

*Wind and tide brought us together for a time,
Plying the same current, our courses aligned.
But wind is capricious and tide ebbs and flows.
And the tiller of time tends to interpose.
So we reset sails; recalibrate bearings,
Which alters from the course, once we were sharing.
I navigate now by a different star,
But you're close to my heart, wherever we are.
— Anonymous*

January 15, 2018

To Board of Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and Students of Newgrange and Laurel Schools and the Ann Robinowitz Education Center:

I write this letter to announce my formal retirement from my position as Executive Director of Newgrange School, Laurel School, and the Robinowitz Education Center. I have been privileged to serve in this position since 2000. My final day will be June 30, 2018. Until that time, I plan to work at a reduced schedule, as circumstances permit.

To our Board of Trustees, please accept my sincere gratitude for all that you have helped us accomplish during my tenure. Your wisdom, guidance, and support have enabled Newgrange School, Laurel School, and the Robinowitz Education Center to grow in both stature and reach over the last 17 years. All three organizations are well positioned to continue making a profoundly positive difference in the lives of the children and adults we serve.

I also extend my deepest appreciation to the dedicated professionals of Newgrange and Laurel Schools, and the Robinowitz Education Center for your outstanding work on behalf of our students and families. You are the beating heart of our three organizations. Your deep knowledge and passion for our work have always humbled me.

Finally, to our wonderful students and families, I want to convey my deep affection and respect. It has been my great honor to serve you over the years. The courage, resilience, determination, and creativity you bring to facing challenges will serve you well throughout your lives. You have been, and continue to be, an inspiration to me!

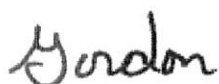
It has been an extremely difficult decision to step away from the important work we have undertaken together. Until recently, it was not something I thought much about, even knowing that it would happen some day. But sometimes things change more rapidly than we might expect.

I have suddenly become aware of the fragility of life. While I will continue to be engaged with our three organizations, I am seeking more time for Dee and me, my children, and nurturing the personal and professional relationships I have been lucky enough to enjoy, and to follow some personal interests, such as art and music, that I have long put on the back shelf. I am proud of all we have done together. We are not finished, but we have come so far.

I am very confident that the future is bright for our three organizations. This, then, is an opportune time for me to step back and for the Board to begin the process of seeking a new Executive Director to help shepherd Newgrange School, Laurel School, and the Robinowitz Education Center toward that bright future.

Meanwhile, I leave both schools and the Education Center in very good hands, and I am confident that they will continue their excellent work!

With abiding appreciation, affection, and respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon".

Gordon F. Sherman, Ph.D.
Executive Director