



December 8, 2017

Dear Wornick Community:

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday of Chanukkah, we are grateful for so many exciting things happening around Wornick and the excitement of a new year ahead. Yet, it is also bittersweet that we share a significant change to our community. Our beloved head of school, Barbara Gereboff, plans to retire in June 2019.

On behalf of the board of trustees, we thank Barbara for her leadership, her warmth and the commitment she has shown to Wornick. Perhaps most importantly, we thank Barbara for being a role model and mensch to our school community. In the upcoming year, the board and PTO will be planning a series of events to celebrate Barbara's contributions, which have helped shape Wornick into the exceptional community that it is today.

For the past nine years, Barbara has led the Wornick Jewish Day School with exceptional wisdom, passion, thoughtfulness, commitment, and heart. Among her many outstanding achievements is her success in building Wornick as an academically progressive institution, one of the early independent schools to adopt a curriculum steeped in inter-disciplinary learning. Under Barbara's leadership, Wornick has become a school known for developing engaged, resilient leaders.

Among Barbara's many accomplishments in her role as head of school;

- She has set the course for creating and implementing key strategic planning initiatives that will help pave the way for Wornick's growth and further secure its future as a leading Jewish school in the community.
- With Barbara's guidance and stewardship, Wornick launched its highly successful Feast Your Mind annual event, and we recently celebrated our 30th anniversary, where she led donor development efforts for an unprecedented Chai Excellence campaign.
- With her commitment to forming relationships, she has built bridges across communities and helped solidify the school's future by partnering with the PJCC to finalize our Land Campaign.
- Barbara has been a tremendous advocate for the school as exemplified by the grants she secured over the years to implement next generation science standards, partner with PJ library as one of two schools to receive a grant supporting Kindergarten admissions events, and, most recently, to secure a grant from the Jewish Community Federation to offer teachers the benefit of paying down their student loans (one of a few institutions that received this).



While Barbara has worked tirelessly to establish Wornick as a thriving Jewish institution, she has never wavered from her intense and loving focus on, and care for, the Wornick staff, students and families that are at the heart of our community. Over the course of her tenure, Barbara has encouraged countless students to become passionate learners, advocates with strength of character, and engaged, compassionate human beings that embrace the value of Tikkun Olam. Barbara's legacy will have lasting impact on our community and beyond – including multiple generations of Wornick students.

A primary responsibility of an independent school board of trustees is to hire and support the head of school. Wornick's board of trustees takes this important role seriously, and we will focus on finding a passionate and skilled leader who both appreciates and embodies Wornick's mission and core values, and who will lead our school with vision and enthusiasm into the future. The board will begin a process to interview a number of experienced search firms, and in partnership with a search committee, led by Wornick parent and trustee, Limeng Stroh, will develop a plan to ensure a smooth transition. The committee and entire board are committed to a thoughtful, thorough and transparent process. Limeng and the committee will provide updates over the next eighteen months to provide for an informed process.

We are grateful to Barbara for her exceptional leadership and for all that she has done to build Wornick into a standout academic institution, and a place where families feel part of a strong and thriving community. Thanks to her thoughtful leadership and dedicated partnership with the board of trustees, we have tremendous clarity about the strategic vision for the school (more details will be shared shortly), and we are able to approach the search process from a position of strength and certainty. Barbara will continue in her role as head of school through June 2019, and she is committed to a smooth leadership transition. In the next 18 months, she will be working closely with the Board to support and implement key strategic planning initiatives.

May the light of Chanukkah help us begin a time of celebrating all that Barbara has achieved with and for our community. We hope you will join the board of trustees in expressing our gratitude for her leadership and vision.

Todah Rabbah and B'Shalom.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Mark Ezersky and Caren Neydavoud
Wornick Board of Trustees Co-Chairs