



# THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

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March 2, 2017

Dear Altamont Families and Friends:

In February, our beloved Head of School, Sarah Whiteside, announced to our community her upcoming retirement at the conclusion of the 2017-18 academic year. At the same time, Board President Brantley Fry informed you that our school has begun a national search for her successor. This letter is the first of several reports I will provide as chair of the Search Committee over the next several months to update you on the process and our progress.

While Mrs. Whiteside only recently publicly announced her planned retirement, she gave the Board of Trustees ample advance notice. Accordingly, your Board has been hard at work for several months preparing for this stage. The Board asked me to chair the Search Committee last Fall, and over the course of the Fall, the Board formed the Search Committee. In January, we issued a request for proposal to nationally known executive search firms with expertise advising independent schools. We received a number of responses to that request, and selected three firms to come to Altamont for on-campus interviews during the week of February 20. At the conclusion of those interviews, the Search Committee unanimously recommended to the Board that the school engage the Carney Sandoe & Associates firm of Boston, Massachusetts. Carney Sandoe consultants Margeurite Lloyd and Tom Redmon will assist and guide us in our search. Carney Sandoe has a national search practice, and Marguerite and Tom have advised a number of schools in the South and Southeast in their Head of School searches. I encourage you to learn more about Carney Sandoe, Marguerite, and Tom by visiting their website at [www.carneysandoe.com](http://www.carneysandoe.com).

In the next few weeks, Marguerite and Tom will visit Altamont for two days of meetings. Details will follow in another report I will post in the upcoming weeks. Those meetings will include many members of our community, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and friends. As soon as we have settled on the schedule, we will provide an update by email and by posting to the Head of School Search section of the Altamont website. So, please check the website for more details about how you can participate.

This process signals an exciting time for Altamont. We will have ample opportunity to reflect on the past, to celebrate the many successes of Mrs. Whiteside and the school over her tenure, and to chart the next phase in Altamont's future. We not only welcome, but also intend to request and to rely upon your thoughts on how to shape that future.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Denniston  
Search Committee Chair