

Dear School One Community,

I am pleased to announce that School One has found a new head of school, Christopher Hayes. School One sought a new head of school who is authentically collaborative, respects student voices, has been successful in launching new initiatives, is a relationship builder who connects with students, faculty, and families, and who has financial acumen. Christopher will come to School One from Maryland where he currently is head of a K-12 independent school. He was drawn to School One's mission, our curriculum centered on students' creativity and individuality, our faculty's passion for teaching, and the nurturing environment that is School One.

When we started our search for a new head of school, our search consultant advised us that we are hiring a track record. Or in my line of work, we say the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. So we reviewed the factual information about his impressive work history. Christopher has substantial experience as an educator and administrator, serving as a beloved middle and upper school history teacher, working with diverse learners, and most recently serving successfully as head of school at two independent schools. He has made the difficult decisions in order to put schools on a sustainable trajectory. He helped other schools clarify their identity and focus and has taken innovative risks in doing so.

Yet to know what qualities he would bring to School One, we wanted to know more about him personally. In the search process, we delved deeply into Christopher's world, speaking with fellow teachers, current board members and others. There was a consistent refrain from all: he has a heart of pure gold, he listens, he cares so much about the school, the faculty and the students; he has integrity, you can trust and rely on him; he is open, collaborative and compassionate - all of which are characteristics in accord with School One and our community.

The search committee believes Christopher truly appreciates School One and will be a phenomenal leader. As one person said, "even if he's the one making the decision, you don't feel like he is telling you what to do; you feel like you've reached this point together." He also has that all too important quality needed at School One; those who know him pointed out that he is a leader who can wear the many hats required at a small school, from imagining the school's future to being willing to do the behind-the-scenes little things like bring the ice to the school fund raiser. As Christopher said to one of our faculty, "I will not arrive with a prescription for change but with an eagerness to learn." We believe we found the person we were searching for in Christopher.

In the coming months, we plan to hold multiple events that will provide opportunities to get to know Christopher and for him to hear your hopes, dreams and concerns about School One. Please join me in welcoming Christopher to our school.

Janet Krueger  
Board President

