

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the NMH Alumni Association

June 3, 2023

Welcome and Remarks by Brian H. Hargrove, Head of School

After a spirited processional led by the Celebration Brass Band at 3:35 pm, Head of School Brian Hargrove delivered welcoming remarks. Brian gave a warm welcome home to classes 1948 through 2018. He highlighted the mission of Northfield Mount Hermon to educate the head, heart, and hands of its students: "We engage their intellect, compassion, and talents, empowering them to act with humanity and purpose. Our mission relies on us as we all strive to live up to our values - inclusivity, learning for life, and service." Brian recalled attending the Reunion session on Citizenship and Service earlier that day, which reinforced for him how alumni are living the NMH mission. "I was overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude to be part of a place like this," he said.

Brian stated that we are at a time in history where we need to stand up for what we believe and embrace our values. Founded as a school for girls of limited means in 1979, the school has a strong tradition of standing up for those with the least. He called on us to live our mission to serve, lead, and stand up for what we know is right – stand up for the people who are pushed down and pushed aside: "That's the NMH way – and it's serious. Yes, this is a time to celebrate and be with friends but also a time to remember our purpose – 'our why'."

Brian stated that investments in our school continue. He highlighted the recently opened Gilder Center, which he said is one of the very best STEM facilities in the country, along with the renovated fitness center. Soon NMH will open another dorm. Brian spoke about the recently launched campaign to raise \$225 million, which will enable a continuation of investment in the school, including a significant increase in financial aid.

Brian continued: "Let us share our love and gratitude for one another. Keep dreaming. This school is one of the very best in the world. We can be proud of this but can't be complacent." He called on alums to advance NMH's mission -- come to NMH events, volunteer, help one another, and support our school. "NMH is strong, and we are getting stronger," he said. "Welcome home, know that you are loved. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Brian then recognized Board of Trustees members present: Board Chair Mariah Calagione, Class of 1989, Steve Gauster '88, and Ryan Vineyard '98. He also recognized Alumni Council President and Trustee Molly Goggins Talbot '93, P'21. He gave thanks to all the volunteers who spend hundreds of hours to support NMH with special thanks to the Alumni Council, especially Reunion Advisory Committee members. Brian turned the microphone over the Sarah-Anne Turner '08 for the Moment of Silence.

Moment of Silence by Sara-Anne Tanner '08

Sarah-Anne recalled the speech she made 15 years ago to the NMH community at her graduation, where she implored her fellow graduates to let their time at NMH be the foundation for whatever was coming next. She then gave an inventory of how her NMH experience has been an underlying support for her life over the years and for many deep experiences of head, heart, and hand across her life. In the moment of silence, she invited everyone present to consider in what ways NMH has been their foundation.

Additional Remarks from Brian H. Hargrove

After the Moment of Silence, Brian returned to the podium to recognize the class of 1973. He noted the “tumultuous” times during which they attended NMH, recalling that colleges and schools across the country were responding to world events with demonstrations and shutting down. During the class of ‘73’s time on campus, Northfield and Mount Hermon schools combined to become NMH. “I say this with love and respect. Northfield School for Girls was considered one of the very best schools for its academic program.” He said the school could have been torn apart during this time. And yet, the school came together to where we are today. He acknowledged the tremendous time, talent and treasure contributed by the class of 1973, which donated a Reunion gift of almost \$3 million to NMH.

Brian next recognized Molly Goggins Talbot ‘93, P’21 for her tremendous work as President of the Alumni Association and invited her to call to order the annual meeting of the NMH Alumni Association.

Call to Order by Molly Goggins Talbot ‘93, P’21, President of the NMH Alumni Association

Molly called the 2023 Annual Meeting of the NMH Alumni Association to order and invited those present to join in singing “Jerusalem.” She next called on Alumni Association Secretary Mary-Jane Atwater to come forward for Association business.

