

June 17, 2015

Dear Dr. MacFarlane:

Welcome to your new role in the Phillips Exeter community! While you have had important Exeter roles in the past — as a rival student, a teacher and a parent — your new role as Principal places you at the head of an institution that shapes lives forever.

We write to introduce ourselves as alumni/ae who share sustainability aspirations for our school. We created the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) for Exeter to help fulfill a set of goals that are consistent with the Academy's 2004 Environmental Mission Statement. We believe that ESI is a unique initiative in the history of PEA, presenting a new model for alumni/Academy engagement that goes beyond the traditional fundraising and friend-raising activities. For the first time, Exeter graduates are working together to establish proactive, strategic, positive partnerships with students, faculty, staff and administration for the mutual benefit of our community.

Our mission is to encourage and support the Academy to address an issue that is critical to our collective future: anthropogenic climate disruption. We share the conviction that Exeter — and similar educational institutions — have a critically important responsibility and opportunity to prepare future leaders to solve the problems created by those who came before them. We are Exonians — educated and trained to inquire, to think, to lead, and to create solutions for the greater benefit of our communities — in the spirit of “non sibi,” goodness and knowledge, the bedrocks of the school's philosophy.

ESI ardently supports the Academy's 2004 Environmental Mission Statement and the steps Exeter has taken since then to reduce fossil fuel use, increase building efficiency, provide local, organic food, reduce food and other waste, among other initiatives. However, we firmly believe that the accelerating timetable and scope of the climate disruption requires even more decisive and courageous action.

The Academy can break new ground in thoroughly integrating sustainable practices and philosophy throughout its curriculum, infrastructure, ethos and brand — and we are committed to helping it do so. To these ends:

- We wrote the Principal Search Committee and attended input sessions urging it to select a principal committed to climate sustainability, and we encouraged other alumni to join us. We hope these efforts helped steer them to you. Your role on the University of New Hampshire's leadership team when it adopted sustainability as a core principal of the university and your response to questions on the topic in the interview process reportedly stood out.
- We shared a leadership role in working with the faculty, EAC leaders and administration to establish a first ever Climate Action Day. We are proud of the day's success and pleased that we could help to make it happen.
- We advocated with Tom Hassan to upgrade the position of Sustainability Coordinator to a full-time position on the Principal's staff. That role had previously been half-time, then downgraded to quarter-time, but has since been re-instated as a half-time faculty position. While that will restore some support to student groups, it is insufficient to the challenges at hand.
- We supported the efforts of the students' Environmental Action Committee (EAC) in their efforts to engage and educate the student body about the serious nature of climate disruption. We even sent money to pay for pizzas when the EAC lost the resources to meet and eat as they had in the past.

These are a few of our initiatives. We intend to do more to speed the integration of sustainability in the life of Exonians, on campus and off.

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We ask: will Exeter truly take a leadership role among its peers in this area? We believe strongly that the school must raise the bar significantly for itself and its cohort schools. The Academy can and should be a showcase for how to address the urgent problems of climate disruption and how to integrate the issues and ideas of sustainability into curriculum, activities and operations.

We encourage and fully support all efforts to do so.

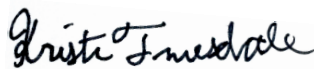
To help accomplish these ends, we offer the following initial suggestions:

- Upgrade the half-time sustainability role for student life and curriculum to a full-time sustainability officer on the Principal's staff who will implement the school's principles of environmental stewardship and coordinate with the team focused on the physical infrastructure and natural resources.
- Ensure that the students' Environmental Action Committee (EAC) has the resources and adult support it needs to engage the student body.
- Invite one or two members of the alumni/ae community to participate as members of PEA's Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC).

The obligation to combine goodness and knowledge for the benefit of the larger human community has always been the foundation of Exeter's excellence. As products of this philosophy, we are volunteering our collective expertise and shared passion to work with you, the new leader of the Exeter community, to advance Exeter's sustainability initiatives.

Each of us is eager to meet you in person once you begin and learn about your plans for the future of the school we love so dearly. Until then, we thank you for accepting the challenge of leading Exeter at this time and we look forward to your leadership and our future partnership in advancing sustainability at the best secondary school in the world!

Sincerely,



Kristen Truesdale, '15



Justin Landowne, '14



Sophie Robinson, '07



Alexander P. Lee, '93



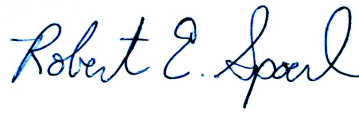
Chris Skoglund, '93



Eben James, '80



Susan S. Kaplan, '79



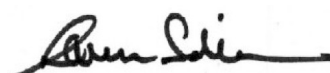
Robert E. Spoerl, '72



Granville Burgess, '65



Conrad L. Willeman, '64



Lawrence Silverman, '63



Joe Symons, '63