

To The Children's Storefront Community:

On the evening of Thursday, November 12, sixty-seven members of The Children's Storefront community – including faculty, staff, parents, families and trustees – convened for a town hall meeting focusing on the search for the Storefront's next Head of School. The meeting was facilitated by the Board of Trustees' Search Committee and Freeman Philanthropic Services (FPS), the search firm that is working with the Search Committee.

The town hall meeting was the culmination of the effort – including individual meetings and focus groups – to gather input from the key constituency groups of the Storefront concerning the school and the role of Head of School. As a trustee and as chair of the Search Committee, I am pleased to report that it was a productive, informative and inspiring – and fun – meeting.

Thank you to all who took the time to participate in this successful town hall meeting. It is this commitment and collective passion that makes the Storefront such a special place for the children.

It is a rare opportunity to have the Storefront's constituency groups (faculty, staff, parents, families and trustees) gathered together at one time and the November 12 meeting provided a special forum for meaningful discussion.

After introductions and a recruitment overview provided by me and FPS president Gail Freeman, we divided into seven “break out” groups to facilitate conversations about the school and the next Head of School and ensure that each member of the Storefront community in attendance had the opportunity to share his or her insights. Each break out group included a member of the Search Committee, trustees, faculty, staff, parents and families. The two main topics of discussion for the groups were (1) the key opportunities for the next Head of School and (2) the key qualities that the next Head of School will need to possess in order to achieve success with respect to those opportunities.

After each break out group met separately, we all got back together to share our findings and observations about the key opportunities and key qualities to the entire town hall. While each group contributed unique details, the break out groups were in remarkable agreement concerning the strategic vision for the future of the school and the key opportunities and key qualities of the next Head of School. This sharing experience confirmed and reinforced that each Storefront community member shares a deep commitment and dedication to the most important constituency group – the children of the Storefront.

This confirmation of our mutual goals will aid us in welcoming the next Head of School and positioning him or her for great success at the Storefront. In addition, our clarity of vision is most helpful to FPS as they work to recruit the very best candidates for the Storefront.

FPS will be presenting candidates' credentials to the Search Committee in early December. The Search Committee and FPS will provide the Storefront community with updates as the recruitment process continues.

If you have a recommendation of someone who you feel should be considered for the Head of School position or if you have any recruitment-related question, please contact FPS at CSE@glfreeman.com. Gail, Kevin, Tara and Kelly will be happy to hear from you.

As a final thought, and looking beyond the Head of School search process, the spirit, camaraderie and mutual appreciation demonstrated at this town hall meeting suggests that this is something that we should do more often.

John A. MacKerron
Chair, Search Committee