November 2, 2010

Dear Members of the Lawrence Academy Community,

I am writing to let you know that Scott Wiggins has advised the Board of Trustees that he will not be seeking an extension of his contract when it expires in June 2012. The trustees accept Scott’s news with sadness, although we understand that he has arrived at this decision for several reasons, both personal and professional.

Scott is currently in his eighth year as Head of Lawrence Academy. He has accomplished a great deal during this period and the school has advanced in many areas including significant focus on our residential program, the expansion of the Ferguson Building which includes the new Richardson-Mees Performing Arts Center and the McDonald Library, proposed new faculty housing and the recent acquisition of the Cole property. The scope of an independent school Head’s job is complex and Scott has navigated those waters well, balancing his internal duties with the needs of our broader community. Most recently, Scott’s leadership was important in leading the Academy prudently through the uncertain economic environment.

In view of Scott’s decision, the Board of Trustees is in the preliminary phase of forming a search committee and hiring a consultant to guide us through the important process of finding a new Head of School. We are grateful for the advance notice that Scott has provided, as it allows us time to conduct an extensive and successful search for a new Head. This process will include thoughtful input from faculty, staff and trustees.

Scott has led the school ably through some very challenging times. We will be working with him over the next year and a half to advance our current initiatives and to continue to build on the strengths of the Lawrence Academy experience.

If you have any questions or thoughts you wish to share, please feel welcome to contact me.

Sincerely,

Albert B. Gordon, Jr. ’59
President, Board of Trustees
November 2, 2010

Dear Members of the Lawrence Academy Community,

One of the highlights of my life and career has been to serve as the head of school of Lawrence Academy these past seven and one half years and so it is with a grateful and satisfied heart that I notify members of the LA community that I plan to step down as head of school at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year.

Being a firm believer that serving as a head of a school for longer than 10 years works to deprive a school of fresh ideas and new leadership opportunities, I see the upcoming transition as a chance for both LA and me to continue to grow and evolve. Announcing my departure at this time allows Lawrence Academy ample time to institute a thorough and comprehensive search for a new leader. This timetable will be to the great benefit of Lawrence Academy. I look forward to participating in this process and continuing to serve as head of school for the next year and a half.

Susan and I feel privileged to have been able to lead LA these past seven and a half years. In addition to strengthening the residential program and helping LA develop a deserved identity as a highly regarded secondary boarding school, we have overseen the expansion and renovation of myriad campus spaces (library, theater, Route 119 fields complex) and we have worked to foster a culture of respect and collegiality both within our own community and the community at large in a world that trends in the other direction. LA is a remarkable school powered by extraordinary teachers, coaches, staff, and administrators. Susan and I are justifiably proud and fortunate to have been in the line of head families, 44 strong, who span a period in excess of 200 years!

Our thanks to each and every one of you who has supported us in our efforts to keep Lawrence Academy moving forward on the quest for educational and personal excellence. We look forward to filling out the rest of our term as the school readies itself for new ideas and new educational leadership.

Appreciatively,

D. Scott Wiggins
Head of School