

## **Board Retreat August 24-25, 2019 SUMMARY**

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The Board met for its semi-annual retreat the weekend 24-25 August, 2019. The Board Retreat is held every year to give the members of the Board an opportunity to build a strong working relationship as a team, while focusing on aligning on their goals for the year and how will they deliver against them and their fiduciary responsibility to ensure the long term viability of SAS. This school year marks the first year for our new Superintendent and the board welcomed four new members. The board had two successful days of efficient, productive, and focused meetings.

The board began the retreat by collaboratively formalizing a statement on their aspirations for the board's legacy and defining features of Board Culture for 2019-2020. The highlights of both include: supporting the superintendent in his first year, behaving as a high-performance board that adheres to best practise and high professional norms, improving the board-community relationship with clear and transparent communication, and making a well-informed, well-debated decision about the upcoming campus upgrade. Overall, the Board underscored their commitment to institutionalizing best-practice.

The board drafted and reviewed the annual goals of the Superintendent, The Board and its committees (Finance, Governance and Facilities) with a view towards signing them off in their first meeting in September and sharing these goals with the community once finalized. The board discussed the resources available to deliver against the goals and the role of the management vs. the board. The board members were asked to reflect on their own individual commitments to the board for 2019-2020.

On the second day of the retreat, the Board discussed and motioned to approve the hiring of a financial advisor to advise on the financing options for the campus upgrade project. David Paul from the Fiscal Strategies Group was selected. The board discussed the importance of the role the community engagement task force will play until year end to support the school's management implementing the community engagement framework previously approved. The board also agreed a series of topics that will be covered over the course of the year that link with the long term viability and sustainability of the school in addition to the topics linked to this year's Board goals.

The board concluded with honouring the past and being hopeful about the future. Board members noted their agreement to focus on: the success of the incoming superintendent, decisions around the campus upgrade project, ensuring the long term financial viability of the school, smooth and harmonious future elections, working effectively with management and lastly to collaborate as one board and enhance the board effectiveness and sustainability.