



Board of Directors Update

December 17, 2018

Celebrate Bridges Prep!

It seems fitting in this month of celebration and reflection that we, as a school community, take a moment to look back on all that we've accomplished by working together at Bridges Prep. Just a few highlights among the many:

- ✓ We outperformed all other area charter schools and most local elementary schools on the 2018 S.C. School Report Cards!
- ✓ Last month we broke ground for construction of our new middle and high school on land in Port Royal, and the next step will be to begin planning for Phase 2, the elementary wing, so that we can bring all of Bridges Prep under one roof in coming years
- ✓ We hired an outstanding and proven leader to be our next Head of School, starting in July. Mr. Gary McCulloch promises great things for our future, working with the incredible staff and administration we have in place now.
- ✓ Our families and staff participated in the election of four new members for our Board of Directors, who will take office Tuesday, Dec. 18 to lead the school into 2019 and beyond. We appreciate all who ran for office, and all who took the time to cast their votes.
- ✓ Open registration for new students continues through Jan. 31, 2019. Applications are available in English and Spanish on our website, under APPLY NOW! Please share this information with your friends. For the first time ever, next year we will offer the full K-12 curriculum!

As chair for the past four years, and as someone who chose not to seek re-election due to several personal reasons, I'd like to try to share how much this school has meant to me. Every school, and every school board, has its ups and downs. Over the past four years, we've had our share. What has impressed me every time, though, is that after facing a challenge, our school has risen even higher. So rather than one step forward and two steps back, we make it a point to occasionally face a step backward but then take three or four leaps ahead.

There is so much potential at Bridges Prep. I am so very proud of everything we have accomplished by working together. To have put together a major funding opportunity through the USDA Rural Development fund and to secure almost \$20 million in financing for our school was amazing – and then to work through all the permitting and design to where now we are building our new school ... it still takes my breath away.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It has been my honor, my privilege and my pleasure.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes in the New Year!

Dee Matthews, Board Chair