

Dear Rochester Montessori School Community,

We hope everyone is doing well and adjusting to life as we know it today. Even as we deal with the immediate issues facing us, we look forward to the longer term when school will once again be place-based providing our children with the wonderful education and social connections they enjoy with their guides and with each other.

We are fortunate to have had the excellent leadership of our Interim Head of School, Deborah Summerson, for the past year, especially during this trying time. Deborah's commitment to the school and the amount and quality of work accomplished has been impressive. We are confident in her leadership as we begin to turn our attention to next year, which we hope is a far less disruptive time. Deborah will continue to lead the school in her interim role for the 2020-21 school year.

In the past, we have told you that the board would launch a search for our permanent Head of School this spring. We are pleased to let you know that the board is doing just that. There is a lot of information in this message, so we apologize for its length, but we think it's important for you to be kept current with our plans.

We have engaged the services of Carney, Sandoe & Associates (CS&A), the leading search and consulting firm serving fine independent schools, to assist us in the search. Skip Kotkins, the lead consultant who will be working with us, has worked with Montessori schools from Honolulu to Seattle to Ohio (among others), and his grandchildren attend a Montessori School in New York. CS&A will conduct a national and even international search for the best new leader for our school. They will work closely with the search committee to understand the needs of the entire school community and evaluate candidates against those all-school criteria. The search committee is chaired by Board Member Paul Roach and the rest of the members are:

Kellie Mueller, Board Chair
Camila Hallemeier, Board Secretary
Rick Decker, Board Treasurer
Doa Abdel-Ghany, Children's House Guide
Bre Scheer, Middle Years Instructor and IB Coordinator
Rawan Amra, parent
Dr. Katherine Price, parent

The search process will be very inclusive and transparent. Parents, guides, staff, and board members will have important involvement and access to the search committee for questions and input.

First, we will want to hear from you in order to shape the position description that will tell candidates about the challenges and opportunities facing our school, as well as the personal characteristics we are looking for. Many of our parents participated in the survey last fall and our

consultant has taken a considerable amount of time reviewing the data from that survey. If parents would like a chance to give additional input the following Zoom sessions have been scheduled with Skip Kotkins and we welcome you to join. (Staff will have their own input sessions with Skip)

- 7pm on Wednesday, May 27th
- 11am on Thursday, May 28th

(The Zoom link will be sent for both of these meeting via School Cues on Wednesday morning to parents)

Later, in the fall, when finalist candidates visit our school, we hope that everyone will take advantage of opportunities to meet the candidates and share your impressions with the search committee.

The search committee will be periodically providing updates and we will have a tab on the RMS website under the "About Us" drop-down menu where information on the search will be posted. We also want to invite anyone who wants to contact the us to do so through the email address: headsearch@rmschool.org

We want to thank all of you, in advance, for your participation and support as we engage in this process. Thinking about the future of RMS is exciting but rest assured our focus is also on the here and now - providing the best education for our children today. We look forward to seeing all of you and welcoming new families to RMS, confident that they will be as excited about our school as we are.

Paul Roach, HOS Search Chair
Kellie Mueller, Board Chair