

July 2018

Dear Members of the CAIS Community,

As you know, our Executive Director, Doug Lyons, announced last October that 2018-19 would be his final year in this position. Doug's careful planning and advance notice allowed the CAIS Board to conduct a thorough and timely search for his successor. Bob Fricker, our former CAIS colleague and now a Carney, Sandoe & Associates consultant, graciously agreed to work with our search committee to fashion a process that was guided by input from all member schools. The Search Committee's work relied heavily upon the list of characteristics we sought in our next Executive Director; a list created through surveys of member schools.

Having now successfully completed the search process, it is our great pleasure to announce that the CAIS Board has unanimously and enthusiastically selected Rick Branson, currently head of Indian Creek School in Crownsville, Maryland, to be our organization's next Executive Director, beginning in the summer of 2019.

Rick has served as a head of school for 15 years at independent, international, and public charter schools, in addition to IB and AP teaching positions, administrative positions, and college experience as a professor and program coordinator. He earned a doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University, with a focus on organizational leadership and a dissertation in organizational learning. His master's and bachelor's degrees in journalism are from The University of Oregon. Rick has served on six accreditation committees in the US and in Asia, served on state and international association boards, and presented on a variety of topics to professional organizations at national and international conferences.

Rick will be coming to Connecticut in August to spend time with Doug and Sharon Lauer, incoming board president, to meet the CAIS staff, and to get to know the office and area. Rick has expressed a strong desire to attend CAIS events throughout this coming school year as he is able, so that he can begin to know and understand the diverse array of schools within CAIS. We are hoping that he will be able to attend the CAIS Governance Conference in September, as well as the CAIS Heads Conference on April 11-12.

We know you will join us in eagerly welcoming Rick to his new role and in thanking the other members of our Search Committee who gave generously of their time to help us make this crucial choice. Those members are: Peter Becker, Head of The Gunnery; Diane Brewer, CAIS Director of Programs and Services; Janet Hartwell, outgoing Head of Greens Farms Academy; Tom Lasley, CFO of Eagle Hill Greenwich; and Diana Owen, Head of Pine Point School.



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

It goes without saying that we are glad to have one final year with Doug Lyons as our Executive Director. In his October announcement, Doug said that he planned “to savor *every moment* in my career, savor *every professional relationship* that has been precious to me.” Well, we plan to reciprocate and look forward to celebrating Doug at many points throughout this next year. The major celebration will take place at the CAIS Heads Conference on April 11-12 at The Saybrook Point Inn and Spa, and we ask everyone to please mark their calendars for this event. We want the best turnout ever to show Doug how grateful we are for everything he’s done for our schools over the past fifteen years!

We will keep you all posted as plans develop. In the meantime, we wish you all a wonderful summer,

Carol Maoz
CAIS President
The Foote School

Sharon Lauer
Search Committee Chair
The Unquowa School