



Dear MSD Community,

The Montessori School of Denver Board of Trustees is extraordinarily excited to announce the appointment of Julie Bragdon as our next Head of School. A comprehensive national search revealed Julie as the most remarkable candidate and a perfect fit for our Head of School position.

Many of you know Julie as our Assistant Head of School, a position she has held with great distinction since 2008. She has been a critical part of MSD's success this past decade, contributing her thought leadership and hard work to the development of many of MSD's current programs, including the conception, design, and implementation of the Middle School.

In addition to her work on campus, Julie is an active and highly respected national thought leader off campus. Julie has been a member of the American Montessori Society Board of Directors since 2012, holding executive positions as Treasurer, Vice President and Member-at-Large since 2014. Julie is the co-chair of this year's AMS Conference, hosting over 4,000 Montessori professionals in Denver where MSD will be a host school. She was also responsible for the design and development of the AMS Emerging Leaders Fellowship Program, a yearlong intensive program for developing Montessori leaders. On top of her national work with AMS, Julie works closely with the Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS), performing regional school accreditation visits for ACIS and supporting important taskforce work around early childhood accreditation standards. Her peers, including several sitting and past heads of schools, describe Julie as a respected and trusted colleague, a seasoned administrator and a dynamic leader who is a rare find in a Head of School search.

Julie's incredible accomplishments are driven by her passion for children and her intellectual curiosity. She is child-centered in her thinking, consistently evaluating the impacts of any decision around what is good for the child. Julie's intellectual curiosity fuels her connected thinking which the Board believes will serve as the foundation for MSD's future strategic plans. As Julie said in her application, "I want to imagine and hatch the next big MSD ideas which our students will love, and will propel the whole school forward while balancing fidelity to our Montessori roots with our unique pioneering mindset."

MSD's Selection Committee began its work in April. The committee worked diligently alongside a consultant, while using our community identified requirements, to create our Head of School Opportunity Statement and evaluation criteria. The Selection Committee met with numerous national candidates and quickly identified Julie's exceptional qualifications and innate leadership skills. The Selection Committee unanimously recommended Julie to the Board of Trustees. After carefully reviewing the Selection Committee's recommendation and meeting with Julie directly,

the Board enthusiastically endorsed this recommendation and voted unanimously to offer Julie the position as our next Head of School. We are thrilled Julie has accepted our offer.

On behalf of the Selection Committee, I'd like to thank all of the community members who participated in and supported our search efforts. I'm extremely confident in the outcome and excited for our next chapter. In the coming months, the Board will work closely with Stephanie and Julie to ensure a seamless transition in July. Until then, Julie will continue with her current role as our Assistant Head of School, supporting Stephanie and MSD as she has in the past.

Please join me in congratulating Julie on her accomplishments and celebrating our new journey together as Julie assumes the role of our Head of School on July 1st, 2018.

Warm Regards,

Lisa Kerscher
Board of Trustees, Chair