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***Salem Academy Hires New Executive Director***

Salem Academy Selects Stephanie Callahan for ED Post Following National Search

**SALEM, MA, February 27, 2021** — The Salem Academy Charter School (SACS) Board of Trustees voted Wednesday night, February 24, 2021, to appoint current Interim Executive Director, Stephanie Callahan to the permanent position. Callahan has served in an interim capacity since October 1, 2020, when she took over for retiring Executive Director, Kathy Egmont.

In a letter to the community, Board of Trustees Chair David Pabich wrote, "We have all seen Stephanie rise to the moment as she seamlessly stepped into the role as interim Executive Director in September 2020. It is not lost on any of us how challenging the past year has been. Stephanie has demonstrated steady, consistent and trusted leadership, even as she assumed tremendous new responsibilities amid an unthinkable complex and difficult time in education."

"As Interim Executive Director over what has been a very difficult year, Stephanie has not only provided steady leadership but also initiated new programs and professional development opportunities for the SACS team. After a nationwide search process that garnered interest in SACS from candidates from other regions of the United States, Stephanie separated herself in the course of the interview process. Certainly, her history with the school as dean, principal, and head of school gives her a very strong foundation to build upon. However, most encouraging to me was her excitement at the prospect of the future, moving into the new challenges of an executive director role, and the continued striving for excellence at SACS," added Rick Jones, Chair of the Board's Governance Committee.

"I am honored and excited about the opportunity to lead our incredible community in a new way. I am proud of what we have accomplished over the past 17 years and especially proud of how we have come together during the pandemic. The challenges and opportunities ahead are complex. I am fortunate to be part of a mission-driven team that is always focused on innovating and growing our program in service of our students." said Callahan.

Stephanie joined Salem Academy in 2007 and has since served as the Dean of Students, Lower School Principal, and Head of School over the past six years. Stephanie is passionate about education, is a strong and trusted leader, and has a deep understanding of the history and culture of Salem Academy.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor's degree from Boston University and a Master's degree in Education from Loyola Marymount University. She completed the Lynch Leadership Academy's Executive Leadership program at Boston College in 2014 and holds the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Licensure.

As the Executive Director, Stephanie will report directly to the Board of Trustees.

**ABOUT SALEM ACADEMY:** Salem Academy Charter School opened its doors to sixth and seventh graders in September 2004 with the promise to serve the diverse population of Salem. Through a unique integration of college preparatory classes with service to the community, Salem Academy's mission is to graduate informed, articulate, and proactive individuals of strong character. Today, Salem Academy has over 480 students in grades six through twelve. For more information, please visit [salemacademycs.org](http://salemacademycs.org).

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