WILLISTON
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

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

November 20, 2026

Dear Williston Northampton School Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am writing with bittersweet news. Bob Hill has announced his plan to retire as Head of School, effective June 30, 2028, at the end of the 2027-28 academic year. Bob will continue to lead Williston until then, bringing an 18-year tenure and an extraordinary career in education to a close.

As Williston's 19th Head of School, Bob has led the school with keen intelligence, energy, and dedication to its mission and people. As Chair of the Board, I have had the privilege of working alongside Bob, and I have seen firsthand the care and judgment he brings to our school. Thanks to his stewardship, Williston has reached new heights and is well positioned for the future.

Bob has always kept the people at Williston—our students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees— at the center of everything he does. In turn, we have all benefited from his accessibility, thoughtful leadership, love of education, and student-first focus. Bob's most lasting contributions to our school include:

- Transforming Williston's campus through significant improvements to our academic and athletic facilities and the creation of a new Residential Quad, including two new residence halls and eight new faculty homes
- Strengthening the school's academic and signature offerings with new initiatives, including Williston Scholars, academic concentrations, the four-year Core life and leadership program, the Center for Academic Success, and the Grum visiting artist program
- Securing the school's long-term financial strength by completing the $86 million *Williston Builds* campaign and more than doubling both the Williston Northampton Fund and the endowment
- Expanding access to a Williston education by growing endowed scholarship and financial aid, ensuring that talented students from a wide range of backgrounds can attend and thrive here
- Guiding the school through two successive strategic plans, in 2014 and 2023, that strengthened residential and student life, increased the percentage of faculty living on campus, and shaped investments in Williston's people and programs
- Leading Williston through the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining institutional momentum and a vibrant educational experience for students
- Advancing construction of a new 27,000-square-foot Academic Center, set to open in spring 2028, which will enhance learning, teaching, and community while creating a welcoming, pedestrian-only Academic Quad in the heart of our campus

The Board and I are very grateful that Bob announced his retirement well in advance, allowing us to conduct a comprehensive search process while he continues to serve as Head of School.

To guide our search for Williston's next Head of School, the Board has retained RG175, a national executive search firm. RG175 will work closely with a trustee search committee, which will seek perspectives from across the Williston community. Throughout the process, we will share details and periodic updates on our website at williston.com/head-of-school-search. Our goal is to find a leader who will build on Bob's remarkable tenure while also ensuring that Williston's mission and values continue to thrive well into the future.

Today, I hope you will join me in expressing our utmost gratitude to Bob for his service and dedication to this community; to his wife, Kathryn, for her years as a devoted teacher and advisor; and to their children, Cameron '15 and Robby '19. Through nearly two decades of deep involvement and commitment, they have made an enduring impact on Williston that will be felt for generations. Between now and June 2028, there will be numerous opportunities to celebrate Bob's many contributions to Williston, and I look forward to doing so with all of you.

Sincerely,



John Hazen White Jr. '76
Chair, Board of Trustees