

May 2022

Dear Sisters Academy Community:

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND, has informed the Board of Directors that she will transition out of the role of President of Sisters Academy effective June 30, 2023. The Board is grateful that Sister Delia anticipated what the future will require and, over the past few years, has made changes necessary to ensure the school's future success. The Board also appreciates Sister Delia's willingness to stay in the role of President through Academic Year 2022-2023, which gives us time to engage in a thoughtful, thorough search for a new President.

Nearly twenty years ago, Sister Delia and a small group of co-founders started the school by first engaging in a feasibility study. From there, the initial co-founders planned for the school's opening in 2004. Over the years, under Sister Delia's leadership, Sisters Academy has achieved several notable accomplishments, including:

- 184 students have graduated from Sisters Academy and 100% of those in our first 10 classes have completed high school.
- 32 graduates have earned their bachelor's degree and 6 have earned their master's degree.

In addition, Sisters Academy:

- raises 98% of the funds each year to meet its annual budget, now at \$1.4 million.
- owns its own building and has no debt.
- has established an endowment of over \$6 million as the result of committed, faithful donors combined with sound financial planning and investment.
- is accredited by the Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools (AIMS).

I am in my eighth year serving on the Sisters Academy Board of Directors and in my fifth year serving as Board Chair. In that time, Sister Delia has tackled challenging goals, collaborated with key constituencies, adapted as school and community needs have changed, maintained high standards, and achieved success as measured by a range of performance measures. I have observed and admired Sister Delia's leadership style, which highlights dedication to the school's mission, the aptitude and willingness to ask for major gifts, strong and informed judgment, and the ability to inspire those around her to work tirelessly, as she does. Sister Delia is a force when it comes to budgeting, financial management, and strategic planning. She is also amazing at writing everything from annual appeal letters to grant proposals. I have experienced Sister Delia as disciplined and solutions-oriented. She juggles, achieves, and has led a team to turn the idea of a Catholic middle school for girls into a thriving school that yields long-lasting effects on everyone involved, especially students.

In June, I will transition out of the role of Board Chair. Dale McArdle, Board Vice-Chair, will take over the Board Chair responsibilities as planned. I will serve as Chair of the Search Committee. The search for a new President is important. I ask for your prayers and support as we find the right person to move Sisters Academy's mission forward in the years ahead.

Sisters Academy has hired Carney, Sandoe and Associates (CSA) to lead us in the search for a new President. CSA is a highly respected search firm with a strong Catholic and independent school practice. Soon, I will send you an announcement listing the members of the Search Committee and our timeline for the search. The Search Committee will communicate with you and seek input throughout this process. You will also be able to find information about the search on Sisters Academy's website.

A newly formed Events Committee is in the initial stages of planning a celebration in spring or early summer 2023. At that celebration, we will thank Sister Delia for her many contributions to Sisters Academy. Expect a “save the date” card in the months ahead.

Sisters Academy continues to enjoy strong support from the school’s sponsoring religious congregations, the Sisters of Bon Secours, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, and School Sisters of Notre Dame. Representatives from the four sponsoring congregations comprise the Board of Members, which will continue to oversee Sisters Academy’s mission.

An active Board of Directors will continue to ensure that Sisters Academy complies with its legal and ethical duties. Sisters Academy’s executive leadership team, staff, and faculty will maintain high standards in all their work, from financial management, to development, graduate support, teaching, and more.

The Board of Members, Board of Directors, school leadership, faculty, and staff have always emphasized excellence in moving Sisters Academy’s mission forward. The school strives to educate middle school girls from low-income families primarily in southwest Baltimore. Sisters Academy will continue to provide a holistic education that enables graduates to succeed in high school and beyond. Moreover, the school will continue to empower students to become agents of transformation in their families, communities, and society.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank Sister Delia for her outstanding leadership and express our deep admiration and gratitude for her devotion to Sisters Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Giampetro-Meyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Andrea Giampetro-Meyer
Chair, Sisters Academy Board of Directors