

January 16, 2018

Dear Newgrange School, Laurel School, and Ann Robinowitz Education Center Community:

After 17 years of outstanding leadership, Dr. Gordon Sherman, our beloved Executive Director, has informed the Board of Trustees of his decision to retire. We receive this news with deep appreciation for Gordon's dedicated service, wisdom, and accomplishments on behalf of our community of students, families, and educators. We also recognize that his body of work now allows us to look forward enthusiastically to the bright future that lies ahead.

A champion for people with learning differences throughout his career in neuroscience and education, Dr. Sherman has been central to important advances in dyslexia-reading research, practice, and policy nationwide. During his tenure as a neuroscientist and Director of the Dyslexia Research Lab at BI/Deaconess Hospital, Dr. Sherman played a key role conducting seminal research that established and delineated the brain basis of dyslexia. As president of the International Dyslexia Association, he spearheaded important efforts to translate research to practice. Here in New Jersey, he played a leading role on the Governor's Reading Disabilities Task Force, which made recommendations that led to new laws recognizing dyslexia and preparing educators to identify and teach students with dyslexia.

Dr. Sherman also coined the term *cerebrodiversity* and helped articulate its principles for educators nationwide. In our own schools, he guided translation of these principles into innovative educational programming that not only addressed our students' challenges, but also recognized and nurtured their strengths.

Gordon empowered our teachers with training in research-based programs to meet the diverse needs of our students. Through the Ann Robinowitz Education Center, he and Dee Rosenberg brought training to teachers across the country and other parts of the world. In addition to their work guiding the highly successful Newgrange School in Hamilton, Gordon and Dee founded the Laurel School of Princeton to meet the needs of bright children with dyslexia who were not succeeding in their home districts. In the Laurel School's rich, nurturing environment these children are succeeding for the first time and discovering a love of learning.

Thanks to Gordon's vision and leadership along with the dedication and devotion of a strong faculty, Newgrange School, Laurel School, and the Robinowitz Education Center are thriving. His exemplary leadership will be greatly missed. However, because of it, we are well positioned to move into the future.

A search committee (led by trustee and past president Jonathan Karp) is working closely with Jerry Larson of Educational Directions (a highly respected national search firm) to find an exemplary leader who will guide us forward. This search committee will ensure that the important perspectives of parents, students, staff, and community leaders are heard and considered throughout the search process. Updates will be provided on a regular basis.

While the search committee does its work, Bob Hegedus will serve as Interim Director, maintaining the stability and mutual respect needed to carry on the important work of our schools and education center.

Rest assured, Gordon's work is not done. He will stay in close contact with Bob, will work as circumstances permit at Laurel School, and will actively assist in the search for our new Executive Director. Gordon also will work closely with his successor to ensure a smooth transition.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, please join me in expressing our profound gratitude to Gordon—now our *Executive Director Emeritus*—for his vision, leadership and impassioned dedication to our students, families, and those who serve them.

Sincerely,



Ann Robinowitz,
President, CGO
Board of Trustees