



PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL
A Maritime Charter School for Providence Youth

June 15, 2017

Dear Paul Cuffee School community members,

I am delighted to report to the Paul Cuffee School community that at its May meeting the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to elect Earl Nathan Smith III as the next President of the Board, effective July 1, 2017.

Earl is well known at Paul Cuffee School, having served as a member of the Board since 2010. He has been Chair of the Committee on Trusteeship and Governance, served as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, and, along with Kim Noble, led the Head of School search committee in 2014. He has volunteered countless hours as a mentor and role model for Paul Cuffee students, especially in the upper school, where his counsel and experience regarding the college application process have been invaluable. Two of his nieces were proud members of the class of 2017.

Outside of his Paul Cuffee School leadership experience and dedication, Earl brings a depth of education knowledge and expertise to his role as Board President. He has an undergraduate degree in human development, counseling and family studies from the University of Rhode Island, a masters of social work from Rhode Island College, and a doctorate of philosophy in social work from Howard University. For the past decade Earl has served as a dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Rhode Island, where, among other responsibilities, he oversees academic advising at the College.

Perhaps most importantly, Earl is deeply committed to the education and social and emotional well-being of Paul Cuffee School students. He understands and embraces the culture of the school community and will be dedicated to leading strong and collaborative governance oversight by the Board and continuously improving in every area of the School consistent with the Paul Cuffee mission.

The selection process for a new President included meaningful input from all members of the Board, and was thoughtfully led by Bob Kelley, Becky Bueno, and Leslie Brackett. I would like to especially thank Bob, Becky and Leslie for the significant time they dedicated to this important effort this year.

As my five years as President and thirteen years as a Trustee come to a close I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all members of the Paul Cuffee School community. First and foremost, the outstanding teachers and staff cared for and educated two of our daughters, and for that I will be forever grateful. In addition to being a parent, serving as a member of the Board has been a great privilege, and I look forward to the continued success of Paul Cuffee School in the years and decades to come.

Sincerely,

Russell C. Carey
President, Board of Trustees