



About seven years ago, Beacon Academy's founding Board of Trustees coalesced around a project to reimagine secondary education. The vision was a Montessori/International Baccalaureate high school based on the latest adolescent development research, that would one day be a model for other independent non-profit high schools. Today, Beacon Academy offers a dynamic and experiential educational program, where our 215 students take charge of their own learning in and out of the classroom under the guidance of experienced and outstanding faculty.

In 2018, our fifth year in existence, the timing was naturally right to plan for a more sustainable future for Beacon Academy. Led by board member Susan Sattell, our Board of Trustees spent a year gathering feedback from stakeholders and created a strategic plan guided by three goals: *sustain our vision, evolve the Montessori/IB model, and lead with a shared vision that positions Beacon Academy as a thought leader.* At its core, the plan reaffirms our mission "to offer an innovative and challenging education based on Montessori principles", and reemphasizes our four core values of *innovation, inclusion, independence, and interdependence.*

While our first five years were marked by growth and change, our five-year strategic plan prioritizes depth and stability. We will do this by slowing growth to retain the close-knit culture our students value so much, and we'll institute systems that ensure stability for years to come. We have already begun enhancing compensation packages to retain our talented faculty and attract a diversity of outstanding future teachers. Likewise, staff and faculty are fine-tuning the curriculum and expanding the experiential program, so that the Montessori approach of *learning while doing* is interwoven throughout students' years at Beacon Academy. Due to the generosity of early donors and strong fiscal management, we have been able to build the school without amassing debt, and that is a solid position for a young school to be in. Just as we teach our young adults the importance of financial responsibility and building resources for unexpected expenses that come along, we as an institution must do the same.

I look forward to sharing progress on our initiatives soon. Thank you for your involvement in the Beacon community.

Best wishes,

Patty Abrams
President, Board of Directors, Beacon Academy