Dear Priory Community,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Head of School Search Committee to provide you with an update on the process.

As many of you are aware, our search consultants, Carney Sandoe & Associates (Bob and Jennifer) were on campus back in November. During that time, they met with more than 100 community members including faculty, staff, students, current and former parents, alumni, donors and trustees. Each participant was asked to explore the same three question threads:

- What makes Priory *special and distinct?* What sets it apart? What do you value?
- What do you regard as the current *opportunities and/or challenges* that the next Head of School needs to address?
- What are the personal *qualities, skills, and experiences* you want to see in the next Head of School? What are the “must have” qualifications?

The visit concluded with a 2.5 hour “Search Readiness Workshop” involving the Board of Trustees and Search Committee in which Bob and Jennifer reported on their two days of meetings and what they learned during conversations with key constituents of the school.

From these meetings, the search consultants produced the Head of School position description posted on our website:


While it may seem everything has gone quiet since the November 7th & 8th meetings, a lot of work has gone into preparing for the launch of the search. The position description was posted and advertised nationally beginning in December. On-line applications started in mid-December. While it is still too early to conclude, it appears the interest in Woodside Priory is very high.

So, where do we go from here? The search consultants will use January and February to continue recruiting, interviewing and vetting candidates. The Search Committee will then review the candidate material with the search consultants in mid-March and select a group of candidates with whom to have initial conversations (in person as practical) before Priory’s Spring Break.
The Search Committee, in consultation with the search consultants, will then select the finalists who will be asked to come to campus and meet with a number of key constituencies at the end of April/beginning of May. After fully vetting all the feedback, the search committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for a new Head of School. Once approved by the Board of Trustees, the recommendation will be sent to the Board of Directors for approval. We would hope to be in a position to announce the new Head of School by the end of May. Our hope and intention is to adhere to the timeline as outlined above.

This is a new process for most of us, and while it may feel a bit unsettling, I assure you the Search Committee is listening to your feedback, takes this responsibility very seriously and is grounded in the values and culture of Woodside Priory. Please note that the Search Committee’s work, interviews and interactions with potential candidates is done on a confidential basis to protect the candidates. We ask you to help us support and honor this confidentiality.

Please continue to provide your feedback to any member of the Search Committee or through the head of school email address: headofschoolsearch@prioryca.org

We will continue to keep you updated.

Thank you

Mike Calbert
Chair – Head of School Search Committee

Search Committee members:

- Mike Calbert
- Father Martin Mager
- Father Maurus Nemeth
- Eileen DiGiorgio
- Dominique Filloux
- Kathy Fitzgerald
- Nancy Newman
- Ruth Benz
- Bob Bessin
- Andrew Lee