

PROSPECT SIERRA

Dear Prospect Sierra Community,

It is with heaviness in my heart, but tremendous gratitude for the service she has given to the school over the last 10 years and joyous hope for her future, that I write this letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees announcing that Katherine Dinh will be leaving Prospect Sierra in June 2019 to become the next Head of School at Marin Country Day School.

To know Katherine is to know a wonderfully positive, caring, curious, and compassionate person. To work with Katherine is to work with an extraordinarily dedicated, smart, and professional colleague. In addition to her steadfast leadership, she has inspired so many of us in the Prospect Sierra community to try to be our best selves, leading by example.

It is sound practice for a school head to work at a school for a period of time and then take their talents to new places with new challenges; change is healthy for both the person and the place. Katherine's time at Prospect Sierra has been significant and will be remembered as an era of impressive growth for the school.

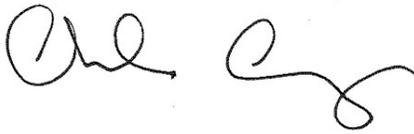
The list of Katherine's achievements as Prospect Sierra's Head of School is extensive; a list that is beyond the scope of this letter to try to completely articulate. She has championed physical projects like our colab spaces, the kindergarten yard, solar panels, all-gender bathrooms, gardens and green spaces, and 21st century classrooms. She has initiated program improvements like bringing Spanish to the elementary grades and spearheading the adaptation of the RULER and Toolbox social-emotional programs. She implemented both plant and program initiatives that led to the school being awarded the Green Ribbon Award by the US Department of Education with the goal of becoming a carbon neutral community. She led the Board in creating two innovative Strategic Plans that guide our decision making each day, and shepherded us through two successful CAIS accreditation processes. Her leadership extends well beyond us, as Katherine has served as a trustee of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) for the past eight years, and the last three years as the board president. And perhaps most importantly, she has kept our students and teachers at the heart of all of our conversations, so that we may grow great people, not just great students.

Though the news that she will be moving on may take some time to get used to, please rest assured that Katherine will be leaving Prospect Sierra at a time of great institutional strength and stability. The school's finances are in very good shape, our faculty is outstanding, the educational programs are some of the best in the Bay Area, if not the country, and the administrative and leadership teams are exceptional. The school's immediate and long term future is, without a doubt, very promising.

I, and the Board, very much look forward to working with the community as we move ahead on the new Head of School search as well as finding ways to honor Katherine and the vision and leadership that she has brought to the school over her tenure. The Board has established a working group to begin laying the groundwork for the search process and transition, and you will hear much more from us about how to become involved over the coming weeks and months.

Given that Katherine will continue to be at the helm for over 18 months, along with the strong reputation of the school both locally and nationally, we are very confident that the process will be smooth and that the school has many wonderful chapters to write in the years and decades ahead as the story of Prospect Sierra unfolds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlie Casey', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Charlie Casey
Chair, Board of Trustees
Aidan '11, Oliver '14, Finn '16