



September 23, 2009

Dear Friends School Mullica Hill Community,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce, on behalf of the Friends School Mullica Hill Board of Trustees, Drew Smith's decision to resign as Head of School at the close of the 2009 - 2010 school year. We are saddened to think about Friends School without Drew, but are grateful for his service over the last 22 years and for his leadership as Head over the last 10 years.

We wish him all the very best as he pursues the next chapter in his life. I'm sure that I speak for the entire school community when I say how grateful I am for Drew's remarkable service and dedication to Friends School. We are profoundly appreciative of Drew's vision for what a Friends School Mullica Hill education could be; to holding firm to our values; to building an engaged and supportive community, and to working always to preserve it.


Despite our sadness, we choose to see this as a time of opportunity. We are especially grateful to Drew for continuing to lead Friends School for another 10 months, giving us ample time to conduct a thorough search for the next head of school. To that end, the Board of Trustees has formed a search committee that has begun designing our search process. Bill Carrigan, Assistant Board Clerk and current parent will chair our Head of School Search Committee.

Over the next few weeks, we expect to appoint a Search Advisory Committee, composed of administrators, faculty, parents, alumni, alumni parents, students, staff, as well as grandparents and other constituencies, to assist the Search Committee.

To keep the community informed, we will be developing a link on the school's website to track the progress of the search over the next several months. We expect to be forwarding more information about our committee memberships in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, the Board looks forward to working with Drew over the next 10 months, and to providing a leadership transition worthy of our school's Quaker legacy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Christopher Brown
Clerk, Board of Trustees