



WILLISTON

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

19 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027
www.williston.com

March, 2020

To Members of the Easthampton Community,

The Williston Northampton School takes great pride in its commitment to the Easthampton community. As an educational institution and one of the largest employers in the City of Easthampton, Williston supports the city in numerous ways, including direct financial contributions, donations of goods and equipment, use of campus space and facilities, support of civic events and organizations, and donations of time by our faculty, staff, and students. In order to keep the community apprised, on an annual basis, the school presents this letter, which includes detailed information regarding the various ways in which Williston aids Easthampton and other local communities.

Like most nonprofit organizations, Williston needs to maintain a balanced and sustainable annual operating budget. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting budget pressures on the school, our administration and Board of Trustees remain committed to providing financial assistance to local groups and to making available the school's facilities to local organizations that can benefit from their use.

In the last few years, there have been significant construction projects at Williston to develop new residential space for students and faculty that are the result of almost twenty years of planning. The school has made a focused effort to utilize local sub-contractors and suppliers for these projects, whenever possible. Williston has paid over \$100,000 in fees and permits to the City for these construction projects. As part of this project, Williston paid for the replacement and upgrades to the City's water line between Park Street and Main Street, repaved a large section of Main Street, and replaced a number of concrete sidewalks as part of this work.

For the 2018-2019 school year, Williston served the educational needs of 417 high school students (grades 9-12) and 74 middle school students (grades 7-8) for a total of 491 students. The school provided jobs for 194 full-time employees and 82 part-time employees, including tutors, specialized music teachers, and coaches. With such an extensive operation, the economic impact on Easthampton and the surrounding area is significant. For example:

- ◆ In the 2018-19 fiscal year, Williston had a total payroll of approximately \$11,473,690. Of that amount, 49% (\$5,622,108) went to Easthampton residents.
- ◆ During the last fiscal year, Williston's regular operations purchased approximately \$1,402,187 in goods and services from businesses in the city of Easthampton and the town of Southampton.
- ◆ In 2018-19, 52 Williston high school and middle school students lived in Easthampton, Southampton, and Westhampton. That group received financial aid awards totaling \$1,618,587. By comparison, 7 students from families that reside on the Williston campus avail themselves of the public school system.
- ◆ The school paid approximately \$81,625 for water bills and sewer charges.
- ◆ Over the past year, Williston paid \$3,808 in fees and permits for regular projects and construction. As noted previously, with the extensive new construction, Williston paid fees and permits to the city in excess of \$100,000.



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- ◆ Williston employees who reside on campus pay excise taxes to the City of Easthampton on approximately 94 vehicles.
- ◆ Over the years, Williston has made a concerted effort to bring groups to campus that will provide additional activity and commerce within the city of Easthampton. For instance, during the summer months, the school contracts with a number of athletic camps and academic programs, bringing approximately 2,000 campers, coaches, students and parents to Easthampton. The Williston Theatre is used by local theater groups, offering classes as well as performances open to the public.
- ◆ Families of students, Board of Trustees members, and other visitors to campus attend regular campus events which helps to support the local economy through their patronage of Easthampton businesses.
- ◆ The Williston Northampton Sammy Card is now accepted at numerous restaurants and stores in Easthampton, generating significant additional business. During the 2018-19 school year, Williston students spent an additional \$126,242 on the Sammy Card in local Easthampton restaurants. This does not count the other purchases made by students using a personal card or cash.
- ◆ Williston's Children's Center currently enrolls a total of 53 children; 27 are from Easthampton. The remaining 26 children are from Southampton, Northampton, Florence, Hatfield, Williamsburg, Huntington, Whately, Hatfield and Feeding Hills. Additionally:
 - The Children's Center accepts vouchers from the MA Department of Early Education and Care to make early childhood education more affordable. We currently have 3 families who use a voucher to pay for childcare.
 - We employ 13 educators – 4 are graduates of Easthampton High School and Hampshire Regional High School. We also currently employ one Easthampton High School student in a work study program.
 - Together with the families, the Center hosts a community day of service each year, in conjunction with the Easthampton city-wide clean-up day to clean a section of the bike path, though this will likely be suspended this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - We continue to help organize an early childhood teachers' cohort to support the needs of early childhood educators in Easthampton and the surrounding area.
 - The Director of the Children's Center is on the Preschool Enrichment Team steering committee and the Greenfield Community College Education Advisory Board. Both groups work to support the professional development of early childhood educators in Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire and Hamden counties.
 - The Children's Center director is a part of the Western MA Director's Group—a group of Early Childhood Program Directors who meet monthly to work on advocacy, problem solving and collaboration for the field.

