



# Friends School OF MINNESOTA

## Leadership Opportunity Statement

### INTRODUCTION

Friends School of Minnesota is an independent, K-8, Quaker, progressive school of 145 students in the heart of St. Paul, Minnesota. In the tradition of more than 80 Friends Schools across the United States, FSMN meets children's intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs in an environment that nurtures their social consciousness. Now in its 31st year, FSMN is a vibrant institution known for its rich commitment to progressive education, community, acclaimed conflict resolution program, and holistic, joyful approach to educating children. FSMN's mission is to prepare children to embrace life, learning, and community with hope, skill, understanding and creativity, and to the Quaker values of peace, justice, simplicity and integrity.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

FSMN's academic program is grounded in the belief that children learn best as active participants, collaborators, and problem-solvers within a community. Using an in-depth, thematic and interdisciplinary approach within a cooperative learning environment, the school teaches appreciation of multiple perspectives and fosters social skills. A focus on place-based education engages students in the local community and prepares them to be compassionate global citizens. Starting in kindergarten, environmental education and service learning are embedded throughout the curriculum, and specialists teach music, visual arts, physical education, and Spanish.

As a Quaker, progressive school, FSMN believes that our differences enrich our understanding of the world and deepen our educational experiences. FSMN's commitment to social justice is reflective and supported by an evolving analysis of equity and inclusion. Additionally, the school's nationally recognized conflict resolution program is an essential part of the culture of the school. The school actively teaches and models nonviolent, respectful techniques to solve the conflicts found in every community.

### FUTURE LEADERSHIP

The School Committee of Friends School of Minnesota is opening submissions for the position of Interim Head of School to serve a 2-year term, with the option of applying for the long-term Head of School position in 2021. The School Committee is seeking a leader who can:

- Establish a climate of stability, respect, and trust following a recent leadership change;
- Support the school community in fulfilling the mission of a Quaker-based and progressive education;
- Communicate in an open and transparent way;
- Increase effectiveness in attracting, hiring and retaining a diverse faculty and staff;
- Drive efforts to reflect on, and establish a collaborative leadership model among administrative staff;

#### FUTURE LEADERSHIP cont.

- Ensure members of the FSMN community of all backgrounds, identities, and perspectives have an opportunity to be heard and participate;
- Provide leadership to the school community as it continues to work collectively toward racial equity and social justice;
- Steward resources using sound budgetary management and in compliance with state, federal, and local grant management law and practices;
- Lead staff and standing committee members in re-envisioning a solid and productive advancement (development and fundraising) approach.

#### **Friends School of Minnesota seeks a leader who will embrace the mission of the school and possesses the following qualities:**

- Deep understanding of and commitment to progressive education;
- Commitment to the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality;
- Willingness to learn and use the Quaker collaborative decision-making process;
- Two or more years' organizational leadership experience (head or principal) in an elementary, middle, or lower school setting;
- K-12 teaching experience preferred;
- Demonstrated experience with change management;
- Experience managing a budget;
- Demonstrated experience promoting equity and inclusion within an educational setting;
- Demonstrated experience applying for, managing, and/or reporting on federal, state, and/or local grants;
- Effective administration of an educational institution's operations;
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and team-building skills;
- Sense of perspective and humor;
- Experience in resource development, fundraising, and/or donor relationship-building.

#### SEARCH PROCESS

Those interested in this position are asked to **submit the following materials by May 7, 2020** to the Clerk of the School Committee at: [sc-clerk@fsmn.org](mailto:sc-clerk@fsmn.org)

- 1) A cover letter addressed to the School Committee describing how the candidate's skills, experiences, expertise, and knowledge of the FSMN community are aligned with the position description and candidate qualities, described above; and
- 2) A resume or curriculum vitae

The School Committee will determine which candidates to consider for this position and interview those candidates by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with reference checks and a final decision to be made by May 19, 2020.