Association Business by Mary-Jane Atwater ‘66, P’96, Secretary of the NMH Alumni Association: Approval of 2022 Alumni Association Minutes and Election of Officers

Mary-Jane called for a motion to approve the 2022 Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Alumni Association. Several in the audience made the motion, which was seconded by a large chorus of alumni in attendance. The motion passed unanimously. Mary-Jane next noted that the NMH Alumni Association constitution requires that officers be elected at the Annual Meeting. Since Molly Goggins Talbot ‘93, P’21 has filled two terms as President of the Alumni Association and must roll off, the Alumni Council Nominating Committee has nominated current Executive Vice President Andrew Ness ‘04 to serve as President beginning July 1, 2023. Nominating Committee Chair Bill Rowe ‘93 then made a motion to elect Andrew as President. The motion was seconded by Brendan Mysliwec ‘04 and a chorus of others. The vote was unanimous to elect Andrew Ness as President. With Andrew Ness vacating the Executive Vice President position and Wendy Cohen ‘67 taking on that role, the Alumni Council Nominating Committee nominated Tracy Korman ‘81 to serve as Vice President. Nominating Committee Chair Bill Rowe ‘93 made a motion to elect Tracy Korman ‘81 as Vice President. The motion was seconded by Brendan Mysliwec ‘04 and a chorus

of others. The vote was unanimous to elect Tracy Korman '81 Vice President. Mary-Jane then invited Awards Committee Chair Eric Chatman '78 to come forward to present the Alumni Association Awards.

Alumni Association Awards by Eric Chatman '78, Chair of the Awards Committee

Eric made the following presentations:

Alumni Citations: Charles D. Kellogg '48, Katrina Craw Greger '58, Stephen A. Cone '68, Jennifer Kent '88, Stuart H. Papp '93, Allison M. Boyd '03

Young Alumni Award: Rachel S. Francklyn '13

Josie Rigby Spirit Award: David W. Torrey '73. Josie Rigby's husband, Robert Rigby, and son, Graham, joined Eric at the podium and presented this award in Josie's memory.

Community Service Award: Thomas O. Schmidt '73

Distinguished Service Award: Michael A. Hardy '73

William H. Morrow Award: Dennis Kennedy P'00, '03, '05. Dennis' wife, Mary, received the award on his behalf.

Lamplighter Award: Caroline N. Niederman '78

Eric invited Head of School Brian Hargrove to present the Head's Award.

Presentation of the Head's Award by Brian Hargrove, Head of School

Brian recalled that his predecessor Peter Fayroian established the Head's Award to recognize alumni who have dedicated themselves to serving NMH and its mission in exemplary ways. This year's Head's Awards went to two alumni leaders and former trustees for their commitment to the NMH mission and service to the school, both at the time of the consolidation and continuing to the present: Barbara Freedman '66 and Don Glascoff '63, P'12

Recognition of Molly Goggins Talbot '93, P'21 by Andrew Ness '04, President-elect

Incoming President Andrew Ness next offered his thanks to outgoing Alumni Association President, Molly Goggins Talbot, who has served on the Alumni Council for the past 30 years. Andrew noted that Molly joined the Young Alumni committee shortly after she graduated and has since served in a variety of capacities, including as a member of the Nominating Committee and Nominating Committee chair. She has also led the Alumni Council as Executive Vice President, President, and member of the Board of Trustees.

Andrew summarized Molly's tenure during which she worked alongside several heads of school and senior leaders in the Advancement office. She served during the consolidation to one campus. She also shepherded the Alumni Council through the COVID pandemic, and she saw her daughter graduate in 2021. Through what at times felt like constant change, Molly has remained even-keeled and a relentless advocate for alumni and the Alumni Association: "If you ever need to explain to someone what makes NMH, NMH. If you ever have trouble characterizing that elusive feeling that we all know and feel that exemplifies NMH and makes this place so special, simply introduce Molly." Andrew concluded by thanking Molly for her gift of time and energy and for giving him the example to follow of her outstanding leadership. Andrews remarks were followed

by the arrival of the costumed “Hogger,” who danced down the center aisle of the chapel to present Molly with roses and a special photo, a gift from the alumni body.

Announcements and Adjournment by Molly Goggins Talbot '93, P'21

Molly concluded the meeting at 4:45 pm and invited everyone to join in singing the “Northfield Benediction.” The Celebration Brass Band then led the recession.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Jane Atwater '66, P'96
NMH Alumni Association Secretary