



Head Search Update From: Board Chair Jon Nickens

Dear Athenian Community,

Since my last [communication](#) to you in May, Quincy McLaughlin has seamlessly transitioned into her role as Interim Head. The Board of Trustees has made significant progress in planning for the permanent Head of School search. We are grateful for Quincy's collaborative leadership these past few months and the ease with which she has resumed leading the school. Her two-year term provides us with the necessary time to conduct a thorough and inclusive search as we seek to best position Athenian for continued growth in the decades to come.

Below you will find information on the plan to date, including information about our search partners, the search committee membership and our projected timeline. In the coming weeks you will hear from us again as we begin to engage the broader Athenian community more fully in the process.

Search Firm & Partners

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has retained the services of [Diversified Search Group | Storbeck Search](#) (Storbeck), a highly regarded executive search firm, to partner with the board and the search committee. Storbeck has an extensive Pre-K-12 education practice and has successfully placed a range of senior school leaders and heads of schools across the country. We selected Storbeck from a strong group of potential search partners, and we are confident that Storbeck and the reputation and experience of those who will be heading up our search will move us forward in identifying and selecting Athenian's next Head of School. Our partners in this effort are Managing Director [Staci Williams Seeley](#) and Senior Search Associate [Christopher Bernard](#).

Search Committee

We have also formed our search committee, composed of community members representing a broad range of expertise, experiences and perspectives. I am pleased to announce the following nine individuals will serve on the Head of School Search Committee:

Jon Nickens, Current & Alumni Parent (Search Committee Co-chair, Board Chair)
Angel Lewis '92 (Search Committee Co-chair, Trustee)
Guy Henshaw, Current & Alumni Grandparent (Trustee)
Stephanie McGraw, Current & Alumni Parent (Upper School Faculty)
Amy Rasner Clulow, Current Parent (Director of People & Culture)
Leny Riebli, Current & Alumni Parent (Trustee)
Emily Shinkle, Current Parent (Dean of Residential Life & Upper School Faculty)
Catherine Yewell, Alumni Parent (Trustee)
Matt Zahner (Middle School Faculty and Athletic Coach)

I am particularly grateful to Angel Lewis, a trustee and member of the class of 1992, for serving as the Search Committee Co-chair. Her long standing relationship with Athenian will be invaluable.

Search Timeline

We are working toward having the permanent Head of School named in Spring 2025 to assume the role by July 2026. Our search partners will visit campus in just a few weeks and will connect with a variety of constituent groups including faculty, staff, students and parents/guardians. The input they gather during these conversations will inform the priorities for the search and the development of the Head of School position statement. They will then launch the search next month and bring finalists to campus late winter.

Community Engagement

With such an important decision before us, we will seek broad input from the Athenian community. The wisdom and experience from those close to the school—both present and past—will be critical to our efforts. There will be several opportunities for community input, the first during the search firm visit, and soon after through an online survey. We encourage you to participate to share your experiences as part of the Athenian community.

Please feel free to reach out to us directly (Jon at .jnickens_bt@athenian.org or Angel at alewis_bt@athenian.org) with any comments or thoughts as we move forward. Additionally, we will create a search webpage as the search gets underway in early November.

We look forward to the work ahead, and to the community engagement as we help shape the future of Athenian.

With appreciation,

Jon Nickens
Board Chair
The Athenian School

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