

September 17, 2018

To the NAIS Board:

I am pleased to recommend Bonnie Carpenter for the NAIS Board. Bonnie is a highly accomplished and creative professional, whose many contributions at Idyllwild Arts Academy have earned her the respect of her peers and admiration of thousands of students who have been inspired by her teaching.

Bonnie and I have been colleagues and friends at Idyllwild Arts Academy in California since I joined the faculty in 2003. Bonnie's tenure at Idyllwild Arts began five years prior to that. Bonnie and I have a particular connection, not only because of our mutual career aspirations to lead an independent school, but because our paths have taken a similar route. Bonnie is someone who works hard to make a school better, regardless of the role she is serving. With that, she has worn many hats and has endured inevitable challenges. Bonnie is a quintessential taskmaster, someone who is eager to face problems, identify solutions, and work towards successful resolution through steadfast determination.

In addition to serving as chair of the Theatre Department at Idyllwild Arts, Bonnie has also served as Associate Dean of the Arts, and Dean of the Arts. As one of four deans and representing seven arts departments, Bonnie was a critical voice in shaping curricular decisions and setting policy. In our last two institutional accreditation processes, Bonnie has served as our self-study coordinator. On both occasions, she managed the process fluidly and effectively; teams were well organized and inclusive of the entire school community. We received high praise in 2010 and 2016 for the manner in which the self-study was conducted. Bonnie's leadership was the key to our success.

Bonnie Carpenter is a confident and capable leader who is also modest and respectful of others. She is not afraid to defend unpopular opinions or to confront opposition when she feels strongly about an issue. This is a leadership quality I have always admired, even when she and I have disagreed.

From a business officer's perspective, I respect and appreciate Bonnie's sound management of her departments' budgets. She understands budgets and demonstrates conservative principles with diligent oversight. She is knowledgeable about our overall operational budget, curious to know more, and eager to participate in "big picture" discourse about the direction of our school. She would bring many years of experience and a keen understanding of school life to the Board of NAIS.

My recommendation of Bonnie Carpenter to the Board of NAIS comes without any reservation. Since Bonnie has had the breadth of experience as a teacher and administrator, and because of Idyllwild Arts Academy's mission to provide pre-professional training in the

arts, Bonnie would bring a unique and informed perspective to the Board of NAIS. Please feel free to follow up with me with any questions about this exceptional candidate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Newman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Newman

Chief Operating Officer

Idyllwild Arts Foundation

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