



Dear Valwood School Families,

As you know, Mr. John Davis will step down as Head of School at the end of the 2026-27 academic year. We are deeply grateful for his leadership, vision, and the strength of community he has helped cultivate.

With an eye toward the future, the Board of Trustees, chaired by Starling H. Waldron, has formed a Search Committee to guide Valwood School through this important next chapter. Since its formation, the committee has approached this work with great care, energy, and a deep sense of responsibility to the school and its community. As previously announced, that committee contains the following members:

Caryn Alvarado, Jeff Hanson, Sarah Varnedoe, Shelly Collins, Lisa Henry, Starling Waldron '82, Will Elliott '06, John Peeples '81, John Williams

After interviewing several nationally recognized educational search firms, the committee selected The Education Group to partner with Valwood School in the search for our next Head of School. We were impressed by The Education Group's understanding of independent schools, their strong regional knowledge, and their experience supporting successful Head of School searches. Bob Veto and Katherine Stuart will work closely with the Search Committee to guide the process of identifying Valwood School's next Head of School.

As we move forward, we recognize that this is both a meaningful transition and an important moment of reflection for the school. The committee is committed to listening closely to the voices of our community and ensuring that this search reflects who we are, what we value, and where we hope to go together.

In the coming months, our consultants Bob and Katherine will spend time getting to know Valwood School and our community. This will include on-campus visits, as well as opportunities for virtual conversations, with faculty, staff, administrators, parents, students, and alumni.

Their initial visit will take place before the end of this school year. While the details of this visit are still being finalized, Bob and Katherine look forward to communicating with members of the school community. We will be in touch soon with additional information regarding these opportunities.

Around the time of their visit, the Search Committee will distribute a confidential community survey. Feedback from the survey and the campus conversations will inform the development of a comprehensive position profile that reflects the qualities, experiences, and leadership style our community values most.

Throughout the search, the committee will provide periodic updates to the community via a “Head of School Search” web page.

We look forward to engaging the full school community as we honor our strong legacy and take this next step forward—together.

Sincerely,

Head of School Search Committee