BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENT

“City of Dallas’ Best Kept Secret Announces New Board of Directors for Dallas International School, Pivots from Only French to French Plus International Focus”

September 1, (Dallas, TX) -- Today, Tammy Cotton Hartnett, newly elected President of the Board of Directors at Dallas International School (DIS) announced the incoming Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The twenty-one member team elected by peers completed their all day governance training on August 29 and will lead the school in strategic planning that will focus on, “Building Our Institution.” The individuals vetted for this incoming cohort were elected in response to the need for collaborative talent that will move the school forward with strategic business partners, the City of Dallas, and The University of Texas at Dallas, developing a unique nonprofit business model that supports programming and upholds the DIS long term mission standards for diversity and inclusion. As recommended by the network of Independent Schools of the Southwest Association in July of this year, DIS acted swiftly and fulfilled the standards ahead of schedule.

“The City of Dallas’ best kept secret for a performative multilingual international school will be advanced with these forward thinking experienced leaders,” says Tammy Cotton Hartnett, President of the Board. “As Dallas continues to grow and attract multinational corporations, DIS will step up and lean in to lead this next generation of citizen focused students that make Dallas the international city it is.” Dr. Josep González, the newly appointed Interim Head of School from the Toronto French School agrees, “I’m delighted to work with these professional international board members who understand that, if you wish to develop unique, purpose-driven students, a challenging curriculum coupled with multilingualism is the best way to promote global citizenship and interculturalism as key skills and attitudes for success.”
Dallas International School is a private nonprofit school that educates children as young as two years old through 12th grade graduation on two campuses. The 30 year old school started as a French School on Preston Road and has made the dynamic shift to deliver international students a comprehensive program that currently represents 33 nationalities enrolled today. Students learn in French, English, Spanish, and add their fourth language in Mandarin Chinese or German as they advance. The curriculum focuses on the best of the French Baccalaureate accredited by the French Ministry of Education and the International Baccalaureate accredited by the IBO in Geneva, Switzerland while adhering to best standards of the Texas Education Agency. The sports team network through the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). DIS has strategic partnerships with SMU and UTD.

“No other school in Dallas offers a world renowned accredited advanced curriculum that gives parents the individual choice and freedom of living anywhere at any time while seamlessly educating their students with scholastic confidence. What a student might learn in a physical classroom in France, Canada, Mexico, China, Russia, Spain, Vietnam, Morocco, India, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and many other nations, they can also do here at Dallas International School,” says Tammy Cotton Hartnett. “The best decision I ever made was enrolling my three sons at age 3 in Dallas International School. As a former parent and Board President, you should be confident our new fiduciary board is committed to building the best international education has to offer."

DIS, previously recognized by the Washington Post as #24 in the nation for “America’s Most Challenging High Schools,” graduated seniors this year accepted to Baylor, Carnegie Mellon, College of William and Mary, Dartmouth, Duke, Fordham, Georgetown, Haverford, Johns Hopkins, Pomona, Rice, SMU, Texas A&M, Swarthmore, Trinity College Dublin, United States Air Force and Coast Guard, Texas Tech, MIT, UC Berkeley, UCLA, University of Edinburgh, University of Michigan, University of Texas at Austin and Dallas, University of Toronto, University of Warwick, and WestPoint. Extensive complete list available.

Dallas International School believes students have the right to an intellectually stimulating education in multiple languages, irrespective of their religion, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

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Tammy Cotton Hartnett, President

Tammy Cotton Hartnett is the incoming 2021-2022 President of the Board of Directors for Dallas International School. Tammy is a graduate of Baylor University with degrees in Russian/Slavic Studies and Political Science. She was appointed by the President of the United States to serve in the Department of Agriculture and the Interstate Commerce Commission. Tammy next served in the U.S. Department of Justice as a member of the executive team for the Attorney General. There she received her Top Security Clearance from the FBI and was awarded The Attorney General’s Highest Commendation for service rendered on behalf of the United States. Tammy worked on Capitol Hill with the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on former Soviet decolonization policies and later served as a lobbyist handling federal and state regulatory issues for tax and budget with two nonprofit research think tanks in Austin and Dallas. After moving to Dallas she served on numerous nonprofit boards in Dallas including TexProtects Child Protective Services and the Dallas Contemporary Museum. Tammy presently serves as the guest introductory speaker for the Harvard Club of Dallas in their distinguished lecture series and is an active member of the Dean’s Parent Council Board of Directors at UChicago, engaged in the development of a new research facilities campus in Paris, France. Tammy is an avid reader, a collector of contemporary art, and a global traveler. Tammy is married and has three sons, all of whom attended Dallas International School.

