Dear Seattle Waldorf School Community,

On behalf of the SWS Board of Trustees, I am thrilled to announce that Raquel Scharf-Anderson will be the next Head of School at Seattle Waldorf School, effective July 1, 2020. Raquel succeeds Tracy Bennett, who has skillfully led SWS for the past nine years. Tracy, along with the Board, Administrative, and Pedagogical Leadership will work closely with Raquel in the months ahead to ensure a seamless transition of leadership.

Raquel comes to us from the Dubow Preschool and Martin J. Gottlieb Day School in Jacksonville, Florida, where she was the Head of School for joint programs that serve students from age 1 through grade 8. Prior to this position, she was the Head of School at the Da Vinci Academy in Elgin, Illinois. As a lifelong learner, Raquel brings to SWS both experience as a Head of School as well as an educator who is passionate about sharing a love of learning, the value of diversity, and the importance of kindness.

As articulated in the Position Statement that was created for prospective candidates, the Board believed it to be critical that the next Head of School be intelligent, energetic, empathic, and compassionate. With this in mind, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation from the Search Committee to appoint Raquel as our next Head of School. She brings these traits, along with the leadership skills and educational and administrative experience necessary to promote the mission and values of SWS, build upon our current success, and lead our school into the future.

During her finalist visit, Raquel shared two principles that guide her work—to show respect and to do what is best for children. With this as a foundation, Raquel will be a thoughtful leader as she begins to build relationships, learn more about Waldorf education, and lead the school forward.

As we begin this transition, we hold an immense amount of gratitude for Tracy and the contributions she has made to our school. Her leadership has enabled us to be in a healthy position for this next phase of SWS. In the coming months there will be opportunities for us to celebrate her and express our appreciation for her many years of service.

On behalf of the Board I would also like to express immense gratitude to the Search Committee. They committed much time and effort, over eight months, in conducting a thorough search process. We also thank Doreen Oleson, our search consultant from RG175, for guiding us with a steady hand and giving us the assurance to carry out this process.

And finally, thank you to the parents, teachers, staff, and students who whole-heartedly engaged in this process with us. All of the finalists were moved by the commitment to our school that exists from all parts of our community. Together, we welcome Raquel and her family, and we look forward to continuing the mission of SWS.

Curt Eckman
Seattle Waldorf School Board President