

Dear Cheshire Academy Community,

I hope this note finds you all having enjoyed a well-deserved, relaxing summer! Those of us on the search committee for Cheshire Academy's next Head of School have been busy as we narrow down the field of candidates. In a previous message, we promised to communicate with you throughout the process. This letter is in the spirit of that promise.

We'd like to share with you where we are at this moment.

- *Since last spring, our consultants, Mary Seppala, Nat Conard, and Sally Mixsell of Educators Collaborative have been recruiting and vetting candidates for our search. I have met with them regularly for updates and planning purposes.*
- *On August 8, our consultants sent the search committee a file of dossiers that they deemed worthy of our consideration.*
- *Having read through each candidate's materials beforehand, search committee members reviewed those dossiers together on August 16 and selected nine semifinalist candidates. These individuals represent an array of backgrounds and talents, all of which in one way or another meet the leadership profile as published in the [Information for Candidates](#) document.*
- *We will be holding the semifinalist interviews in a few weeks and will maintain each candidate's confidentiality (only finalist candidates will be made public). At the end of this meeting, the committee anticipates choosing three finalists who will be invited to campus on Sunday-Tuesday over three weeks in late September-early October with their spouse or partner, if applicable.*
- *Once our finalists have been identified, we will communicate the process of bringing them to campus and how you may be involved in each visit. Finalist schedules will include individual and small and large group sessions with faculty and staff, parents, the senior leadership team, a faculty/staff Advisory Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Search Committee. Those of you who will have met one or more candidates will be asked to share your individual impressions via a survey whose results will be shared with the Search Committee. We hope you will make every effort to help us in this important endeavor!*

Please let me or the consultants know if you have any questions. We are excited by the quality of candidates and feel eager to start meeting our semifinalists. I'll be back with an update in mid-September. In the meantime, I wish you all a happy start to the new year!

Sincerely,



James Kempton P'20
Trustee, Search Committee Chair