



Announcement from the Board of Trustees

October 19, 2018

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Dear Maple Street Community,

It is with a mix of emotions that I write to inform you that I will not be renewing my contract with Maple Street School at the end of this academic year. Though my tenure here has been joyful and productive, a unique leadership opportunity has come my way that will take me far from the Green Mountains this summer. Yesterday I accepted an offer to be the next Head of School at Palm Beach Day Academy in Palm Beach, Florida. The decision to leave a school I love was difficult, and one made with the best interests of my family in mind. If you know me well and have seen me interact with the students here at school, you know two things: I love my job and living in Vermont. It will be hard to leave, but the time is right for me and my family to discover new adventures down south where I will be close to family and friends.

I am incredibly grateful to the students, parents, and faculty at Maple Street for the past three years. Though a short stay, this has been one of my favorite chapters in 27 years of teaching and working in the independent school world. More importantly, I am proud of the work that we accomplished at Maple Street during my time here. From school safety to school choice, we have covered much ground in three years. Many people know that any leader is only good as his/her team, and what a team we have here at Maple Street. I would like to thank the dedicated staff here for their efforts to support several important initiatives: our refreshed Mission statement, the updated Moose Pride curriculum, the new Outdoor Classroom project, and our very successful 20th Anniversary celebration. I am deeply indebted to Matt Samuelson (former Board Chair) and Amy Panitz (current Board Chair) for their support and encouragement. The Board of Trustees has been a wonderful group to work with, and we continue to plan strategically for the bright future of the school. Fortunately, we have much time to manage the transition to a new Head of School, and I remain fully committed to the daily operation of the school and the various projects ongoing that promote and enhance our excellent academic program.

My goals from the beginning of my initial headship were to grow into this leadership position and learn from my colleagues on how to be an effective K-8 administrator. Thanks to great help from so many of you, I consider both goals accomplished admirably. My only regret is that my time here will not be longer, and I will miss the students most of all. The good news is that everyone in the Maple Street community now has a good friend in south Florida.

With the utmost admiration for a very special school, I thank you for the support and friendship that so many of you have showed me and my family during our time here. Go Moose!

Respectfully,

Fanning Hearon
Head of School
Maple Street School
Manchester Center, VT