Sheila Kelly, Secretary

Sheila Kelly is the Director for the Terry Scholars Program in the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College at UT Dallas, where she has worked since 2013. From 2003-2013, Sheila worked at Dallas International School as the Director of Student Affairs, overseeing all student life outside the classroom. After obtaining a Masters of Public Affairs in 1991 from The University of Texas at Dallas, Sheila worked as Director of Operations for the Federal District Court, Office of the Clerk for almost ten years. She is a graduate of Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, where she received a Bachelors in English Literature. Sheila lived in Strasbourg and Angers, France, each for an academic year, and is fluent in French. She volunteered as a paralegal at the Texas/Mexico border for two years before returning to Dallas. Her three children attended DIS from preschool until high school and mastered French, Spanish, Mandarin and Arabic. Sheila also serves on the Board of Directors for Lone Star Circus.

Ed Ulbricht, Treasurer

Ed Ulbricht is a proven project manager with a successful track record in managing complex real estate developments. His portfolio of projects contain a wide variety of developments, new construction, renovations and re-locations. He is a Senior Executive
leader skilled in P&L Management, Strategic Planning and Business Development in
diverse environments.
Ed is known to be a resourceful, innovative leader with ability to build, mentor and
motivate teams to optimal performance while reducing risks.
During his seven-year tenure at the Amend Group, Ed held several executive level
management positions while building a project management organization that achieved
extraordinary performance results. His expertise includes program and operational
management, process development and implementation. His broad experience also
includes executive positions as Senior Vice President of Development, CICI Enterprises
and Director of Development, US Physical Therapy, and serving as Professor for the
College of Architecture at Texas A&M University. Ed is married and has two sons who
graduated from Dallas International School.

Thein Aung
Thein is the Co-Founder and Co-CEO with his executive partner and spouse Katie Aung
of GBC Food Services LLC, a sushi distribution company located in Dallas, successfully
operating in twenty states. From the capital of Yangon in Burma, Thein came to the
United States when he was twenty-one years old and later graduated from the
University of North Carolina in Business Management. Thein and his family are proven,
life-long, full-time, philanthropists who make it their mission to help special needs
children and those less fortunate. Thein and Katy have been heavily involved with the
capital improvements at the Churchill Way campus and have twin daughters currently
attending DIS and one older son. Thein’s interests outside the boardroom include
watching sports, deep sea fishing and vacationing with his family.

Sabine Bellet-Kerael
Sabine Bellet-Kerael is a French national with a finance background and is Senior
Director of Financial Planning and Analysis for Essilor of America. She is a
graduate from Neoma Business School in Reims, France and began her finance
career there with Rexel Holdings USA, Football Club Nantes Atlantique, Gillette,
and Duracell. She moved to Dallas in 2005 and currently serves as an officer on
the board of Alliance Francaise as Treasurer. Sabine and her husband have two
boys who attended DIS. Sabine represents the first legacy appointment on our
board, following in Alain Bellet's, her father's, footsteps in volunteer service to our
school.

Katy Russler Black
No stranger to DIS, Katy has four boys who all attended DIS before transferring and
graduating from Highland Park High School. Katy has a BA from Wisconsin University
and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Katy currently
serves as the Vice President and Chief of Staff for a home health care conglomerate
AccentHealth Care which oversees 30,000 employees in 25 states and focuses on
venture capital company acquisitions. Previously she served Tenet, Concentra, and
Spectrum Health where she honed her skills as a disciplined strategic thinker that builds
collaborative metrics to measure success within a clearly defined roadmap when
companies merge. Katy is a C-Suite leader who has lived and served on the Board of
Directors at an international school in Strasbourg, France and is uniquely qualified in Change Management and Strategic Planning.

