



December 7, 2015

Dear SEM Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Buffalo Seminary, I am extremely pleased to announce that Helen Ladds Marlette has accepted the position of Head of School. Her term will begin immediately following the retirement of Jody Douglass in June 2016. The Board's vote to offer Helen the position was unanimous.

The decision to offer Helen the Head of School position followed a comprehensive study by the Board's Leadership Transition Committee working with Greenwich Leadership Partners (GLP), which consults with independent schools on leadership development and evolution. GLP's assessment included a survey of the SEM community, and meetings with current leadership, faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumnae to determine the future needs of SEM.

The conclusion of our work is that Helen is not only an outstanding candidate for Head of School - she is also the right person to lead SEM into our next chapter. We are fortunate to have such an extraordinary leader now at SEM who deeply understands the school's mission, values, and community.

Helen's appointment is both an acknowledgement of the contributions she has made in all aspects of school life and an affirmation of the outstanding accomplishments achieved in her partnership with Jody. We have every confidence that Helen's leadership will continue SEM's remarkable trajectory of strength.

Our Board looks forward to working with Helen and the vision we share for SEM, as together we articulate a roadmap for continued evolution and success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Brown '72". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'M'.

Margaret Brown '72  
Board Chair