



Board of Directors Update

February 27, 2019

Facilities Update! The next 10 months will be more exciting than usual as we watch our new school take shape. Crews continue to pour the foundation across different sections of the new facility. Steel is scheduled for delivery and we anticipate vertical construction starting toward the end of March! At our meeting this month, the Board reviewed and discussed options for adding the school gym to the first phase of construction, and about how we might move forward on the elementary school. We also are considering converting four open spaces to classrooms in our Upper School building, which will help serve more students yet maintain our current student-teacher ratio.



Because of uncertainties this early in the process about our construction timeline and money, the Board agreed to hold off starting construction of the gym. In the meantime, we'll keep you updated about progress.

As part of the construction work, the Board unanimously agreed to make incoming Head of School Gary McCulloch the primary point of contact for our contractor on most day-to-day decisions and choices. He is experienced in this arena, having worked with engineers and project managers to build River Ridge Academy in Bluffton. The Board and the Facilities Committee will continue to supervise and make the big decisions, but Mr. McCulloch will handle more of the daily decisions, especially once he joins us full time this summer.

Budget: The Board adopted an updated teacher salary schedule for 2019-2020, which is posted to our website and takes effect July 1, 2019. This more closely aligns our salaries to those in the Beaufort County School District. We anticipate looking at classified staff pay this spring and hope to make some adjustments there. We are scheduled to conduct the first reading of our 2019-20 budget in March with our accountant, Melissa Kiddy. Mr. McCulloch and Dr. Sherri Herbst are closely involved in these budget discussions. We are trying to set our budget much earlier this year in case any highly-qualified Beaufort County teachers want to join us at Bridges. As they say, stay tuned!



Shout-out to the PTO! Thank you to our PTO for the amazing work organizing the March 9 Shrimp & Grits Block Party at Paris Avenue in Port Royal. They've recruited sponsors and chefs, have entertainment lined up for adults and kids, and are planning a fantastic day for all. We're also happy to share that the PTO challenged Board members to try our hands as chefs -- and we accepted that challenge! Please mark your calendars and join us March 9 for this fun fundraiser.