SUFFIELD ACADEMY

November 8, 2026

Dear Suffield Academy Community,

The past several weeks have been extraordinarily difficult for Suffield Academy. I know that many of you have been hearing and reading troubling things about our school, about Charlie Cahn, and about the circumstances that have brought us to this moment. You have questions, and I recognize how frustrating and concerning it has been that we have not been able to provide many of the answers you want and deserve.

Today, I am writing to share that Charlie has officially resigned from Suffield Academy. In affirming his decision to the Board of Trustees, Charlie offered the following message to our community:

“To the Board of Trustees of Suffield Academy: I love Suffield Academy and am proud of what we have accomplished together during the past 22 years. After careful reflection, I have decided to step down to focus on my health. I believe this is the right decision for me and for the school community. It has been a privilege to serve Suffield, and I am grateful to our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and families. I am confident the school will continue to thrive under Casey Bobo’s leadership.”

This brings to a close a long and consequential tenure at our school, one that has ended suddenly and painfully, in ways none of us could have anticipated. Charlie dedicated much of his professional life to Suffield Academy. His contributions to this institution, and the relationships he built over so many years, are monumental. We can recognize those contributions while also acknowledging the deeply troubling circumstances precipitating his departure.

As a school, we have a responsibility to help our students process what has happened in a healthy and thoughtful way. We must help them understand that, even in moments of pain and uncertainty, there are people to turn to, there is support available, and there are healthy ways to navigate life’s difficult circumstances.

We also have a responsibility to help our students understand that compassion and accountability are not mutually exclusive.

We can have profound compassion for Charlie as a person, for the trouble he is experiencing, and for those who love and care about him, while still recognizing the seriousness of the circumstances that have brought us here.

We can care deeply about someone despite conduct that may be inconsistent with our values and expectations. And we can insist upon integrity and accountability without sacrificing our humanity or empathy.

I want to be clear about what we have shared up to today. We understand that the Internal Revenue Service is investigating Charlie, but we do not know its full scope, the specific charges (if any) that may result, or what will ultimately come of the inquiry. We balance disclosure of information against our legal obligation not to interfere with an ongoing government investigation and discretion about the deeply personal circumstances affecting Charlie and his family.

Upon learning of the investigation, Charlie left campus without notice and traveled to his home in Maine. He has not returned to campus.

Uncertainty is difficult, particularly for a school that strives to model integrity, sound judgment and the highest standards of ethical conduct for its students. These are not simply ideals we teach. They are expectations we must uphold ourselves, including when doing so is difficult.

Amid all of this, I want to share something that has become especially clear to me in these first weeks as Head of School: Suffield Academy is so much more than any one individual.

I see it in our students, who continue to challenge themselves and one another in classrooms, on athletic fields, on the stage, and throughout campus. I see it in our faculty and staff, whose care, professionalism, and commitment to our students have been remarkable. And I see it in our families, alumni and friends, whose affection for this school is rooted in something much larger than any moment in its history.

Our students are engaged, challenged and joyful. Our faculty and staff are supported and doing exceptional work. And the daily life of Suffield continues with the energy, purpose and sense of belonging that make this school such a special place.

Looking Ahead

I am deeply grateful to our Board of Trustees for its steady leadership during this difficult time, and for the confidence it has placed in me. The Board has approached these circumstances with seriousness and care, keeping the well-being of our students and the long-term strength of Suffield Academy at the center of its decisions.

I also want to speak personally about the responsibility I feel as I begin leading this school.

This is not how I expected to begin my tenure as Head of School. I had anticipated a thoughtful transition, with months to prepare, listen, learn and work alongside my highly respected predecessor. Instead, I have stepped into this role at a moment of uncertainty for our community.

But while the circumstances have changed, my commitment to Suffield Academy has not.

You can expect me to lead with integrity, compassion and sound judgment. You can expect me to listen carefully, ask difficult questions and make decisions guided by what is best for our students and this institution. And you can expect me to be present, accessible and engaged with our community as we navigate the months ahead.

Beginning next week, we will be holding special office hours for students, faculty and staff to express any concerns they may have, respond to any questions we can answer, and strengthen our community. We will also be hosting webinars for our extended community, including parents and alumni, to ensure they are part of the dialogue.

I know you will hold me accountable to these promises.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to finding opportunities to connect with more of you, to hear your perspectives and to share more about my priorities and aspirations for Suffield Academy. Our immediate focus must be on supporting our students, faculty and staff and ensuring the continued strength of our school.

There will be difficult conversations ahead. There may be more questions we cannot answer. And there will be moments when we must confront uncomfortable truths. But I believe deeply in Suffield Academy, in the people who make up this community, and in the future we can build together.

Thank you for your care for this school, for the grace you have shown one another during a difficult time, and for the trust you place in us every day.

I am grateful to be here, and I look forward to leading Suffield Academy into its next chapter.

Warmly,

Casey Hagerman Bobo
Head of School