WILLISTON
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

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

November 20, 2026

Dear Williston Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

Recently, I informed Williston's Board of Trustees that the 2027-28 school year would be my final one as Williston's 19th Head of School—that I would "graduate" with the class of 2028.

When that time comes, I will have spent 18 incredibly fulfilling years at Williston, a place that has been both school and home to our family. My time at Williston represents the longest chapter of my more than four decades dedicated to education and has embedded in me an abiding love for this school, second only to that held by my good friend, Board Chair, John Hazen White Jr. '76.

Compressing 18 years of work, memories, and emotions into something that would pass muster with our English department is the hardest writing assignment I've encountered. Life at Williston is never dull. Our world is always changing, and we have kept pace. All the good things that have happened in my tenure are the result of that which came before me and the unrelenting hard work of colleagues with whom I've been privileged to work. Those who work at Williston, as I am fond of saying, create the magic of this school, annually and perpetually building the most welcoming, encouraging, and human school that I know. Williston magic has always and will always begin with its dedicated adults—the school's breathing soul—who pass our time-tested values on to generations of students. And year after year I've been astonished by Williston's students whose talents, joyful lives, and acts of compassion remind me why our school stands apart from all others. More than anything, I will miss their unscripted moments of exuberance.

I have been blessed during my tenure to be supported by senior administrators who share my passion and sense of purpose for Williston and who have sacrificed immeasurable time and energy. I have been privileged to meet and know countless alumni and parents—all committed to advancing our mission and contributing time and resources in doing so. And, most importantly, I have had the good fortune of working for a Board of Trustees whose expertise, support, and commitment are boundless.

The proudest moments of my Williston tenure were handing diplomas to our daughter Cameron '15, and to our son Robby '19, swelling my heart with pride and bringing tears to my eyes both as a parent and as a Head of School. Williston's teachers nurtured their love of learning, and I know that their alma mater, and the campus that was their backyard, will forever feel like home.

And, finally, my greatest debt of all goes to the person closest to me, Kathryn. Her steady presence, unconditional support, and infallible counsel have defined our partnership every step of the journey. Without Kathryn, my tenure as Head of School would have been far shorter, and any successes would have been far fewer. Despite a full slate of teaching and faculty duties, Kathryn has embraced all that comes with our roles. We have most certainly been through my headship together—those joyous moments and those that have demanded our combined inner strength.

While I am looking forward to spending unscheduled and uncharted days with the best friend of my life, for now Kathryn and I are as excited and engaged as ever in the daily life of the school, and our focus will be on Williston until we cross the finish line in June of 2028.

With sincere gratitude,



Robert W. Hill III
Head of School