



# COTTING SCHOOL

*Serving Children with Physical, Communication, and Other Challenges to Learning*

January 15, 2021

## OFFICERS

Michael K. Durkin  
*Chairman*

David W. Manzo  
*President*

Alexander Thorndike  
*Treasurer*

Lori Campana  
*Secretary*

## TRUSTEES

Julie W. Bennett

Henry W. Clark, Esq.

Timothy J. Connelly

David C. Cushing  
*Chairman Emeritus*

Patrick B. Downes

John F. Drake

Richard C. Keeley

Katherine Martien-Sullivan M.D.

Makeeba McCreary

Charles S. Morrison II

Stuart A. Randle

Joan I. Thorndike

## TRUSTEES EMERITI

Raymond L. Killian, Jr.  
*Chairman Emeritus*

Anne P. Ogilby, Esq.  
*Chairman Emerita*

David S. Lee  
*Senior Vice President Emeritus*

Charles T. Haydock  
*Treasurer Emeritus*

D. Eliot Klein  
*Secretary Emeritus*

Dear Members of the Cotting School Community:

On behalf of the Trustees of Cotting School I am pleased to announce that Bridget Irish has been named the 7th President of our school, effective September 1, 2021. Bridget will succeed David Manzo who has ably led our school since 2004. Our decision and a succession plan have been under consideration with the board leadership for some time.

Throughout its history, Cotting School has had the great fortune of wise and vigorous leadership. Bridget, hired in 2006, as the school's Chief Operating Officer, currently serves as both the school's COO and Vice-President. Our Board of Trustees is delighted that Bridget will become Cotting's seventh President. Over the past 15 years as our Chief Operating Officer, Bridget has worked to translate our vision for the school into a reality that benefits everyone affiliated with us. She has demonstrated strong leadership and will confidently build upon the school's long history of improving educational and therapeutic outcomes for students with special needs.

During her tenure as a senior leader at Cotting, Bridget has influenced advancements in all areas of strategic planning, including program, curriculum and instruction; staff development; research; fundraising; and infrastructure and operations.

A list of Bridget's recent accomplishments include: leading Cotting's COVID Response Team, working closely with Cotting's medical director and nursing team; coordinating our multiple campus enhancements, including our 25,000 sq. foot building addition which will be completed in August, re-envisioning and reopening HOPEhouse, Cotting's 5-day specialized boarding program for young adults, and working with the school's Trustees to develop key strategic initiatives.

Among the numerous examples of Bridget's leadership outside Cotting's walls include: leading Cotting's Consulting Services which provides direct services to more than 30 schools, co-chairing the MAAPS Conference, a gathering of more than 700 educators, and participating in multiple accreditation teams with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

I am deeply appreciative of Dave's 17 years of extraordinary leadership. I am confident that Bridget, Dave and our Trustees will work closely with our staff, our students, and their families toward a successful transition. In February, we will invite you to a Zoom Town Hall to learn more about our transition and Cotting's exciting future. In the meantime, please join me in congratulating Bridget.

Thank you for your continued support for Cotting School.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Durkin  
Chair, Cotting School Board of Trustees

*A Tradition of Innovation and Excellence Since 1893*

453 Concord Avenue, Lexington, MA 02421 | 781-862-7323 | [info@cotting.org](mailto:info@cotting.org)

[www.cotting.org](http://www.cotting.org)