Valedictorian Graduation Remarks

First and foremost, I would like to thank Mr. Kari Loya, the Trustees including Mr. Harper who is with us today, faculty members, and all of the families able to join us this evening... I know I can speak for all of us when I say how thankful we are for our families. These past years have presented us with many ups and downs and it is safe to say that none of us would be here today without the continuous, loving support from our parents- so thank you mom, dad, and the rest of my family here today for everything.

I’d also like to thank Mr. Sinfield who was the big “Boss man” on campus for many of us before leaving island last summer. We all share a debt of gratitude to him for his steady hand over the years and I’m sure Mr. Loya will have great success in continuing to grow the school in many dynamic and wonderful ways... So please... a round of applause for both Mr. Sinfield and Mr. Loya.

It has been an honor for me to learn and grow alongside some of the funniest, most caring, and entertaining individuals I’ve ever met... Many of us have grown up together on this island... some of us have even been in school together since pre-k... This unique educational experience has allowed us to grow as a single unit... as a family...

I will always remember the tight knit structure of the school... specifically my involvement with Coach Amy as her TA helping her with her younger students... this sense of community that Good Hope Country Day allowed me to experience by interacting with kids half my age is one of the things I am truly grateful for... It’s what we’re all grateful for... And to any highschoolers in the audience tonight— whether you have one or two or three years left—cherish them—make the best of them—as they really do slip away from you.

Now, I’m not here to give profound advice or solve world problems but the one thing I do know is that being able to adapt while remaining steadfast and resilient is your best shot at success......

The businessman Robert Gallagher once said that change is inevitable – except from a vending machine.... And as we stand here, on the brink of moving onto bigger and better things, change WILL be inevitable, but we must not be afraid to embrace it. It is inevitable that the norm will be shifted, and that we will be forced to adapt and it is with great pride that I am able to say that the class of 2016 is fully capable of not only dealing with this change but also thriving because of it...

So congratulations to my classmates- stay resilient, and as Ms. Baker and Mr. Summerhayes always say before every weekend— drive fast, and don’t wear a seatbelt.