An Announcement from University School of Milwaukee
September 23, 2019
Dear Members of the University School of Milwaukee Community:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Steve Hancock as the ninth head of school at University School of Milwaukee, effective July 1, 2020. Last week, the search committee presented Steve as its unanimous nominee, and the board enthusiastically approved the recommendation. Steve will succeed Laura Fuller, who has led USM since 2011 and will retire at the conclusion of this school year.

Steve is uniquely qualified to serve as the next leader of University School of Milwaukee. He has led a life, professionally and personally, that aligns fully with the school’s mission and guiding principles. A USM education has a strong tradition of academic excellence and provides the foundation for a lifetime of active and engaged learning. Our school’s rich blend of traditional and innovative educational programming encourages students to develop and explore their passions and talents—academic, artistic, and athletic. Steve believes deeply in the education of the whole child, which has never been more important than it is today in the rapidly changing educational landscape.

Over his 30-year education career as an administrator, teacher, and coach, Steve has held increasing leadership positions at several other prominent independent schools. He is currently headmaster at Presbyterian Day School in Memphis, Tennessee, a role he has held since 2014. That school has approximately 550 boys in prekindergarten through grade 6. Prior to that role, Steve was the assistant head of school for academic leadership at Princeton Day School in Princeton, New Jersey, where he worked from 2008 to 2014. Princeton has approximately 1,000 students in prekindergarten through grade 12 and is particularly like USM in its academic and athletic programming, college matriculation, and campus structure. Steve’s experience as an educator spans from teaching violin to students as young as 3 years old to teaching many different high school courses, including algebra and AP Music Theory.

A native of Waukesha, Wisconsin, Steve graduated magna cum laude from Lawrence University, earning a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Violin Performance. He later earned a master’s in music education, with an emphasis in curricular design, from the University of Illinois. Steve’s educational training in musicianship nurtured his abilities to perform exceptionally, think analytically, read critically, write clearly, and create passionately. He is adept at playing and teaching bridge and also enjoys cooking and playing tennis. Steve and his wife, Stephanie, have two children—a daughter, Emily, 21, and a son, Clayton, 18. We are very excited to welcome Steve and his family into our community.

Choosing a new head of school is one of the single greatest responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and everyone in the USM community owes a debt of gratitude for the dedicated service of our search committee. Co-chairs Jackie Darr and Michael Darrow ’86 were incredible in their leadership and commitment to this process. Joining them and me on the search committee were fellow trustees Andrew Petzold and Sarah Zimmerman ’92; faculty members Joseph Eason and Jennifer Keppler; Parents’ Association president Debra Pokel; and Endowment Board member William Wernecke. I also want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the entire USM community for your participation, feedback, and support throughout this comprehensive process.

University School of Milwaukee has a proud history dating back to 1964. This is an exciting time for our great school. As we commence the transition to a new head of school, my fellow trustees and I look forward to our next strategic planning process in the years ahead. In the coming months, we will communicate further details regarding the transition, including opportunities to acknowledge Laura Fuller’s dedicated service to the school and our community and to welcome Steve Hancock and his family.

Gratefully,

Stephen B. Guy
President, Board of Trustees