



Dear Oak Meadow Community,

October 26, 2011

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are pleased to announce the appointment of William S. Perrine ("Bill") as Head of School for Oak Meadow Montessori School effective July 1, 2012. On Monday night, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Bill after an exhaustive, nationwide search.

The hiring and support of the Head of School is the Board's most important role. A year ago, we began the process of collecting and confirming the key competencies that we require of our next leader in order to continue our work as an independent, Montessori school. Leadership requirements include the ability to create excellence, the ability to engage and inspire and the talent to manage change strategically. Management requirements include the business acumen needed to continue growing and developing our school and the ability to effectively drive execution. Interpersonal requirements include fostering open communication and managing critical constituencies with composure.


Bill meets and exceeds all of these capabilities; he has demonstrated his ability to lead throughout his career as an educator. He is currently Head of the Upper Division at Friends Academy, a co-educational day school serving approximately 270 students from preschool through grade 8 in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Throughout his tenure as a key administrative leader, he has been responsible for all aspects of the Upper Division (grades 6-8), including faculty, curriculum, admissions, budget and secondary school admissions. Bill was a part owner of Camp Unique, a 1000-camper day and boarding program where he was directly responsible for all operations, admission, staffing and program. Bill's ability to connect with students and parents alike has been demonstrated during his time on our campus and is evident in his twenty one years of teaching. His "pied piper" reputation preceded the Search Committee's visit to Friends Academy, where his ability to lead, motivate, engage and collaborate were visibly felt by our team. We eagerly look forward to bringing Bill into our community as we embark upon our new Strategic Roadmap.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for engaging with us in this very important work with such passion and commitment to Oak Meadow. We showed every candidate that this community, indeed, "walks the talk" of an independent, Montessori school in the 21st century. We would especially like to thank the Search Committee. Drawn directly from all school constituents, the committee members enabled the Board to absorb all of these perspectives. Their dedication, time and talent over the past year resulted in an extremely thorough search process for our next leader. "Many schools are not like Oak Meadow," was heard admiringly from many throughout this journey.

We will be working over the coming months on a continued smooth transition. We are highly appreciative of Paul Wenninger's embrace of Oak Meadow and his work to lay the groundwork for Bill. There will be opportunities to meet Bill, Anne and their three children. Please join us in welcoming them.

With best regards,


Robin L. Foley, Chair
Oak Meadow Board of Trustees


Lyn P. Goldman, Chair
Search Committee

"Educating our young people to become successful and contributive adults remains one of the most critical challenges our society faces...Children and adolescents bring wonder, humor and optimism to school each day and my job is to help them hold on to – and celebrate – these precious gifts."

- William S. Perrine
Statement of Educational Philosophy



Bill is currently serving in his 10th year as Head of the Upper Division at Friends Academy in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Coming from a family of educators, Bill acknowledges that education is in his makeup. He is responsible for all aspects of the Upper Division program serving grades 6 through 8, including supervising and evaluating faculty, overseeing curriculum, directing student discipline as well as all aspects of secondary school placement. He manages the academic program budget and is also responsible for marketing and middle school admissions within the context of the overall admissions program. His work with the Board of Trustees includes spearheading a technology committee to identify, prioritize and finance school technology needs. Service learning in the Upper Division was created at Bill's hand, and he continues his passion in teaching math, as he has in his previous positions.

Prior to Friends Academy, Bill served as Teacher, Coach and Disciplinary Dean at the Bancroft School in Worcester, Massachusetts. He headed the math department while instructing at The Town School for Boys in San Francisco, California. At Camp Unique in California, Bill marketed the camp through camp fairs, enrolled over 1000 campers each summer, managed over 30 staff and was responsible for scheduling and programs.

Bill holds a BA from Hamilton College (NY) and a MA in Teaching (Mathematics) from the University of San Francisco (CA) and completed the Fellowship for Aspiring School Heads from the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). He is also a trained visiting team evaluator for the Association for Independent Schools of New England (AISNE).

Bill and his wife, Anne, are Connecticut natives. They enjoy time with family as much as possible. Bill plays the guitar, loves puzzles and describes himself as "a moderately talented guitar player who plays in a band and enjoys every minute playing." They have three children: Oliver (13), Clara (11) and Henry (8).

The Search Committee:

Blaine Alvarez-Backus
John Collins
Darlene Vanstone

Jennifer Bitner
Beth Hickey
Robin Foley, Board Chair

Barbara Brady
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