

Meet our COVID-19 Advisory Board:



So, although it seems that this period of social distancing is ongoing through May, what happens when campus reopens?

We all look forward to the day when we can return to campus and of course, we are all hopeful that will be soon but as you can see from watching the news, our return to normal may look different for all of us and as always, the safety and health of your children is our first priority. I am pleased to announce that HMS has formed a COVID-19 Advisory Board that will work with our faculty and administration, as well as with guidance from the local department of public health, CDC guidelines and best practices of independent schools to examine all of our policies, procedures and the campus itself to ensure that our students are well taken care of, academically, socially, emotionally *and in terms of their health*. I am pleased to announce the members of our new advisory board:

Peggy Dupuy-Peggy Dupuy is the retired Director of Finance and Operations for The Altamont School and she will be bringing her expertise in risk management and school operations to the board. Peg already serves on our HMS Board of Directors and has worked in independent schools for decades.

Stewart D. Waddell, M.D-Dr. Waddell is a child psychiatrist in Birmingham, Alabama that has been in practice for decades. His two stepchildren attended HMS and he bring his expertise with child psychiatry to the advisory board. With likely new polices in place to keep our students healthy and well, we will look toward Stewart for expertise in keeping our students feeling strong emotionally during this

transition back into campus learning. With new protocols likely in place which could include social distancing, lunches in smaller groups or daily temperature checks for faculty, Stewart will be an invaluable resource to helping us find the right words and the right way to explain these changes to our students. Mental health is just as important as physical health during this transition and to have the resource of a child psychiatrist will be an asset. Dr. Waddell has been on the HMS Board for over 3 years and we are proud he can assist us with this implementation.

Michael Wilensky, M.D.-Michael is a practicing cardiologist in the Birmingham area with 3 children and one stepchild, who attended HMS. He brings expertise regarding best practices in health but will also give particular guidance regarding the implementation of sports and recreation and ways we can continue with our competitive leagues and other events so that our community remains as healthy as possible. As much as possible, we want life to return to normal for the kids.

Clara Chung, MD, MPH: Clara Chung, MD, MPH-Clara Chung is a past HMS Board President, past HMS Executive Director and a current pediatric allergy and immunologist in Birmingham with a Masters in Public Health. She has also served on the board of Indian Springs School and brings her expertise about public health, schools' best practices during this time period and pediatric considerations to the board. We are excited to have her input and appreciate her guidance during this time.

Martin Rodriguez, M.D.-Martin is an Infectious Disease physician at UAB and will assist us with staying current with trends in healthcare as related to the COVID-19 crisis, re-emergence of cases in the fall or winter and steps that should be taken during these possible outbreaks. Since he works on the frontline of infectious disease in Birmingham, his insight will be invaluable.

Cindi Stehr and Dama Nichols-Cindi Stehr and Dama Nichols will also be serving on the advisory board in their roles as Early Childhood Director of Programming and Elementary/Middle School Director of Programming, as well as myself as Head of School. To have the input of the faculty that know our school culture best and the needs of our students in particular will also be invaluable as we plan for a smooth return to campus.

We look toward to the day we can return to campus and as a newly formed advisory board, we will ensure your child is safe, happy and healthy during their transition back. We hope this day will come soon and when it does, we will be ready. As we continue to monitor the decline in cases and receive direction from local officials when we can reopen the physical campus, we will keep you informed. We hope you are as excited as we are about our new advisory board.

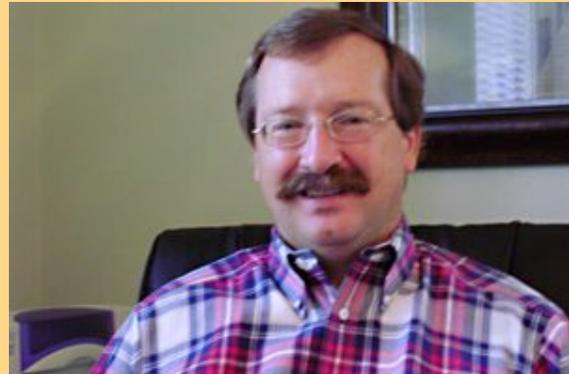
Michele Wilensky

Head of School

Meet our COVID-19 Advisors! We are so fortunate to have so much support in the Birmingham community:



Michael Wilensky, M.D.



Stewart D. Waddell, M.D.



Clara Chung, M.D, MPH



Martin Rodriguez, M.D.



Peggy Dupuy, Retired Director of Business

Cindi Stehr, Director of Early Childhood Programming

Dama Nichols, Director of Elementary/Middle School Programming



and Operations, The Altamont School

Michele Wilensky, Head of School

