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As The Waldorf School of Baltimore celebrates its fiftieth year, we are slowly emerging from our individual bubbles that have isolated so many of us in the past twelve months. The pandemic has surely tested our school; however, through tremendous commitment from faculty, staff, and our community – so ably led by our Executive Director, Pat Whitehead – we have come through many challenges and strengthened the foundation for our continued growth.

The excitement of what is to come is balanced with mixed emotions as Pat has approached me and the Executive Committee with her desire to retire after the 2021-2022 school year. We are thankful for Pat's presence, now and continuing on through a more normalized new school year. The frenzy of this pandemic year should not let us forget all that has been accomplished under the past seven years of Pat's leadership:

- Focused efforts to unite and strengthen our school community through active inclusion, transparency, and a positive path to school growth and a sustainable future
- Collaboration on a meaningful strategic plan, and integration of school resources and focus of efforts toward that plan and its evolution over time
- Effective outreach resulting in significant enrollment growth and stabilized annual budgets
- Two capital campaigns to support strategic campus development, including Tamarind Hall, extra classroom and student services spaces, and enhanced outdoor class facilities
- Significant donor support and continuing efforts toward broader, multifaceted support
- Leadership through the unprecedented time of the global Covid-19 pandemic

Through all this, Pat's cheerful and unassuming presence has lent quietly capable leadership to all her various roles and interactions with community members, from adults to the youngest in the Children's garden. Her very nimble movement, wearing many hats through so many operational and strategic challenges, show the stuff that successful small schools are made of!

We are creating a search committee that [with the assistance of an educational consultant] will develop and pursue a thoughtful process to identify and hire a new WSB Executive Director for the 2022-2023 school year. We are also planning an advisory committee to provide opportunities for and facilitate broad community input from parents, faculty, alums, and others. These efforts will get underway shortly.

While we have Pat with us for some time more, and will find appropriate ways to celebrate her along the way, we know you'll join us in wishing her well in this transition to her retirement.

Sincerely,

Ari Rosenberg
Chair, WSB Board of Trustees