**Veree Hawkins Brown**

Veree is a lifelong supporter of Dallas International School (DIS), a parent of a recent DIS graduate, and a committed volunteer to international education. Veree is a Dartmouth graduate and active alumni leader and has one daughter, nationally ranked as an Equestrian competitor, who is matriculating this fall to Dartmouth. Veree currently is a Registered Investment Advisor and has experience on highly functioning nonprofit boards, often serving in leadership and appreciates good governance. Veree has a unique and varied background that allows her to fully acknowledge the invaluable asset of great customer service and data analytics having worked at Sabre and Neiman Marcus and how those skills will work well at DIS. Veree has an undergraduate degree in English with a minor in Spanish and a MBA from Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Finance.

**Paola Tettamanzi Buckley**

Paola, a graduate of Georgetown University in History with a minor in English and continued her education at New York University with a Masters in Communication and Journalism. Paola attended the Lycée Français de New York (LFNY), and received her French Baccalaureate from the Académie de Caen. Paola is deeply involved with world-wide curricula and is a life-long learner. She currently serves as the Senior Lecturer and Advisor as well as the Director of the Study-In-France Program at Southern Methodist University (SMU). There, Paola worked with internship programs for French majors and minors designing in individualized programs for students who studied Medical French and Fashion French, and managed CCI Diplôme de français professionnel langues examens. Paola has served as a French and Italian interpreter for the US State Department and was assigned to the White House, the Pentagon and other government entities for high level US and foreign officials. Paola is a gifted public speaker and has served as a board member of the Alliance Française de Dallas since 2017. She has also led numerous capital campaigns and committees for multiple private schools in Dallas. Paola is fluent in four languages and is passionate about that value added proposition for language learners and is working on research with a team of professionals to publish findings.

**Lisa Darling**

Lisa has over 25 years of educational leadership experience and currently serves as the Head of School for Awty International School in Houston, Texas. Formerly, Lisa served as the President of the United World College in New Mexico and was Head of School at Wilmington Friends School in Delaware for 11 years. Before being appointed Head at Wilmington, she had served in various roles since 1988 including Business Manager, Assistant Head of School for Lower School, and Acting Head of School. Prior to her time at Wilmington, she worked at Friends’ Central School in suburban Philadelphia, where she worked as both Director of Library Services and Business Manager. She also served as the Director of the H.B. DuPont Library at Pomfret School in Connecticut before moving to Philadelphia. Lisa has held positions on the International Women’s
Forum and the National Association of Independent Schools. She holds a bachelor’s degree from George Fox College, a Master of Divinity in Education from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a master’s degree in library science from the State University of New York at Albany.

**Genevieve Desmond**
Genevieve has joined the board as the incoming President of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), an auxiliary at the School which supports the community spirit and raises funds through the Gala for identified needs of our students and teachers. Genevieve, a native of Detroit, Michigan, obtained her undergraduate degree from Villanova and her law degree from Wayne State University. Genevieve has practiced corporate law and served as an impressive District Attorney. Genevieve and her late husband have two daughters, one a recent 2020 graduate from DIS working on her engineering and French degrees at the University of Michigan and a current rising DIS high school junior. Genevieve stepped up to support our school in other times of need and is now taking on the invaluable role as parent volunteer and ambassador extraordinaire as PTO President.

