

Diane Trygstad Wilcox  
1856 Ivanhoe Avenue  
Lafayette, California 94549

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I have known Jonathan Martin since he began his tenure at Saklan Valley School in 1999. During this time, I've been a parent at the school. For the past three years, I've worked with Jonathan as a Board Member, two of which as Board Chair. During the nine years Jonathan has been at our school, he has succeeded in accomplishing many things.

During his tenure, the school purchased our campus. Part of Jonathan's plan for raising the funds needed to purchase the campus was to show the potential of ownership by renovating the playground. The playground was financed through a silent capital campaign. Not only did the new playground give families a glimpse of the potential for owning our own school, it was a benefit to our students and was a highlight of admission tours.

Other important campus improvements were also made during Jonathan's tenure. A science lab was built, new middle school classrooms and decks were added, and a new sport court was constructed, all of which were significant upgrades that gave our middle school students a physical identity on campus. The science program has flourished.

Jonathan was instrumental in securing our CAIS reaccreditation. In 2004 the School received the maximum length term of accreditation renewal along with a report of commendations. Jonathan has worked with CAIS as both a team member and as a team leader in accrediting other independent schools. He has always been a strong liaison between our school and both CAIS and NAIS.

Jonathan helped forge the vision and the mission of our school through his work on our strategic plans in 2001 and 2007. He was instrumental in leading the committees which crafted both strategic plans. After the plans were ratified, his annual goals were always informed by the plans. Every year he reported on our progress in meeting our goals.

During his tenure, Jonathan made two important hires of young, enthusiastic teachers as consecutive Middle School Directors. During this time, the Middle School grew in enrollment. Additionally, both of these Directors grew as administrators and were able to use their experience at Saklan as a springboard for their careers. Jonathan's mentorship was important to these fine teachers.

Saklan has a comprehensive, user-friendly website. Jonathan has worked with our technology information personnel to continually improve the website. This website is a valuable resource to our community and an important reflection of our school to the external community.

Jonathan has always been an enthusiastic ambassador for our school both within the community and at CAIS/NAIS. His intelligence and insight are always evident in everything he does. He is a champion of independent education. During the last year, he was awarded a Klingenstein Visiting Fellowship from Columbia University Teachers College. This was a wonderful recognition of Jonathan's intellect, scholarship and his passion for education.

I wish Jonathan great success in his career ahead.

Sincerely,  