Williston's administration consistently strives to stay in contact with local groups to assess community needs and contribute time, services, facilities, and funds when appropriate. Here is a listing of the various forms of support provided by Williston to the local community:



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- ◆ Over the last 13 years, Williston has aided the city in its support of the Emily Williston Library with contributions totaling \$160,000.
- ◆ Recently, Williston provided the use of a van to the Community Center, as well as the cost of the gas to run that van. The van was needed to deliver food to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. This van is completely at the disposal of the Community Center to address the overwhelming needs of the community.
- ◆ Williston is proud of its continuing cooperative efforts in helping to establish the Easthampton Learning Foundation (ELF). Over the past two decades, the school has contributed more than \$50,000 to the Foundation.
- ◆ Working with the city, Williston created and continues to maintain the public park on Railroad Street that features original artwork by local and national artists.
- ◆ In the past year, Easthampton Parks & Recreation Department received a discount of \$2,900 for 20 hours of ice time for public skating, and Easthampton High School received a discount of \$3,010 for 53 hours of ice time.
- ◆ The Easthampton Police Department received 30 hours of free ice time at an overall value of \$6,450.
- ◆ For five years, ice time at Lossone Rink has been donated as the site for the annual fundraising event for the KEVS Foundation. This benefit was organized by the Easthampton and Northampton Police Departments Shields of Hope.
- ◆ Williston contributed \$15,000 to the Riverside Industries Window Campaign.
- ◆ Williston donated 15 laptops to Riverside Industries for their “Yes Abilities” program.
- ◆ Williston students raised \$6,408, representing 5% of proceeds earned at the Student Café (StuBop) and donated \$3,330 to Riverside Industries and \$3,188 to the Easthampton Community Center.
- ◆ Working with the City, Williston paid for and installed solar School Zone Blinker Speed Limit signs on Park Street and Payson Avenue. Both Williston and city officials have readily acknowledged the positive impact these signs have had in helping to slow the traffic on that very busy street.
- ◆ Williston contributed \$15,000 to Cooley Dickenson Health Care in support of the Emergency Department Renovation Fund.
- ◆ In the school’s admission view book distributed to alumni and parents, Williston promotes Easthampton as a great place to visit, enjoy the many restaurants and shop.
- ◆ In 2016, Williston donated a 14’ Defender soft-sided inflatable, hard bottom rescue boat, fully equipped with rescue gear for 6 police/fire personnel.
- ◆ In 2017, Williston donated \$10,000 to the City’s Police and Fire Departments to aid in the purchase of “Active Shooter” equipment.
- ◆ In 2018 Williston donated \$10,000 to the Easthampton Park and Rec Department.
- ◆ In the past, the school has also made contributions to the following local groups/organizations:
 - Easthampton City Arts
 - Easthampton High School “We The People” trip to Washington D.C.
 - Distinguished Young Women of Easthampton



