



October 23, 2009

Dear Members of the Brooklyn Friends School Community:

We write to update you on the Head Search. The Search Committee is pleased to announce that Deborah Kay Betts and Larry Weiss will return for the next round of interviews.

Visits by semi-finalists concluded on Friday, October 9th. The Search Committee heard feedback on the six semi-finalists from the administrative team, the faculty/staff advisory council, and the parent advisory council, and began our deliberations, concluding earlier this week.

You will have a chance to review the CVs of both finalists and to meet them shortly. In the meantime, here are some additional details about each.

Deborah Kay Betts is Head of the Episcopal School of Baton Rouge LA, one of the leading independent schools in the south serving 1,034 students in grades PK-12. The school's mission is similar to ours, in so far as it provides a college-preparatory program while nurturing and developing the whole child and preparing its graduates for lives of purpose. While at Episcopal, Ms. Betts (who prefers to be called Kay) has spearheaded strategic planning (both intended and unexpected in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav), tripled the school's endowment and greatly increased annual giving, and developed programs for community service and environmental sustainability. Prior to her appointment at Episcopal, Kay was the Academic Dean at the Marist School in Atlanta. She has a Masters in Educational Leadership from Bank Street College, New York.

Larry Weiss is Head of Saint Ann's School, also a PK-12 school enrolling 1,090 students, with a focus on progressive academic and arts education. In his tenure at Saint Ann's, Larry has been the driving force behind increases in the school's net assets and annual fund, major capital construction, and significant improvement in faculty salaries. Prior to his appointment at Saint Ann's, Larry served as Head of the Upper School at Horace Mann in Riverdale. He has taught at both Brooklyn Friends School and Sidwell Friends, and was President of Friends World College. He earned his PhD in political science at Columbia University.

Kay Betts will visit Brooklyn Friends School November 2-4th; Larry Weiss will visit from the 9-11th. Each will meet with parents/family members, alumni, students, faculty, staff, administration, and the Board of Trustees. The Search Committee is currently working out the details of the schedule and will announce the dates and times for open faculty, staff and family meetings as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing your feedback on each of the candidates as we continue with this most important task on behalf of the school.

In Friendship,
The Search Committee

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Verina Crawford
Richard Cutler '62
Darrick Hamilton '89
Peter Laughter '89
Alice Pope, Assistant Chair
Karen Robinson
Lisa Sack, Chair
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