

Giddens School

inspiring children to better their world

February 23, 2010

Dear Faculty, Staff, Families and Other Valued Members of Our School Community,

The Giddens School Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Kogane as Head of School, effective July 1, 2010. The Board unanimously accepted the Head Search Committee's recommendation to extend an offer to Robert, based on his administrative experience and strong commitment to anti-bias and social justice work.

Robert will transition from his role as 2009-2010 Interim Head of School. He came to Giddens with over 30 years of experience in education—as a Teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal in the Shoreline School District, Principal of Whitman Middle School in Seattle, and Leadership Development Coordinator for Seattle Public Schools. Prior to joining Giddens, Robert served as Instructional Leadership Coach for Seattle Public Schools. In that role, he coached 14 Principals and Assistant Principals in elementary, middle and high schools on instructional leadership and highly effective schools, management issues, school improvement plans, and professional learning communities and lateral accountability. In addition, Robert presented and facilitated various meetings around trust, accountability and equity. He is a graduate of Seattle University with an MA in Curriculum and Instruction, of Western Washington University with an Administrative Certificate, and of Whitman College with a BA in English Literature. In addition to these credentials, Robert's references highlighted the “intangibles,” describing him as an individual who has a “depth of knowledge and a passion for student learning”, “cares about kids and teacher success”, and believes that “social justice must have action.”

Robert was selected through an extensive national search that yielded a strong pool of candidates. Three finalists were invited for two-day visits to our school during which they met with families, faculty, staff, Head Search Committee members and the Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Board, we extend thanks to the Head Search Committee members—Andrew Rauch, Beth Sims, C'Ardiss Gardner Gleser, Diana Sandoval, Diane Rawlins, Hania Younis, Jonathan Hochberg, Julie Sponsler, Manka Varghese and Wendy Nakatsukasa-Ono—and to all of you who devoted time and energy to helping us achieve a successful outcome. We also extend thanks to Bob Fricker of Education Directions Incorporated, Orpheus Crutchfield of StrateGenius, and Cory Sbarbaro of Turnpoint Consulting for the expertise and unique skills they brought to the process.

The Board of Trustees is also pleased to welcome Robert's wife Patty Grazini, a mixed media artist, to the Giddens School community. Robert and Patty have a son Tynan who is a student at The New School in New York City.

As we conclude our search and look toward a smooth transition, we ask for your commitment and support to ensure our collective success. All of us have a critical role to play in supporting Robert as our new Head of School, and we are fully confident that our community is up to that task. In July, Robert will participate in the NAIS Institute for New Heads in Atlanta and will hit the ground running in his new position upon his return.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Robert and Patty to the Giddens School community!

Sincerely,
Giddens School Board of Trustees

C'Ardiss Gardner Gleser
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