Dear Burke's Community,

As the 2016-17 academic year draws to a close, I write to reflect upon the tremendous partnership between the Board of Trustees and Michele Williams, our esteemed Head of School. Over the past five years, our combined tenure includes the purchase of the Delmar House and the launch and substantial implementation of a four-year Strategic Plan: Our Community. Our Campus. Our Commitment. As part of this plan, we have laid the foundation to transform the center of our campus and reconfigure the lower school classrooms, and made great strides towards increasing our endowment to support vital tenets of our mission: outstanding teachers, accessible financial assistance, and clear differentiation that enables us to educate diverse perspectives brought by 400 girls each year.

Strategic Plan highlights from this year include a successful transportation pilot that will be expanded this Fall, intensive analysis of our tuition model, new uniform options for the entire school, and bringing the teaching methodology of Understanding by Design across our academic and social emotional curricula. For a detailed overview of what’s been accomplished to date in the Strategic Plan, please refer to Our Plan in Action.

As I step down from the board this year, I would like to extend deep gratitude towards my fellow trustees who are also completing their board service: Wells Blaxter, Travis Brownley, Laura Brugger, Leigh Matthes, and MacGregor Read. Each of them has selflessly given six years of challenging, professional, and collegial work towards the betterment of Burke’s. In addition, I would like to highlight the strong leadership of our P.A. President, Jennifer McClanahan-Flint, and to welcome Elizabeth Sparks ’86 who will take over this role next year. Lastly, I would like to thank the many community volunteers who serve on board committees, alongside trustees, bringing unique skills to ensure that we meet our goals.

I conclude with two exciting announcements that inspire and give me great satisfaction that the hard work of the Burke’s Board of Trustees will continue. First, I am pleased to welcome six new trustees who have been elected for three-year terms: Clara Abecassis ’92, Leith Brooks Barry, Carolyn Bradner Jasik, Jennifer McClanahan-Flint, Tod Sacerdoti, and Yvo Smit. Click here to learn more about them. Additionally, I’m greatly appreciative that four of our trustees — Anna Banks ’83, Gabrielle Kivitz ’89, Matthew Perry, and Venkatesh Reddy — will be continuing their board tenure for a second three-year term.
Finally, and giving me full confidence that our board leadership will successfully meet the challenges that lie ahead, I announce with great pleasure the newly elected slate of Trustee Officers: Nel Ellwein as President, Kimberly Fullerton ‘77e as Vice President, John Walcott as Treasurer, and Adrian Dollard as Secretary. Each of these individuals brings immense wisdom and broad professional skills to the work at hand and promises to guide Burke’s in the fulfillment of its mission.

Congratulations to this new team of leaders and farewell to the community with whom it’s been an honor to serve. I trust each and every one of you to partner with Michele and continue doing all you can to make Burke’s the best it can be for future generations of girls.

Warmest thanks,

Evie Davis
President of Burke's Board of Trustees