



Dear UPrep Families,

I am writing to share some bittersweet news with you. I have accepted the Head of School position at Pingry School in New Jersey and will be leaving UPrep at the end of June 2019.

I appreciate that this is likely surprising news. Please know that this was a very difficult and personal decision for me. The Pingry position is an opportunity that found me -- I wasn't looking for a new job. As your head of school, I have a job in a community that I love. I am proud of our work together, all that we have accomplished, and the direction we are headed. I have appreciated and valued our kind students, our diverse, talented faculty and staff, our supportive parent body, and our dynamic Board of Trustees. I still recall my first visit to UPrep as a candidate five years ago and I was so struck then, and I still am now, by the way our students open up to, greet, and welcome new people to the community.

However, when presented with this new opportunity, many factors had to be considered, not the least of which is my family. In addition to being a head of school, I am also a son of aging parents who live on the east coast, where I grew up. Joining Pingry means that I will be on the same coast as my parents and able to see and support them on a regular basis. It also means that I will be returning to New Jersey, where I started my career and worked as a classroom teacher for 14 years. My wife, Priyanthi, also has family and deep roots in New Jersey. Accepting my new role at Pingry creates an opportunity for us both to return home.

I'm sure that you have questions about what my decision means for UPrep. Below, Cheryl Scott, the Chair of the UPrep Board of Trustees, describes the process and steps that the Board is putting in place to find a new head of school. As Cheryl describes below, UPrep is well-positioned to attract top-tier candidates to lead our school next year and beyond.

Looking ahead, I am excited about our work together during the next six months, including launching Intensives in January, welcoming our new 6th and 9th grade families, and graduating the Class of 2019. We have important work to continue and I look forward to our ongoing partnership.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Matt Levinson

Head of School

Letter from Cheryl Scott

Dear UPrep Families,

I joined the UPrep Board of Trustees in 2015, during Matt's second year and have been honored to work alongside him for the past three years. During this time, Matt led the school through a period of extraordinary growth and development, both operationally and programmatically.

As I reflect on Matt's many accomplishments while at UPrep, I believe his greatest contribution to our community is his ability to identify, recruit, and support a critical mass of leaders, including Board members, senior administrative staff, and faculty. Add to this an impressive and talented group of engaged parent volunteers, and UPrep is stronger than ever. Together, we have aligned around a student-focused strategic plan and have become empowered not just to plan, but to act boldly on behalf of our mission to support each student's potential to become an intellectually courageous, socially responsible citizen of the world.

The Board appreciates that Matt's decision to leave UPrep was a difficult one, and we stand behind him in this next chapter in his life. During the next six months, we will continue to work closely with Matt and support his strategic leadership and vision for the school.

During this leadership transition, you can anticipate that Board members will be a visible presence on campus and in the life of the school. To support the leadership transition, the Board is in the process of establishing a Search Committee. At the Board's December 13 meeting, the Executive Committee will recommend to the Board that Tori Ragen and Laura Domoto co-chair the Search Committee. Tori was elected to the Board in 2014 and is the mom of Jackson '17, McKenna '19, and Carly '22. Laura was elected to the Board in 2016 and previously led the Parent Council. She is the mom of Cameron '18 and Quinn '21.

At the December Board meeting, the Executive Committee will also discuss with the Board our belief that we do not need to recruit a leader to create a new direction for the school. Instead, our job will be to identify someone to build on the skills and talents of our community, and to create even more momentum for the Board-approved strategic plan.

Our plan is to begin this work immediately, which will include identifying a firm that will support the head search process. While the Search Committee will develop a thoughtful and inclusive process for the search, the Board will also establish engagement opportunities for the larger UPrep community to provide input and feedback. Stay tuned for more information about these opportunities.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the tough times that our community traveled together this fall. The potential impact that Matt's news may have on our community is not lost on me or my Board colleagues. However, I am confident in our community's leadership to continue our impressive work going forward. By the simple act of focusing on our purpose and potential, we just can't go wrong.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns to me (cheryl@mcclintockscottgroup.com) or Search Committee Co-Chairs Tori Ragen (ctragen@comcast.net) and Laura Domoto (laura@domotomason.com).

In partnership,

Cheryl Scott

President, Board of Trustees