



SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL

President's Office

February 6, 2024

Dear Saint Paul's School Community,

As you are all aware, for the last nine months, the Board of Trustees and its Search Committee have been engaged in a nationwide search to find the next President for Saint Paul's. Our stated goal has been to find the best person possible to lead Saint Paul's and then give that person, and the School, the best opportunity for success in the future. Our efforts have been thorough, careful, and deliberate. We have been mindful of how unique and special a school and community we have here at Saint Paul's and have been committed to not only finding the right person to protect and preserve these attributes but to improve upon and enhance them. At this time, and in accordance with the above goals and considerations, the Board of Directors and the Search Committee believe that we have found the best person possible to lead Saint Paul's into the future.

On behalf of the Lasallian Christian Brothers and the Saint Paul's Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce that Mr. Joe Dickens, current Principal of Saint Paul's School, has been appointed to be the school's next President. Mr. Dickens received the unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee and was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees after a comprehensive search process. While the search was truly nationwide, and other impressive and qualified candidates were considered, we believe the best person to lead Saint Paul's happened to already be on campus.

Mr. Dickens succeeds Mr. Trevor Watkins, AFSC, Interim President, who assumed the leadership of Saint Paul's upon the death of Brother Raymond Bulliard in April 2023. The Board wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Mr. Watkins. If not for Mr. Watkins' selflessness and outstanding leadership during this time of transition, such a thorough search and smooth transition would not have been possible. Mr. Watkins will continue to work closely with Mr. Dickens in anticipation of the official transfer of leadership, scheduled to take place on June 1, 2024.

Mr. Dickens began his tenure at Saint Paul's in August 2003. He has served in several capacities during his twenty years here, including football coach, English teacher, English Department Chair, Assistant Principal for Academics, and, most recently, as the Principal of Saint Paul's School. Mr. Dickens' academic credentials include a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and a Master's degree in educational administration, both earned at the University of New Orleans. Significantly, he also is a graduate of two Lasallian Programs: the *Buttimer Institute for Lasallian Studies* and *Discerning Leaders*. Both programs are designed to indoctrinate lay partners into the history, pedagogy, and spirituality of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He also holds

state certifications in English, Social Studies, and K-12 Administration. Mr. Dickens' experience before joining the faculty at Saint Paul's includes a 7-year stint as a teacher, coach, and athletic director at Holy Cross School in New Orleans.

It was readily apparent to the Search Committee during the search process that Mr. Dickens has earned the respect and confidence of Saint Paul's faculty for his professionalism, work ethic, and dedication to the academic and extracurricular programs at Saint Paul's. Similarly, he is appreciated by parents of current and past students for his communication skills and directness. Finally, it was also evident to the Search Committee that the current students of Saint Paul's recognize Mr. Dickens' inherent integrity and devotion to LaSallian principles. All of the foregoing helped provide clarity to the Search Committee that Mr. Dickens was, in fact, the best person for the job.

The Board of Trustees is grateful to Mr. Dickens for his willingness to serve Saint Paul's in this important role, and we are confident that he possesses the vision and skills to build on the leadership traditions established by Brother Ray, Mr. Watkins, and other Lasallian leaders before them. We look forward with enthusiasm and promise to his administration, and we ask all to welcome and support Mr. Dickens in his new role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Mayronne", with a large, stylized initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul J. Mayronne '88,

Chairman, Board of Trustees