

Mr. Kevin Cooman  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Allendale Columbia School

November 12, 2009

Dear Kevin,

As you would anticipate from our recent conversations, I write to alert you of my decision to retire from Allendale Columbia School this June. This year is my twenty-third at the School and my fortieth in independent education. It seems an appropriate juncture to make way for new leadership of this wonderful institution.

Our last Strategic Plan, subtitled “a Map to 2010” has all its elements essentially completed. Our recent major gifts campaign, Promising Futures, has added over two million dollars to our already substantial endowment. Last year we received a glowing decennial NYSAIS accreditation report.

It has been an enormous honor to serve Allendale Columbia School. During my tenure I have had the pleasure of watching the campus grow and transform in an amazing fashion, the gratification of seeing our constituencies contribute sixteen million dollars in three capital campaigns, the stimulation of working with dedicated trustees, the delight of ongoing relationships with alumni, but most importantly, the absolute joy of participating daily with a wonderful faculty as they teach our outstanding students. On a deeply personal level, one of the greatest sources of happiness for our family is the superb education Allendale Columbia gave our “lifer” son Scott ‘04.

I look forward to the remaining months of this school year and assisting in the transition of the school’s leadership.

Sincerely,

Chuck Hertrick  
Headmaster

November 12, 2009

Dear Chuck,

The announcement of your retirement at the conclusion of this school year triggers a cascade of memories spanning the more than two decades of your distinguished service as Head of Allendale Columbia School.

Many great accomplishments testify to the steady and dependable strength of your leadership. Some are visible to anyone walking around our beautiful campus. You oversaw the construction or renovation of every major facility on campus, including the Gannett Gymnasium, the Gleason Science Wing, the Curtis Performance Center, the Rumsey Library, the Courtyard, the “connector” and the First and Second Grade classroom wing.

We recall, with great appreciation, your role in championing three successful capital campaigns which raised more than \$16 million for campus improvements, support of faculty, and endowment of academic programs and financial aid. Because of your financial stewardship of the school over two decades, we have been able to confront the recent challenges posed by our national and regional economic conditions with a “battleship” endowment, and without the burden of long term debt.

Most significantly, you have been instrumental in assembling a highly credentialed and exceptionally dedicated faculty and staff who provide each day both knowledge and nurture for the children and young adults who call Allendale Columbia “my school.” Your legacy as Head will continue for many years in our classrooms and offices because of the wisdom and foresight of your selections. You have set the bar high, and solidified an expectation of excellence for faculty and students alike.

We will particularly miss the rallying point you created each year for our school community: the annual *theme*. Whether you called us to the virtues of Honesty, Respect or Patience, the aspirations of Heroes, Imagination or Promise, or the responsibilities of Sustainability, Justice, or Civility, we were challenged to reflect, stretch and change.

As the Board of Trustees, with the support and input of faculty, alums and parents, now embarks on a careful and diligent search for your successor, be assured that our commitment is to further build and strengthen the School to which you have devoted your very best energies and talents.

On behalf of our entire school community, let me convey our heartfelt gratitude for all of your service. We wish you and Joan fruitful and satisfying retirement years.

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Cooman  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Parent, '00, '07