

Dear Hill-Murray Community,

These past few weeks have brought extraordinary change for all of us. I pray for the wellbeing of our entire community as we navigate the impact of the pandemic and I wish you all safety and good health.

Last Fall, current President Jim Hansen announced his retirement from Hill-Murray School, effective June 2021. The extended notice was part of an agreed upon plan to provide the Board of Trustees adequate time to engage in a formal search process and allow for a leadership transition period during this important time.

Last August, The Board of Trustees formed the President Search Committee to gather input, select a search firm, establish a candidate profile and a nation-wide search began for the President-Elect. Outreach and search included a diverse set of candidates with a wide range of backgrounds – business, academia and philanthropic environments. Out of the gate, we had 85 candidates apply with many referrals. Overall, Hill-Murray and its search firm sourced/outreached nationally and locally to over 300 candidates.

After a rigorous search process, including a thorough round of interviews involving multiple members of our staff, administration, students and key stakeholders the committee and Board made a unanimous decision. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and President Search Committee, I am proud to announce Melissa Dan has been named President-Elect of Hill-Murray School. In August, Melissa will begin collaborating with President Jim Hansen to ensure a positive and healthy transition. She will take on full responsibilities in June 2021.

Melissa is an experienced and visionary Catholic educator with a successful history of leading school communities in Minnesota, Chicago, and New York. Authentic and approachable, Melissa has worked in a variety of educational settings, starting as a counselor, then teacher, and eventually Catholic School leader and administrator. She is a passionate servant leader, with a strong academic background and is committed to life-long learning and improving school communities.

Melissa looks forward to getting to know each student and learning how she can best serve them and the entire Hill-Murray community for years to come.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share my appreciation and sincere gratitude to current President Jim Hansen for his strong leadership over the past 5 years. Jim has dedicated himself to the vision of Hill-Murray and guided our school to become a thriving and dynamic community, recognized for innovating and inspiring through faith, love and learning. Jim is eager to officially work with Melissa and continue the positive momentum.

Thank you to the President Search Committee, Board, administration, faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni, and community members who contributed their support and perspective throughout this process. Our search was extremely successful due to your passion and overall engagement. With great excitement for the future of Hill-Murray, I extend a warm welcome to Melissa and her family!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim C. Yocum". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tim Yocum '92
Board of Trustees Chair | Hill-Murray School