



HILL COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

December 16, 2025

Dear HCMS Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is with great excitement and confidence that we announce the appointment of Tonya Beilstein as Hill Country Montessori School's next Permanent Head of School, beginning July 1, 2026.

After a comprehensive and thoughtful search process, the Search Committee unanimously recommended Tonya to the Board, which voted enthusiastically to confirm her appointment. From the outset, our work was guided by a shared commitment to finding a leader who would honor HCMS's Montessori foundation, value strong partnerships between educators and families, and lead with both heart and purpose.

Throughout the search, we sought a Head of School who believes deeply in joyful, engaged learning; child-centered education; and the power of strong relationships. Tonya's educational philosophy, leadership experience, and genuine appreciation for Montessori education resonated clearly at every stage of the process. Her approach reflects a belief in collaborative leadership and the importance of nurturing the whole school community as the foundation for student and school success.

Tonya brings more than twenty years of experience in independent school education, serving as a teacher, administrator, and Head of School, along with prior leadership experience in the public sector. She is known for her thoughtful, steady leadership; her ability to build trust and collaboration; and her skill in guiding schools through growth while remaining grounded in mission and values. Her experience across academics, operations, governance, and community engagement positions her well to steward HCMS into its next chapter.

This appointment is the result of many months of diligent work by the Search Committee, in partnership with our consultant from The Education Group. The Committee conducted a comprehensive national search, reviewed and interviewed a competitive pool of candidates, and engaged deeply with community feedback throughout the finalist stage. We are grateful to the faculty, staff, parents, and trustees who gave their time, insight, and thoughtful feedback during this process. Your engagement helped shape a collaborative and successful process that was both rigorous and deeply rooted in the hopes and aspirations of the HCMS community.

As we look ahead, we also wish to express our sincere appreciation to Marie Kidd, our Interim Head of School. Marie's leadership has provided continuity, care, and stability during this transition, and we are thankful for her partnership as we prepare for a smooth and intentional leadership handoff.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Tonya Beilstein to Hill Country Montessori School. We are excited for the future ahead and confident that, together, our community will continue to grow, thrive, and celebrate the extraordinary work happening at HCMS each day.

With gratitude,

Gordon Clark & Sarah Howard
Co-Chairs, HCMS Board of Trustees