

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA—June 28, 2004—The Board of Trustees of The O’Neal School announced today that its search for a new Headmaster has concluded with the naming of John Neiswender to that post. Mr. Neiswender will be joining The O’Neal School after distinguished service as Headmaster at both The Pingry School of Martinsville and Short Hills, New Jersey, and the La Jolla Country Day School of La Jolla, California—two of the top independent schools in the nation. He has also served The Bullis School of Potomac, Maryland, The Kinkaid School of Houston, Texas, and Erskine College in South Carolina.

Mr. Neiswender earned a B.S. in Mathematics from Furman University, a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of South Carolina, and he completed all coursework toward a PhD in Education at the University of South Carolina and the University of Houston. Mr. Neiswender has an impressive track record of success as a leader in the world of independent education that spans more than thirty years.

Although he will be available to the School throughout the coming academic year for consultation and special events, with the new Headmaster having been selected, Jay St. John has requested the opportunity to devote greater attention toward his transition to a new post in independent education. The Board and the entire school community thank Mr. St. John for his extraordinary contributions to O’Neal and wish him well in all future endeavors.

With these developments, the Board of Trustees has appointed Mrs. Alice Robbins Interim Headmistress. Mrs. Robbins has served O’Neal School over the years in several capacities including teacher, Head of Upper School, member of the Board of Trustees, and College Admissions Counselor. She graduated cum laude from Sweet Briar College and earned a Masters in Education from North Carolina State University.

Also announced is the appointment of Emilie Simeon as Head of Middle School and Dean of Academic Affairs. Mrs. Simeon has most recently served as Associate Headmaster at the Whitefield Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, Mrs. Simeon also has more than thirty years of distinguished service as an educator. With a B.S in Special Education from Winthrop College and a Masters of Education specializing in Exceptional Children from the University of South Carolina, Mrs. Simeon has served as Director of Exceptional Children for Forsyth County Schools, Regional Coordinator for Exceptional Children at the North Carolina Department of Public Education, Principal of Walkertown Elementary School in Winston-Salem, NC, and she has held numerous teaching and administrative positions in public and private schools where she specialized in both academically gifted students and students with learning challenges.

Ms. Simeon is licensed or certified as a Curriculum Instructional Specialist, Exceptional

Children's Program Administrator, and Principal, as well as a teacher of English, Middle Grade Language Arts, Elementary Education, Mentally Handicapped Children, Children with Learning Disabilities, and the Academically Gifted. Ms. Simeon will begin her new role at The O'Neal School during July of 2004.