the right combination of experience, interpersonal skills, energy, intellect and vision to serve as the next leader of MICDS.

As one of our first steps, the Search Committee will recommend that the Board engage a national independent executive search firm to guide us through the search process. We are currently interviewing firms and will be excited to introduce the team who will assist us within the next several weeks.

The search process will be inclusive and robust. **There will be multiple opportunities for parents, faculty, staff, alumni and students to provide input on the priorities for our School and ideal qualities for the next head of school through confidential online surveys and in-person meetings conducted by our independent search firm.** Per National Association of Independent School (NAIS) guidelines and best practices, the current head of school does not participate as a member of the Search Committee or provide input to the Committee regarding its recommendations.

Throughout the process, we will be sharing information about the search via email and [on this website](#), so please stay tuned.

On behalf of the Search Committee, I thank you for your interest, support and enthusiasm for this important endeavor for MICDS.

Warm regards,

Julie Lilly '86

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