**Dr. Josep González**
Dr. Josep González joined Dallas International School as Interim Head of School on August 1 this year. He comes to Dallas from the Toronto French School (TFS), located in Canada, where he led the executive team through a Strategic Plan and Master Plan. At TFS, Dr. González instituted performance management systems for teachers and leaders, and led the creation of a coherent citizenship program involving assemblies, mentorship sessions, and societies. Prior to his six years in Canada, Dr. González served as Head of The British School of Barcelona in Spain, where he contributed to the expansion of the school, as well as to the construction of sports fields and a new theater. Dr. González has also been a classroom teacher and head of modern languages and cultures at Eton College, as well as St. Paul’s School and Charterhouse, all located in the UK. He holds a BA in English Literature with French and Spanish from the University of Barcelona in Spain, and a MA in English and European Renaissance Drama from the University of Warwick in the UK and the Sorbonne in Paris, France. He received his Master’s in Educational Leadership from the University of Buckingham in the UK and a Doctorate of Philosophy in English Literature from the University of Oxford. Dr. González is fluent in Spanish, Catalan, French, English, and Italian. His sixth language is German and he has also pursued studies in Portuguese and Japanese, as well as Latin, ancient Greek and classical Hebrew. He has published several novels and has written a wide range of articles on education and cultural matters. Most recently, Dr. González was appointed Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes académiques by the French Government for his commitment as a distinguished academic who has decisively contributed to the development of French culture.

**Harry Gray**
An experienced DIS father of two recent graduates, both accepted to the US Military Academy of West Point, Harry has led by example with a BS from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Upon graduation he served as a commissioned
military officer with global logistics responsibilities in the Navy’s elite engineering warship construction. Post-service, Harry received his MBA from Columbia University in NYC as a Bibeault Scholar where he began as general manager in areas focused on strategy consulting, corporate finance, private equity and M&A. Recently, for the past five years at a Wind Point Portfolios Company, Harry has served as President of AVT and Global Operating for construction, infrastructure and emergency repair of critical infrastructure. Harry is a Resident Fellow and Lecturer at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Sadie Imam
Sadie is the Senior Division Manager for Relypsa, now Vifor Pharma, which is a leader in iron deficiency, nephrology and cardio-renal therapies. In her capacity as a leader in previous biopharmaceutical sales in London and New York City at Boehringer Ingelheim, Quintiles, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Organon, and Eli Lilly and Company, Sadie often acted as the executive training manager for new hires and as a change agent when companies merged. Sadie obtained her BS in Psychology from The University of Wolverhampton in the UK whose 87 million endowment focused on innovation and opportunity. Sadie has one recent 2021 DIS graduate now studying at UCLA and a rising Senior. Her passion as a cultural New Yorker shaped her abilities to identify the human capacity for resourceful innovation and identify key leadership in change management.

Ghassan Kozah
Ghassan grew up in Beirut, Lebanon where he attended a French MLF school from Kindergarten through graduation at twelfth grade. Ghassan holds university degrees in engineering and management. He has been active in real estate investment, including US land development in Texas, as well as a consultant for Group Vendôme-Rome, Paris. Currently, Ghassan is splitting his time between Dallas and Lebanon, where he is working with startup companies affected by the Lebanese financial collapse, and teaching scuba diving. Ghassan and his late wife Tracy were active parents engaged with the growth of DIS, beginning in 1993 to his continued service today.

Rachel McCormick, PhD
Rachel is currently the Consul General of Canada to the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. In this capacity she represents the Government of Canada in advancing trade and investment linkages, engaging elected officials and with decision makers on policy matters pertaining to bilateral relations. Prior to her appointment here in Dallas, Rachel served in the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Head of the Energy and Environment Section in the Canadian Embassy, and at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. She has degrees in Economics and Land Use Management from The University of Saskatchewan and a PhD in Environmental Science from The University of Calgary. Rachel has served at international schools around the world and is married to a retired Naval Officer and has two daughters currently attending DIS. Rachel serves as an active board member of the European Chamber of Commerce of Dallas. Rachel’s
skillset in international negotiations and collaboration along with her extensive professional networking capabilities will serve the board well.

