



February 24, 2026

Dear Archbishop Williams Community Members,

It is with both a sense of deep gratitude and great pride that I share important news with you regarding our school leadership.

After twelve distinguished years of faithful and impactful service as Principal of Archbishop Williams High School, Dr. Michael R. Volonnino has been appointed the next President of Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, and St. Mary of the Annunciation School (a Fenwick Partner) in Danvers, Massachusetts. He will begin this new role on July 1, 2026.

While this announcement brings mixed emotions for me personally and for our school community, it is first and foremost a moment of celebration. Dr. Volonnino's appointment is a testament to the extraordinary leadership he has demonstrated here at AWHS and to the broader impact he will continue to make in Catholic education.

"Dr. V", as he is affectionately known by all, has led our school's academic and student development initiatives with vision, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to our mission. During his tenure, AWHS has experienced remarkable growth and renewal, including more than \$22M in transformational campus capital improvements; an outstanding 7th & 8th Grade program; elevated visual, design, and performing arts programs; and, life-changing campus ministry community service activities. Further, he has played a key role in strategic planning efforts resulting in an enhanced brand, sustained enrollment growth, and enthusiastic re-accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Notwithstanding these impressive measurable accomplishments, Dr. Volonnino's greatest contributions may have been cultural in nature. He has fostered a school environment rooted deeply in faith, respect, academic excellence, and the formation of the whole person in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Indeed, his leadership has consistently reflected our mission to educate students intellectually, spiritually, and





ethically. Moreover, he has championed innovation while remaining firmly grounded in our Catholic identity, always ensuring that “The Love of Christ Drives Us On” was not simply our motto, but our lived reality daily.

Our faculty, staff, students, and families have benefited immensely from Dr. Volonnino’s dedication, wisdom, and pastoral presence. Simply put, AWHHS would not be the school it is today without his steady, inspirational ministry.

While this departure represents a bittersweet moment for our community, it is a great blessing for Bishop Fenwick and St Mary’s. We are grateful beyond words for his time with us, and look forward to celebrating his legacy in the months ahead.

Dr. Volonnino and I have been blessed with an outstanding faculty, staff, and administrative leadership team, so as we move forward to identify our next Principal, we do so with the confidence that there will be significant interest from qualified candidates, and that at all times our school will continue to serve our students and families with the same, skill, dedication and effectiveness they deserve. Similarly, I know our next Principal will make a seamless transition, aided by a great support team and welcoming community. For all of these reasons and more, I am convinced that the next chapter of Archbishop Williams will continue to reflect the strength, faith, and excellence that have come to define our school community.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Volonnino and his family as they begin this exciting new journey. May God continue to bless him in his vocation as a Catholic education leader.

With gratitude and confidence in our future,

Dennis M. Duggan, Jr., Esq. '70  
President & CEO

