

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Members of The Post Oak School Community,

After 20 years of leadership and dedicated service as Head of The Post Oak School, John Long has informed the Board of Trustees that he will retire effective June 30, 2016.

It is with great appreciation for his past contributions that The Post Oak School Board of Trustees accepts and supports John Long's decision to step down as Head of School as of June 30, 2016. After extensive discussion with John, we all agree that he has, in his usual thoughtful manner, selected an appropriate time to begin this transition. As has always been the case, he has placed the School's best interests first while making his decision.

On behalf of the Board, I want to express our gratitude to John for his tireless efforts to nurture and instill the now-characteristic high standards of The Post Oak School. Over the past 20 years under his leadership, The Post Oak School has transitioned from a small school with precarious financing to one of the best-known and most highly regarded Montessori institutions in the country. In the course of John's tenure, enrollment at the school increased over 50% and the Bissonnet campus grew with the addition of the gym, the library, the art studio, three elementary classrooms, and the aftercare common room to accommodate the additional students and increased programming. In addition to growth at the original campus, the Autrey property was acquired to accommodate the expansion of the mission to include an Upper School.

As a result of John's perceptive and innovative guidance, The Post Oak School now achieves a balanced budget year after year, and the school's ability to operate within its means is differential within the independent school community. His stewardship of school resources has been truly exemplary. John is leaving a legacy of a solid financial infrastructure: contributions to our annual fund are consistently high, and the latest capital campaign is testament to the community's support for the school that he has fostered and inspired. The endowment was recognized as a key financial instrument and was established 10 years ago. Throughout John's years, the School has supported financial aid programs for deserving students at a high level, a compelling example of the School's mission put into practice.

Even more important than the physical and financial growth of the school is the academic evolution John's leadership has stimulated. His vision has furthered the Founders' mission to educate following Maria Montessori's principles that call for effective learning based on self-direction and development of the "whole person" engaging the mind, stimulating the spirit and instilling moral values and self-confidence. The Post Oak faculty and staff provide this learning environment and continually fine-tune the methods of teaching, never satisfied to settle, but always striving for the best. John has built at Post Oak a school highly regarded by its peers and routinely visited by professional observers from around the world. In addition to his contributions to the Lower and Middle Schools, John's vision for the establishment of the High School is a key aspect of his legacy, and the first class of seniors will graduate before he steps down.

The Board also expresses its appreciation to Kathy Long for her dedication, support, and contributions to The Post Oak School. She has served the school in a number of valuable roles during John's tenure.

John will be a hard act to follow. The Board takes this leadership transition period seriously and will move forward thoughtfully in conducting a national search to identify the best candidate to be our next leader. Please expect more communication on this topic.

John Long is a quintessential leader, a fantastic spokesman for the school and a good friend of all in the school community; we have been so fortunate to have him as Head of School. We look forward to having him at the helm this year, to celebrating John's many contributions, and to providing opportunities for the entire Post Oak community to show its appreciation. We are confident that he will leave The Post Oak School poised for spectacular future growth under new leadership.

Sincerely



Melissa Coleman
Chair, Board of Trustees
Head of School