Nate Sung
Nate is a business executive with twenty years of proven strategic growth leadership in senior operations, finance and marketing, having been trained at McKinsey & Company. Nate is currently the COO of TruAura Beauty and Two Chicks and a Hammer featured on the HGTV show Good Bones and previously led executive operations at Pizza Hut and Lennox International. Nate obtained a BA in Biology from Johns Hopkins University and later received his MBA from Columbia University in NYC. Nate served nine years in the US Army as a commissioned officer and helicopter pilot. His awards for service and merit include the Bibeault Scholar, IBM Watson Memorial Scholar, Robert C. Byrd Scholar, and the President’s Trophy. An accomplished concert violinist, Nate has performed under Seiji Azawa and has volunteered in strategy for the Dallas Theater Center, Dee and Charles Wyly Theater, Dallas Symphony, Richardson Symphony and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. He currently serves as an elder at a Presbyterian Church, is a world traveler with over 54 countries visited, and a philanthropic humanitarian. Nate is married to a licensed clinical counselor in private practice.

The Honorable Jason Villalba
Jason is a financial lawyer in Foley & Lardner LLP corporate practice in Dallas. He focuses his practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, venture capital, private securities and general corporate law. Previously, Jason served in the House of Representatives at the Texas Legislature for District 114 in North Dallas. There, he served on Economic Development, Business and Industry and Environmental Regulation committees. Jason currently serves the greater community as a board member and Secretary for GrowthSouth Fund and is on the Development Committee for the Dallas Zoo and Dallas Children’s Trust. Jason obtained a BBA from Baylor University and a JD from The University of Texas at Austin. Jason will serve the board well with Legal, Legislative Initiatives, and Development Committees.

Jay M. Vogelson, Governance Committee Chair
Jay currently serves as an independent arbitrator in complex international disputes and securities cases. Responsible for litigation and international law practice at Stutzman, Bromberg, Esserman & Plifka, P.C. in Dallas, Texas for more than 20 years and has been in private practice since 1966. A graduate of Lehigh University and New York University School of Law, Jay has represented domestic and foreign companies including individuals, countries and universities in a wide variety of business law areas, primarily in antitrust, patent, securities and international law. Jay served on Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy’s Honor Law Graduate Program in the US Department of Justice and was appointed by the US Department of Justice to serve on the President’s Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Jay has also served on the Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee on International Law; Represented American Bar Association (ABA) at United Nations (UN); and is a member of the American Law Institute and Council on Foreign Relations. Jay’s career has led to volunteer service at the ABA’s Section of International Law and Standing Committee on
World Order Under Law; ABA activities celebrating 50-anniversaries of UN founding and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He has served on the joint US, Canada and Mexico’s Committee on Dispute Resolution under NAFTA; Co-founder of the Arab Legal Institute in Cairo; and provided technical legal assistance to troubled states primarily in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Jay is affiliated with Professor Louis B. Sohn, Bemis Professor of International Law, Harvard Law School on public international law projects dealing with law of the sea and UN and international environment subjects. He is a member of the first US and Iranian government approved delegation to Iran and was Adjunct Professor of Antitrust Law and Public International Law at SMU’s Dedman School of Law. By appointment of Texas Governors Ann W. Richards and George W. Bush Jay served as Vice Chair for the Texas Commission on the Arts and a member of the Texas Committee on the Humanities. A humanitarian legal scholar, Jay was instrumental in establishing the Dallas International School with founding members.

MLF Director General, Paris, France

Sylvie Esparre, MLF Treasurer, Paris, France
Sylvie currently serves as Treasurer of the MLF, a non-profit association sponsored by the French Ministry of Education with a worldwide network of 111 educational establishments, educating more than 61,000 students in 36 countries. Sylvie was appointed to the Board of Auditors sworn in by H.S.H. the Sovereign Prince of Monaco. Sylvie was formerly a Senior Counsellor at the French Court of Auditors and is now an Honorary Senior Counsellor at that Court.

Alexis Andres, French Consulate General, Houston, Texas
Alexis has been Consul General of France in Houston since September 1, 2017. He has a master’s degree in history and is a graduate of the Institute of Political Studies in Strasbourg. Alexis also studied at the University of Missouri in St Louis. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after graduating from the National School of Administration in 2001 and was later stationed at the French Embassy in Hanoi, Berlin and most recently in Algiers, as advisor for cooperation and cultural action. He was also sub-prefect of the district of Lunéville. Born in 1972 in Epinal in the Vosges, he is married and the father of 6 children.

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