



February 9, 2018

Dear NCRC Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Head of School Search Committee, we are very pleased to announce James S. Carroll as the next Head of School at the National Child Research Center, effective July 1, 2018. The Committee and the Board were unanimous in selecting James.

Last year, the Search Committee set out with one goal in mind: to find the best possible candidate to lead NCRC. After numerous listening sessions with current and alumni parents, faculty, administrators and staff, and reviewing results from our community survey, it became clear that the ideal candidate would bring experience and a passion for early childhood education, a strong management and leadership track record, a demonstrated commitment to inclusion and diversity, and a love for NCRC.

James offers all of that and more. As a former NCRC parent, former NCRC board member, an educator for 25 years, including as a classroom teacher at Beauvoir and as their long-time Director of Outplacement, and current Head of School at Concord Hill, he brings an unparalleled mix of [knowledge and experience](#) to his new leadership role at NCRC. That unique combination is why the Search Committee's recommendation – and the Board's vote to hire him – were unanimous.

Over the course of the past few months, the Search Committee, with guidance and support from our expert consultants at Carney Sandoe, reviewed dozens of candidates drawn from a strong, diverse pool that included many sitting Heads of School. The Search Committee spent many hours together interviewing and assessing seven finalists, inviting them back for multiple interviews. By the end of the process it was obvious to the Search Committee that James is both the best and the right choice to lead NCRC.

In order to give you a sense of James' passion for NCRC, here is an excerpt from his application letter to the Search Committee:

I am deeply committed to the mission of NCRC. I have embraced the culture of NCRC since my days as a Bunny class parent, and I wish to uphold, enrich and celebrate NCRC's philosophy as its leader. Having closely observed two different Heads of School, I feel uniquely placed to appreciate what it takes to sustain the culture that underpins NCRC, which includes respecting and honoring traditions and history, whilst maintaining and enhancing the exceptional program and the institutional strength and sustainability the school enjoys.



Just this morning, he added:

I cannot wait to spend time with the whole NCRC community in the coming weeks and months, to share so many thoughts about our thriving, vibrant and nurturing community, and the joyful, collaborative culture of NCRC we all love so much. It will be my greatest privilege to lead this exceptional school.

As many of you know, Val invited James to join the Board in 2014. He has been a steadfast supporter of her leadership. We also think it is important for the community to know that James stepped down from the NCRC Board of Trustees in late December to apply for the Head of School position. Like all of us, James is grateful for the strong legacy that Val has created at NCRC, and he is honored to follow in her footsteps.

Val said the following about James' appointment:

James has been an active member of the Washington area independent school community for years and is a well-respected partner with long-standing relationships among school leaders and admissions directors. He has a steady, calming nature that will usher NCRC through this transition period and into the future. Personally, James has been a good friend and colleague for many years.

We are excited for all of you to get a chance to meet and engage with James. Over the coming weeks, we will introduce him to the broader NCRC community at a variety of larger and more intimate events. A thoughtful leadership transition process, which will be executed in close collaboration with Val, is already underway.

Thank you to every member of the community for your engagement in our head of school search and your commitment to NCRC. We are confident that James will build on NCRC's strong foundation and help to steer the school into its next 90 years, and we look forward to joining with all of you in welcoming him as our future Head of School.

Sincerely,

NCRC Head of School Search Committee and Board of Trustees

Lisa Agogliati (Explorer Teacher, Search Committee)
Susan Anton (Trustee, Search Committee)
Patricia Berl (Trustee, Former NCRC Head of School)
Rachna Bhatt (Trustee, Search Committee)
Marian Brice (NCRC Occupational Therapist, Search Committee)
Danielle Conley (Trustee)

Robert Crawford (Trustee)
Shannon Curvey (PA President, Search Committee)
Paul DeMartini (Trustee)
Laura Desai (Trustee)
Jay Hulme (Counsel to the Board)
Alexis Juneja (Trustee)
Rick Juneja (Search Committee)
June Kress (Trustee) (continues on next page)



David Lashway (Trustee)
Robert Lehrman (Trustee)
Nancy Meakem (Search Committee Co-Chair,
Trustee)
Sasha Miller (PA Vice President, Search Committee)
Lisa Palmer (Board Vice Chair)
Connie Pendleton (Search Committee Co-Chair,
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Aaron Stallworth (Search Committee)
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