- Welcome to Easthampton Sign Fund
 - The Easthampton Community Center
 - The Easthampton Rotary and Lions Club
 - The Easthampton EDIC Annual May Clean-Up Day
 - The Easthampton Winter Fest
 - Easthampton Police Department
 - Easthampton Fire Department
 - The Hampshire Community United Way
 - The Easthampton Toy Fund
 - Easthampton Holiday Lighting Fund
 - The Easthampton Rod & Gun Club for Children's Fishing Derby
 - The Easthampton Basketball Association
 - The Easthampton High School Parents' Council
 - The Easthampton High School Diversity Club
 - Easthampton "Give 'Em the Bird" road race
 - Easthampton High School Hockey Team
 - Easthampton Youth Soccer
 - Easthampton Citizen's Scholarship
 - William E. Norris School, Southampton
 - Easthampton Little League
 - Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail
 - Hampshire Regional Chamber of Commerce
 - The Garden: A Center for Grieving Children and Teens
 - Riverside Industries Annual Taste the Arts Silent & Live Auction
 - Riverside Industries 50th Anniversary Celebration
 - Pascommuck Conservation Trust
 - The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
- ♦ Williston's facilities, i.e., dining commons, meeting rooms, swimming pool, gymnasium, playing fields, track, tennis courts, parking lots and hockey rink, continue to be used by many local groups. In all instances, fees that would normally be charged were either waived or significantly reduced for local groups. The following is only a partial list of local groups that have used Williston's facilities:
- Easthampton Public Schools
 - Easthampton Helping Hand Society
 - Easthampton Basketball Association Suburban League
 - Easthampton Youth Soccer
 - Easthampton Little League
 - Mickey Mantle Youth Baseball
 - Cal Ripken Youth Baseball
 - Easthampton Park & Recreation Department
 - Easthampton Police Department
 - Easthampton Fire Department
 - Easthampton Big Rig Day
 - Hampshire County Sheriff's Department
 - The Red Cross for annual blood drives
 - Special Olympics of Massachusetts



- Northampton Community Rowing
 - Easthampton Chamber Annual Forum
 - St. Phillips Episcopal Church
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- ◆ Williston employees serve on committees and volunteer their time for a variety of civic and charitable entities including the Easthampton School Committee, Easthampton Learning Foundation, Easthampton Dollars for Scholars Board, Easthampton Little League Board, Suburban Youth Basketball, Easthampton Youth Soccer, the Red Cross, and the Emily Williston Library.
 - ◆ Since the closing of the Whitebrook Middle School swimming pool thirteen years ago, the Williston swimming pool continues to be used for practices and home swim meets for the Easthampton High School swim team at no cost to the City.
 - ◆ Working with the Greater Easthampton Chamber of Commerce, Williston initiated, and now hosts and fully funds an annual breakfast event each June.
 - ◆ The Williston community has always been proud of its many years of support for the Kiwanis Club and subsequently the Easthampton Spirit Committee in making the school's Galbraith Fields available for annual fireworks. Should this event ever be revived, Williston stands ready to support whatever group might initiate these festivities.
 - ◆ Williston is a contributor to the "Thunder in the Valley Festival & Easthampton Fireworks" at Millside Park, whose proceeds benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Baystate Children's Hospital.
 - ◆ For 15 years Williston offered the center campus quad as the destination and gathering place for the city's annual Rag Shag Parade. This effort helped to promote safety and eliminate traffic congestion at the rotary in the city center. If, in the future, there is a desire to once again use the campus for this event, the school stands ready to help.
 - ◆ Throughout the year, the school provides art gallery exhibits as well as writer and photographer presentations that are free and open to the public, these events draw visitors to campus and the local community.
 - ◆ Williston assists with plowing and policing all of the city roads running through the campus.
 - ◆ Williston is a contributor to Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail as well as providing upkeep for the Manhan Rail Trail by mowing and cleaning a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile section of the trail, as well as snow removal in the winter from the hockey rink all the way to Ferry Street.
 - ◆ Williston's Phillips Stevens Chapel has been the site of a number of civic events, including the kick-off event for Easthampton's 225th Anniversary Celebration, as well as mayoral debates. This venue is available for important civic events when needed.
 - ◆ Working in conjunction with the city's Park & Recreation Department, Williston hosted a children's triathlon "Just TRYAN IT", a non-profit that raises money to support families dealing with pediatric cancer. In addition to providing the facilities – pool, fields, cross country course and track, Williston employees and students volunteered their time for this worthy cause. All proceeds from this event go directly to local families.



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The Williston Northampton School continues to be a responsible, integral member of the City of Easthampton community. This substantive civic support and involvement demonstrate a serious commitment on the part of the Williston Board of Trustees, the administration, and the school's employees. The school understands its efforts are important to many local organizations, the local economy, the City of Easthampton and immediate region. We are grateful for the community's regular support and insight as the school and the city continue their mutually supportive partnership.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Hill III
Head of School

Charles B. McCullagh Jr.
Chief Financial Officer