



Phillips Academy  
**ANDOVER**

March 5, 2019

Members of the Andover community:

During a time of ever growing strength for Andover, I write to share a series of important leadership transitions. Each presents exciting opportunity and promise; one is also bittersweet.

First the bittersweet: Head of School John Palfrey P'21 will be leaving his position to become the sixth President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, one of the nation's largest independent foundations whose impact extends worldwide. This extraordinary opportunity will take John and his family to Chicago this summer. John will remain at Andover through the coming months, continuing to lead with his trademark energy and compassion, wisdom and vision.

Meanwhile, the Board of Trustees has taken great care to ensure a smooth transition, while also focusing on Andover's future as we seek to appoint the next head of school. Key decisions include the following:

- **The board voted unanimously to name Amy Falls '82, P'19, P'21 Board President-elect.** As I begin the final year of my term, Amy will chair the search for Andover's 16th Head of School. We are thrilled to have her wisdom and leadership in the boardroom and guiding this search.

A devoted trustee with broad institutional knowledge, financial savvy, and exceptional ability to engage and motivate others, Amy has been a charter trustee for seven years and serves with Joe Bae '90, P'21 and me as co-chair of the *Knowledge & Goodness Campaign*.

Amy will become the first woman to lead Andover's board of trustees. Her outstanding record of service has earned high praise across generations of alumni and parents. Her leadership on the campaign front has meant personal investment in Andover's future, as well as strategic involvement in all facets of planning and execution.

Amy holds degrees from Georgetown University and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; her professional experience includes positions with Morgan Stanley as managing director and global fixed income strategist. Prior to becoming Rockefeller University's chief investment officer, her current role, she was Andover's first CIO from 2005 to 2011. She built a New York-based team and deftly managed Andover's endowment through both prosperous and challenging times. She also relished the opportunity to guest teach in Carroll Perry's economics classes.

Her *non sibi* portfolio is expansive and includes seats on the boards of the Ford Foundation and Harvard Management Company.

- **The board also appointed Jim Ventre '79 Interim Head of School.** Rising through the ranks in the Office of Admission since arriving in 1983, Jim is currently the assistant head of school for admission and financial aid, leading all aspects of the mission to recruit, enroll, and support talented *youth from every quarter*. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Jim's strategic outlook and entrepreneurial spirit have benefitted both the campus and wider independent school landscape.

His primary role in "keeping school" will be ensuring that students continue to thrive, and that the campus remains guided by its strategic priorities. A seasoned leader who is highly regarded across the global PA community, Jim will also continue the momentum of the *Knowledge & Goodness Campaign*. Among the campaign's highest priorities is to secure the future of need-blind admission. Jim was a persuasive voice in Andover's quest to become a need-blind school in 2008. He also played a major role in the last campaign, which raised \$92 million for financial aid.

As Andover prepares to move from strength to strength, we also celebrate John's seven-year tenure and a school in excellent shape. With record applications year over year and yields the best among our peers, the demand for an Andover education has never been higher.

Thanks to skilled management and the generosity of donors, Andover's financial health is strong, with an endowment that has grown from \$785 million to more than \$1.1 billion since 2012.

Every aspect of the 2014 Strategic Plan is either complete or well underway. Working with the campus community, John has placed student health and wellness above all else and advanced the academic program so that every child has the support and resources they need. The Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center, the Snyder Center, the highly anticipated Pan Athletic Center, and the revitalized Oliver Wendell Holmes Library are examples of facilities designed to match the caliber of an exceptional program.

Academic life is rigorous as ever with innovations in teaching and learning central to the enterprise. The Tang Institute has awarded dozens of faculty fellowships, forged partnerships with entities like Khan Academy, and created online and hybrid courses.

Central to each of these accomplishments are devoted teachers, staff, and an experienced administrative team, all well positioned to propel Andover forward. The trustees are deeply grateful for their wisdom and boundless *non sibi* spirit.

The MacArthur Foundation has found its next leadership gem in John Palfrey, as Andover did eight years ago when we found a promising dean at Harvard Law School. John has been an extraordinary Head of School, and on behalf of the trustees and all of the Andover community, I offer to John our heartfelt gratitude and admiration.

Although we are saddened by the prospect of losing John, the trustees are energized by the possibilities to come. And in this moment of change, I am deeply grateful for Amy and Jim's willingness to lead Andover from strength to strength.

Sincerely,



Peter L.S. Currie '74, P'03  
President, Board of Trustees