



Saint Saviour Catholic Academy

September 22, 2023

Dear SSCA Community,

Principal Susan Walsh has advised the Board of Trustees that she will resign at the end of our current school year—summer '24 and is now [sharing her decision](#) with the St. Saviour community. These last few years have been challenging for many educators globally, and it has been no different for St. Saviour Catholic Academy. Nevertheless, we have been exceedingly blessed by Principal Walsh's passion to our school and commitment to Catholic education and all that we do at SSCA. Since she started as Principal in 2016, and the many years before that when she taught our littlest students, she has created an environment where all feel welcome and prepared to challenge themselves, both as students and teachers. Principal Walsh has brilliantly brought her faculty and staff through the hardest of these most recent years and we are eternally grateful for her leadership.

Principal Walsh has dedicated her professional career to the education of young children's minds, bodies, and spirits. She has guided our students and faculty with compassion first and supported that with an outstanding educational program. We will have the year to demonstrate our gratitude for her sharing her gifts with us and to thank her for all she has done for SSCA.

What happens next?

The Board has embarked on a thoughtful and prayerful process in finding our next leader and we have engaged Partners in Mission to lead our search. Our search committee will include trustees, faculty, friends, alumni and parents and we will update the community regularly with our progress. Our search will culminate in an opportunity for the community to meet our final candidates.

More information on our search process will follow shortly. What I want our community to understand in this moment is that we are proceeding with intention and conducting a comprehensive search. While we are grateful for all that Principal Walsh has done to make SSCA the highly respected school that it is today, we are always excited for where we will go in the future. We are forging ahead with our exciting roof top project and all our events and activities that continue to bring our community closer together.

Over these coming months, please join me and the Board of Trustees in thanking Sue for her love and commitment to our children, their families, her colleagues, and, indeed, for her faith and for her service to St. Saviour Catholic Academy.

Very truly yours,

Lenae Guarna
Board Chairperson



Saint Saviour Catholic Academy

September 25, 2023

Dear SSCA Community,

As you know, Principal Walsh recently announced her plans to retire from her position as Principal at the end of the 23-24 school year. We have engaged Partners in Mission to lead our search for a new leader, to be conducted by a search committee that includes representation from the various constituencies of our school community. I would like to take this opportunity to explain the search process for you.

Partners in Mission (www.partnersinmission.com) is a nationally recognized full-service consulting firm focused exclusively on delivering excellence in Catholic school advancement, leadership, and executive search solutions. As part of our early discussions in the search process, we are pursuing a new administrative model, and will be looking for a Head of School. We believe moving to a Head of School with a Director of Curriculum will provide the most effective leadership for our Academy.

On Thursday and Friday, September 28th and 29th, the Partners in Mission (“PIM”) team, led by Kyle Pietrantonio, will visit our school for extensive on-site discussions with focus groups of our students, parents and alumni, faculty, staff, and administration. In advance of this visit, you will have the opportunity to complete a survey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TG7LJ6Y>, to share what criteria in a school leader are important to your family. We’re sorry for the quick turnaround, but it would be very helpful if you could return the survey by Tuesday evening. This visit and survey will inform PIM’s development of a detailed Search Prospectus highlighting our exciting leadership opportunity.

In the search process, the PIM team will be working with a wide range of individuals within their extensive network of mission-driven Catholic school leaders from across the nation. Their search efforts will focus on prospective candidates most familiar with our charism and competitive market, gradually expanding their extensive outreach initiatives throughout the United States to recruit only the most personally, professionally, and culturally fit leaders. Ultimately, they will develop a vetted list of top candidates for our Search Committee’s consideration by mid-February. The Search Committee will meet shortly thereafter to narrow down this pool to a list of semi-finalists to interview personally.

This select group will be interviewed only by the Search Committee, to preserve candidates’ confidentiality. This is done primarily to avoid unnecessary repercussions for candidates who have not yet informed their respective school communities of their interest in pursuing other opportunities. Confidentiality throughout this process is the norm when engaging in such a search.

After the semi-finalist interviews, the Search Committee will select two or three finalists. In March, the finalists (and spouses, if applicable) will each have the opportunity to visit SSCA and engage with our community for individual day-long visits. The Search Committee will meet again shortly thereafter to review all the information gathered throughout the process, which will include feedback received from members of the SSCA community who've had an opportunity to engage with all finalists. At the conclusion of this process, the Search Committee will present their recommendation to the Board of Trustees for consideration in securing our next school leader. We anticipate that we will secure SSCA's next Head of School by the end of March, with a start date during the summer of 2024.

Please keep in mind that the retained search function is a dynamic, fluid, and competitive process. Should top candidates emerge ahead of our anticipated schedule, we maintain the ability to adjust these timelines to be best able to secure and invest in the most ideal candidates currently available.

In the coming weeks, please watch for communications posted at www.saintsaviourcatholicacademy.org detailing the progress of our search efforts. In the interim, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at lguarna@aol.com. I remain grateful to all of you for your insight and faith as the search moves forward, and I am confident that this process will identify the most ideal candidate for our *Small School with the Big Heart*.

Sincerely,



Lenae Guarna
Board Chairperson

Saint Saviour Catholic Academy

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www.saintsaviourcatholicacademy.org