

March 7, 2019

Dear UPrep Community,

As Co-Chairs of the UPrep Head Search Committee, we want to update you on the status of the work to find our next head of school.

As we reported in February, the search process and timeline is moving forward and on track. The goal remains to name, no later than the first week of May, a new head of school who is the right long-term leader for our community.

As a reminder of the progress to date, [Spencer Stuart](#), our highly regarded national search firm, was in touch with over 120 potential candidates from across the country and interviewed 50 of them during December and January. In early February, Spencer Stuart visited the UPrep campus and together with the Search Committee reviewed 23 candidates. The Search Committee narrowed the list down to six highly accomplished candidates.

In late February, the Search Committee, with support from Spencer Stuart, conducted the first round of interviews in Seattle with the six candidates. Following the first round of interviews, the Search Committee narrowed the group of applicants down to a smaller group of leading candidates. This was not an easy decision. The candidates were seasoned and thoughtful and our conversations with them were robust.

Moving forward, the leading candidates will again meet with the Search Committee and Spencer Stuart in Seattle on March 19-20. These exceptional candidates bring a wealth of experience and expertise in educational leadership. They are committed to a constancy of purpose while valuing innovations that make a difference. They are each strong collaborators and consensus builders and are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. They are all well-grounded in NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) best practices and are each excited to join the UPrep community.

As Board President Cheryl Scott shared during January's State of the School the goal is to name, no later than the first week of May, a new head of school who is the right long-term leader for our community. Since the committee is considering candidates for both a 2019 and 2020 start, this may mean that we will also have an interim head. If that is the case, Spencer Stuart will advise us on that process.

As we move forward, candidate confidentiality remains a top priority. Interested candidates do not want to jeopardize their current positions by publicly announcing their application to UPrep. The committee appreciates the sensitivity and is committed to honoring the confidentiality of all of our candidates. This will likely mean that there will be limited opportunities for our community to meet the leading candidates prior to the Board of Trustees choosing our next head of school.

On behalf of the Head Search Committee, we are excited about our group of exceptional leading candidates. We will continue to share the work and progress of the Search Committee with you through regular updates and the weekly all school email. Please reach out with any questions or concerns; you can reach us at HeadSearch@universityprep.org.

Sincerely,

Laura Domoto and Tori Ragen
Search Committee Co-Chairs