



Leadership Update From: Board Chair Jon Nickens

Dear Athenian Community:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I write to share this important update on our Head of School leadership transition. We appreciate all of the good wishes for Eric following his recent announcement that he has accepted the position of Head of School at the American School in Japan.

In order to ensure ample time and optimal conditions for a thorough, thoughtful and inclusive search for Athenian's next permanent Head of School, we have decided to reinstate Quincy McLaughlin as Interim Head to start this July for a two-year term. For those new to Athenian, Quincy served as our Interim Head in 2022 during Eric's leave of absence, and was selected for that role after a nationwide search process. Her prior experience at Athenian and connection with our community will allow our terrific faculty, staff, administrators and school leadership to maintain momentum and focus on their important work of teaching and supporting our students.

Eric will depart Athenian at the end of this school year. After 15 years of dedicated school leadership, this will give Eric time with his family to settle into their new home in Marin before making the exciting transition to Japan and into the demands of a new Head of School role. As he makes this transition, Eric looks forward to logging plenty of trail miles, honing his Japanese, and enjoying the companionship of his wife, Margaret, and their grown children.

Planning is underway to honor Eric for his many years of impactful service and leadership of the school. Stay tuned for updates on opportunities to connect and celebrate with Eric in the weeks ahead.

About Quincy McLaughlin:

A strategic thinker and problem solver, Quincy has provided guidance and support to independent schools and nonprofits for 25 years. Dedicated to creating supportive, inclusive teaching and learning environments through distributed leadership, Quincy is skilled at recruiting, hiring, and retaining talented and diverse faculty and staff. A community builder and expert on managing organizational complexity, she's known for cultivating talent, trust and community alignment.

Quincy is the current Associate Head of School at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, a 6-12 day school of 700. Prior to Greenhills and prior to serving as the Interim Head of School at Athenian, Quincy was the Dean of Student Well-being at the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut, where she served on the school's Leadership Team. Prior to Hotchkiss, she held teaching, advising, research, and administrative roles at Smith College and Miss Hall's School in Massachusetts. A graduate of an independent 6-12 boarding and day school, Quincy received her BA in Literature from Sarah Lawrence College and earned an MSW from the Smith College School for Social Work.

Quincy is thrilled to be returning to Athenian saying, "I feel incredibly fortunate to have this chance to spend more time with the thriving and dynamic Athenian community. Athenian has remained steadfast in its values and offers such a distinctive program and special culture, to play any part in its successful future is a tremendous opportunity. I can't wait to rejoin this exceptional community of

educators and young people, as we partner with families and celebrate and build on the school's unique history and strengths while continuing to provide transformational experiences for all students.”

Quincy rejoins our community with the full endorsement of the Board of Trustees and we look forward to reintroducing her to the community at the opening of the 2024-2025 school year. You can expect a summer update from the Board about the permanent Head of School search process which will involve broad community participation and will launch this fall for a July 2026 start.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating Eric Niles and in welcoming Quincy McLaughlin back to Athenian.

Sincerely,

Jon Nickens
Board Chair
The Athenian School

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