



November 16, 2018

Dear Explorer West School Community,

On behalf of the Explorer West Middle School Board of Trustees, it is our great pleasure to announce the appointment of Barbara Frailey as our next Head of School beginning July 1, 2019.

The appointment is the culmination of an extensive and thorough national search, reviewing highly qualified candidates from schools throughout the United States in partnership with Joan Beauregard, our consultant at Educators' Collaborative. Based on an enthusiastic and unanimous recommendation from the Search Committee, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Barbara to succeed Evan Hundley.

Those of you who had the pleasure of meeting Barbara during her visit to campus know that she is a dynamic, engaging leader with strong communication skills, and most importantly she has a passion for working with middle school students. Her experiences, personal and professional, together with the time she spent with many members of our community, demonstrate her exceptional commitment to the mission and vision of Explorer West Middle School. The Board is confident and enthusiastic about Barbara's ability both to honor our past and to move Explorer West decisively forward as a leader in Seattle.

Barbara brings more than eight years of independent school leadership to this role, including the past four years as Assistant Head of School at Seattle Girls' School, a girls middle school which has many similarities to Explorer West. Their mission, like ours, is to change the lives of their students.

Barbara has a deep understanding of both the classroom environment and the administrative demands of leading integrated curricula in the humanities, math, science and technology. She has led training and professional development programs aimed at educating professionals about strategies for teaching both students and teachers. She has also presented at the 2017 Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS) Educators Conference.

Prior to moving to Seattle Girls' School, Barbara served as Lower School Director at Greene Hill School in Brooklyn, NY for 4 years. She has extensive classroom experience as well, having taught for 9 years. She has also served as an instructional coach at the Neighborhood School in New York and was an adjunct professor at Long Island University. In addition to her distinguished educational career, she serves as Vice-chair of the Board of Trustees of Spruce Street School in Seattle.

Barbara graduated with a BA from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut with a double major, in math and women's studies. She earned her MS in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Long Island University. She recently completed the NWAIS' Pathways to Leadership program, a two-year program for women aspiring to head independent schools.

Barbara is a native of Virginia, having grown up in Alexandria, just outside of Washington, DC. She and her husband Danny have two daughters, one of whom is a student at Seattle Girls' School and one who is a student at Spruce Street School.

Barbara has asked us to share her thoughts on joining Explorer West: "Explorer West is such a unique and inspiring school, and I am very honored and delighted that your community has chosen me to lead it. Thank you to each and every person involved in the search for the warm welcome, the tough questions, and the authentic sharing of Explorer West's values and culture. I look forward to getting to know all of you better over the coming months, and I simply can't wait to join you this summer as your next Head of School!"

We are incredibly fortunate to have had the benefit of Evan Hundley's leadership for the past 11 years. We will continue to benefit from his leadership in this, his final year, while Barbara completes her work at Seattle Girls' School. Throughout the year we will have several occasions to celebrate Evan's extraordinary legacy and express our gratitude to him. We will also work closely with Barbara to integrate her into the Explorer West community to ensure a smooth transition.

Over the coming weeks and months, the Board of Trustees will be very involved in the leadership transition from Evan to Barbara, and we will have many opportunities for her to connect in person with the larger school community. Knowing Barbara's deep respect for our school's mission and her extensive experience, we are confident she will successfully lead Explorer West Middle School into the future.

In closing, we would like to thank Carol LaMotte, who was invaluable as she worked tirelessly in helping the Search Committee complete its work, while at the same time organizing the Reach for the Stars Luncheon and doing all the other things she does for Explorer West. We also want to thank the entire Search Committee who devoted many hours of time and effort to select Barbara to be our next Head of School.

Respectfully,



James R. Woepfel
Chair, Board of Trustees



Eric Eberhard
Chair, Search Committee and EW Trustee