



Members of the Watershed Community,

I am writing to let you know that the 2017-2018 school year will be my last as Watershed's Head of School.

I was drawn to Watershed four years ago because of its unique vision for education. The school was already magical, but very much a startup. I was excited about the opportunity to play a role in making Watershed a school that was built to last. We have come a long way in making that a reality.

Last week, we completed the final step of the rigorous three-year ACIS accreditation process. While we will need to wait until June for a formal vote, I have no reason to expect anything other than full accreditation. When that happens, Watershed will join the ranks of Boulder's most institutionally mature independent schools.

Having opened with 14 students a decade ago, the school will be full next fall. Watershed is now well-known in Boulder for its innovative and engaging program. Our healthy growth means that the school's budget runs a surplus even as we invest in continued program enhancements.

We have strengthened Watershed's programs in math, language, science, and the arts. May Term programs continue to lead students on adventures across the country and, increasingly, around the globe. The addition of a new Director of Social-Emotional Learning next year will further develop the human dimension of the Watershed experience.

The last few years have been the highlight of my career. Unfortunately, Boulder County has not provided the same level of opportunity for my wife. Balancing the needs of two professional careers means making a change for our family.

Now that Watershed is at a different place in its history, we're in a healthy position for the school to select a new Head. There is no better place for a transition than at the conclusion of an accreditation cycle.

With its compelling mission, an ever-increasing national reputation, and the incomparable draw of Boulder living, Watershed is well-positioned to find an outstanding next Head of School.

Starting a national search this spring, more than a full year before my departure, will set us up for an orderly transition. I am fully committed to setting the next Head of School up for success.

To be sure, I have mixed feelings. I love this school and its magic, and I still wake up every day excited to come to work. But while my personal emotions are bittersweet, I have nothing but confidence in the school and its bright future.

Next year will be special for me: it will not only be my last year as Watershed's Head, but my first as a Watershed parent. I look forward to working together over the next 15 months and to continuing to work to make Watershed the best that it can be.

In adventure and wonder,

Greg Bamford  
Head of School