



March 2022

To Members of the Easthampton Community,

As was the case during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the outstanding collaboration between the Williston Northampton School and the City of Easthampton is evident in many ways. There are multiple examples of continued work and mutual support between Williston and the Mayor's Office, the Easthampton Police Department, Fire Department, Health Department, Building Department, and Planning Department, among others.

Williston takes its civic responsibilities very seriously, as one of the largest employers in the city. The school has focused its charitable endeavors, more than ever, to meet needs specifically in Easthampton. In order to keep the general community updated, the school presents this annual letter, which provides detailed information regarding the various ways Williston has supported and continues to support activities in Easthampton and other local communities in the past 12 months, as well as on an ongoing basis.

Like most nonprofit organizations, Williston needs to maintain a balanced and sustainable annual operating budget. Despite the unprecedented challenges of the past few years, our administration and Board of Trustees remain committed to offering financial assistance to local groups and to making the school's facilities available to local organizations whenever possible.

Significant building projects continue at Williston with the planning of a science facilities renovation and dining facilities renovation, to name two upcoming improvements. These projects help employ many local people and provide business to local vendors. Permitting and fees for these and other projects support the Easthampton Building Department.

For the 2020-21 school year, Williston served the educational needs of 389 high school students (grades 9-12) and 69 middle school students (grades 7-8) for a total of 458 students. The school provided jobs for 197 full-time employees and 78 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 2020-21 fiscal year, Williston had a total payroll of approximately \$11,841,456. Of that amount, 60% (\$7,083,714) went to Easthampton residents.
- ◆ During the 2020-21 fiscal year, Williston's regular operations purchased approximately \$916,506 in goods and services from businesses in the City of Easthampton, and the towns of Southampton and Westhampton.
- ◆ In 2020-21, 60 Williston high school and middle school students were residents of Easthampton, Southampton, and Westhampton. That group received financial aid awards totaling \$1,638,070. By comparison, six students from families that reside on the Williston campus avail themselves of the public-school system.
- ◆ The school paid approximately \$131,764 for water bills and sewer charges.



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- ◆ Williston employees who reside on campus pay excise taxes to the City of Easthampton on approximately 100 vehicles.
- ◆ Under normal circumstances, families of students, Board of Trustees members, and other visitors to campus attend regular campus events. During the pandemic, these activities have been more limited. However, as life returns to normal, these groups will regularly support the local economy with 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 2020-21 school year, Williston students spent \$76,330 using their Sammy Cards at local Easthampton restaurants. This does not count purchases made by students using a personal card or cash.
- ◆ Williston's Children's Center currently enrolls a total of 45 children; 32 are from Easthampton. The remaining 13 children are from Southampton, Westhampton, Northampton, Florence, Hatfield, Williamsburg, Huntington, Whately, and Russell. Additionally:
 - The Children's Center accepts vouchers from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to make early childhood education more affordable. We currently have one family who use a voucher to pay for childcare.
 - Williston's Children's Center employs 16 educators—six are graduates of Easthampton High School and Hampshire Regional High School, and two are graduates of the teacher prep program at Greenfield Community College.
 - 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 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.
 - The Children's Center Director has also been part of a state-wide advocacy group for the field of early childhood education and care. This group has focused on supporting the needs of the early childhood field during the pandemic.

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:

- ◆ Williston contributed \$10,000 to the City of Easthampton Mayor's Office to provide professional development opportunities for city employees in 2021.
- ◆ Additionally, in previous years:
 - Williston donated a 14' Defender soft-sided inflatable, hard bottom rescue boat, fully equipped with rescue gear for six 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 Parks and Recreation Department in 2019.



- ◆ Williston made donations to The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts equivalent to providing over 700 meals for neighbors seeking food assistance throughout the four counties of western Massachusetts.
- ◆ Over the last 14 years, Williston has aided the city in its support of the Emily Williston Library with contributions totaling \$190,000.
- ◆ During the pandemic, Williston donated approximately 500 masks, the use of sanitizing equipment, and other personal protective equipment to the City of Easthampton.
- ◆ Williston provided the use of a van, and the cost of gas for the van, to the Easthampton Community Center to deliver food to those in need during the pandemic. This van was completely at the disposal of the Community Center to address the overwhelming needs of the community.
- ◆ Williston is proud of its efforts in conjunction with other businesses 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.
- ◆ From July 2020 to June 2021, Easthampton Parks and Recreation Department received a discount of \$2,520 for 18 hours of ice time for public skating, and Easthampton High School received a discount of \$4,160 for 64 hours of ice time. Also, the Easthampton Police Department received 32 hours of free ice time at an overall value of \$8,000. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, these spaces were closed and not available for a large portion of this year but will be available again next year.
- ◆ 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 acknowledged the positive impact these signs have had in helping to slow the traffic on two very busy streets.
- ◆ Williston has committed \$30,000 over three years to support CitySpace for the Old Town Hall Transformation Campaign. The school has contributed the first \$10,000 for year one.
- ◆ The school's website and admission view book, distributed to prospective families and alumni, promotes Easthampton as a great place to visit, and to enjoy the many restaurants and shops.
- ◆ In the 2020-21 fiscal year, Williston continued its yearly contributions to the following local groups/organizations:

Easthampton Little League
Easthampton Holiday Lighting Fund
Easthampton "Give 'Em the Bird" road race
Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail
Riverside Industries Annual Silent & Live Auction
Millpond Live Festival
Art in the Orchard



- ◆ 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
 - 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 High School Hockey Team
 - Easthampton Youth Soccer
 - Easthampton Citizen's Scholarship
 - William E. Norris School, Southampton
 - The Garden: A Center for Grieving Children and Teens
 - Pascommuck Conservation Trust
- ◆ With the exception of the pandemic year, Williston's facilities (dining commons, meeting rooms, swimming pool, gymnasium, playing fields, track, tennis courts, parking lots and hockey rink) are 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 Parks and 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
- ◆ Williston employees serve on committees and volunteer their time for a variety of civic and charitable entities including the Easthampton Little League Board, Suburban Youth Basketball, Easthampton Youth Soccer, and the Emily Williston Library.



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- ◆ Williston donated funds totaling \$3,679 to the Easthampton Fire Department for the purchase of two new ammonia gas meters and associated accessories.
- ◆ Since the closing of the Whitebrook Middle School swimming pool 14 years ago, the Williston swimming pool has been used for practices and home swim meets for the Easthampton High School swim team.
- ◆ Working with the Greater Easthampton Chamber of Commerce, Williston initiated, and now hosts and fully funds, an annual breakfast event each June. We hope that after the pandemic this event will be reinstated.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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 that run 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 3/4-mile section of the trail, as well as snow removal in the winter from the school’s hockey rink all the way to Ferry Street.
- ◆ Williston was a sponsor of the annual “Just TRYAN It” triathlon event, which was held virtually in September 2020. This event raises money to support families dealing with pediatric cancer and all proceeds from this event go directly to local families.

The Williston Northampton School strives to be a responsible and integral member of the community of the City of Easthampton. This substantive civic support and involvement demonstrates 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 surrounding towns. We are grateful for the community’s continued support and insight as Williston and the city continue their mutually supportive partnership.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Hill III
Head of School

Charles B. McCullagh Jr.
Chief Financial Officer