



August 29, 2022

Dear ASJA community –

As we enter our fourth academic year at the Academy at St Joan of Arc, I want to take a moment to celebrate how far we've come and share important information about the evolution of our Board.

As you know, The Academy was founded as an expression of the incredible spirit, tenacity and pride inherent in the St Joan of Arc community. It was founded based on the vision that an independent Catholic school -- meaning self-funded and self-governed -- would allow for uniquely nimble, child-focused decision making that would produce outstanding educational experiences while maintaining and building upon the values-based culture of a Catholic school. That vision has turned into reality.

In our first three years, we have surpassed every one of our founding goals: enrollment has grown 45%, student outcomes are excellent, our leadership team is exceptional, our faculty and staff are deeply engaged, and we've become known for our 'culture of joy.' These accomplishments are a testament to our Head of School (Kristina Reyes), faculty and staff, our students, donors, volunteers and families. All of you.

Essentially, ASJA's first three years have been about building a strong foundation that assures the long-term success of the school. With that strong foundation in place, it's now time to think about succession planning and the evolution of our governing board. It has truly been my privilege to have served as The Academy's first Board Chair. Now, it's my pleasure to announce that as of Sept 1st, Patti Sheahan, a founding board member and alumni parent, will assume the role of Chair. Over the last three years, Patti has been integral to the school's success. I will remain on the Board for a transition period of one year and available as-needed thereafter. I also want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of the other founding Board members

(Shana Carroll, Ted Cominos, Phyllis Cavallone, Johnjoe Farragher, and Jeana Marqueda) who have all been instrumental to the successful launch of the Academy and in guiding its growth and success over the last three years.

As another part of our Board evolution, I'm pleased to announce two appointments to the Board – Rachel Atterbury and Dan Byrnes. Rachel is Assistant General Counsel at Beam Suntory, a mother of two ASJA students, and a dedicated Academy volunteer. Dan Byrnes is a Principal & Senior Portfolio Manager at AAM, a father of four ASJA students, and an active member of the SJA community.

Lastly, other board developments of note:

- Nikki Raftery, who replaced Phyllis Cavallone as our independent education expert almost two years ago, has agreed to remain on the Board for the foreseeable future.
- Dan Schermerhorn, who has long participated as a Board observer, officially joined the Board as a member last month.
- Johnjoe Farragher and Maggie Hoody transitioned off the Board this summer. Thanks to both of them for their service.

Onward and upward!
With gratitude,
Steve King

*Every child is capable of learning Excellence is intentional Relationships are our foundation
Every Minute Matters We are made in the image of God*

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