



June 10, 2014

Dear Members of the George Stevens Academy Community,

Last month I informed Board leaders Marion Morris and Jim Markos that I will be stepping down as Head of School in June, 2015, the end of my current contractual obligation to GSA. Next year will mark my 15th year as a school head, and my 23rd year as a school administrator. Those years came after over a decade of classroom teaching. They have been wonderful years, personally and professionally.

It has been a privilege to serve as school head of our wonderfully committed, historic and nurturing school community. Every day I come to work at GSA with full faith and belief in our inspired mission to ensure success for all students. I have enjoyed working with faculty, administrators, and staff who helped establish that mission many years ago and who share in that belief today. They are some of the very best educators and school people with whom I have had the honor to serve.

Some of my most exciting and energizing work has been completed or is underway at George Stevens Academy. Guided by our strategic plan, "Renewing Our Commitment to Student Success," we have begun much important work ahead of us for next year which I intend to see through, working with students, teachers, administrators, and trustees to realize the full potential in our planning document.

I have enjoyed board support, advice, and counsel throughout my tenure. Our school is lucky to have such a group of selfless, committed trustees who work tirelessly for a school they love and hold in trust for us all. I have pledged my support to trustees in helping secure our next Head of School. GSA has every reason to attract a school leader who loves working with wonderful high school students, who fully understands the history, vigor, and potential of town academies like GSA, who enjoys the support of faculty, administration, and staff, and who is ready to work with the community.

While I will be stepping away from the headship at GSA, my interest in and commitment to schooling on our Blue Hill peninsula will continue to be as strong. We live in an amazing place and are associated with each other through a school that has effectively served school children for over two hundred years. Let us all work to ensure that the next hundred years are just as fruitful.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul B. Perkinson".

Paul B. Perkinson  
Head of School

June 10, 2014

Dear George Stevens Academy Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I write to let you know that Paul Perkinson will be stepping down as our Head of School at the end of the next school year (June 2015).

In his three years as Head of GSA, Paul has been an articulate spokesperson for GSA's mission to serve all students in our local and residential community, representing the school in a variety of venues. His commitment to the experience of students has shaped all his decisions. He was key in obtaining a grant from the Edward E. Ford Foundation that will transform our current advisory system. He has enthusiastically supported new program initiatives such as the Culinary Arts program, the Eastern Maine Skippers program, and the Nonprofit Experience—potential career pathways for students. Not least, he has overseen many improvements in our campus buildings and grounds. We look forward to this continuing pattern of commitment in the year ahead.

In his work with the Board, Paul has consistently delivered a balanced budget—no mean feat in these financially challenging times. He has also broadened our connections to other academies and to the larger world of independent schools by his attendance at conferences held by educational organizations.

While changes in leadership are never easy, we are fortunate to have an outstanding faculty, talented administrators, and broad support from the extended GSA community. We have begun assembling a Head Search committee and will be meeting in June to begin our work. We are committed to a broad, open, and rigorous search process, and will provide periodic updates on our website as we move forward. We are grateful for and will certainly rely on Paul's offer to aid in this process of transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion Dillon Morris".

Marion Dillon Morris  
President, Board of Trustees