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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing the Next Head of School

Paul Amadio Brings Unparalleled Background and Experience to The Pennfield School.

Portsmouth, Rhode Island: The Pennfield School announced recently that Mr. Paul Amadio will be the next Head of School beginning on July 1, 2023.

Paul will be joining the Pennfield community from Verde Valley School, an International Baccalaureate independent, boarding and day high school located in Sedona, Arizona, where he has been the Head of School since 2015. Paul brings exceptional educational and professional experiences which will serve the community well as he leads Pennfield into its next chapter. Through his work as the Head of two independent schools, in addition to his other roles, and experience as a consultant to over fifty schools, Paul has gained a unique understanding of the ways in which schools can meet the needs of students, today, and in the future. During his tenure, he has been at the forefront of implementing programs and curriculum which advocate for social justice, promote belonging, and bolster adolescent mental health. A founding member of the Green Schools Alliance, Paul helped design experiential and innovative project based programs. A particular focus of his has been to enhance curriculum by preserving academic rigor in traditional academic disciplines, while also introducing new pedagogy that ensures that students are equipped with the skills and capacities for jobs that do not yet exist, on methods and technologies that have not yet been developed. After eight years in Arizona, he is excited to return to New England where his career in education began and where his family calls home.

Quote from Mr. Amadio:

“Pennfield is a school that is clearly filled with joy, and the learning that I saw happening during my time on campus, both inside and outside the classroom, was profoundly inspiring. It is clear that Pennfield students are confident, academically prepared, and excellent ambassadors for the school.”

“During my visit and in the time since then, I’ve had a chance to speak with constituents from many different corners of the community and the commitment to the school’s mission, their desire to support the school, and their deep appreciation for Pennfield’s core values of Joy, Understanding, & Respect, is evident.”

“Today and in the future, schools must provide a culture of inclusivity and belonging, an ethos of self-efficacy and self-discovery, and be student-centered. Project-based learning that creates opportunities for collaboration and innovation, a dedicated social-emotional curriculum, and a call to embrace service opportunities, wherever possible, are all essential components of this work. Throughout their education, it’s critical to ensure that our students know it is cool to be expressive and creative, and to make sure students know and understand their responsibility that they must take care of our planet through sustainable practices. I am looking forward to

building on the existing foundation that exists at Pennfield towards these critical endeavors; Pennfield has a bright future and I am thrilled to be a part of its story.”

“I grew up in Central Massachusetts, graduated from Roger Williams, and even worked as an actor one summer at Astor’s Beechwood Mansion in Newport. I love this area. My family is here. I’m “wicked” excited to return home, and my wife, Donita, and I cannot wait to get to Pennfield and Portsmouth.”

Quote from Theodore Karousos, Board Chair, Pennfield School Board of Trustees:

“After more than thirty years working both in education and as a consultant to myriad non-profits, Paul is an experienced school visionary, a charismatic leader, and a collaborative community builder with a proven track record in independent schools. As we got to know Paul during the search process, it was clear that he understands our mission and values and that he will most certainly carry on our legacy of Joy, Understanding, and Respect. It was also clear that Paul’s experience and vision are aligned with the strategic priorities set forth by the Board of Trustees and that his unwavering optimism, resiliency, empathy, and not to mention a great sense of humor, will epitomize and model a hopeful future for our kids, our institution, and our community. ”

“After a nationwide, in-depth, inclusive, and deliberate search, we are thrilled to warmly welcome Paul Amadio and his family to our community and are excited to be working with him as he prepares to assume the position of Head of School on July 1, 2023.”

“We remain immensely grateful for Rob Kelley’s support during this process and for the profound impact he has had on our community during his almost 20 year tenure. He has left an indelible mark on Pennfield, and for that we are forever grateful. Rob continues to lead our school through this transition, and I cannot thank him enough for the time he has committed to this process and for making sure our school has a seamless leadership transition.”

About The Pennfield School:

Founded in 1971, a small band of parents, teachers, and like-minded thinkers; along with the first headmaster, Fr. Cranston and Anna Tillinghast (our first Board Chair), splintered from an existing independent school to form their own school, grounded in the joyful pursuit of knowledge, built on the foundations of understanding and mutual respect for oneself and others. Now located on “Little Slocum Farm”, 19 acres of property abutting the Aquidneck Island Land Trust’s Sakonnet Greenway Trail and Glen Farm, Pennfield is an independent school for children in grades preschool through grade 8. Our mission remains true to those of our founders- to create an inclusive community of dedicated learners, where students are given a foundation and appreciation for the joyful pursuit of understanding, while fostering respect for oneself and others as a way of life.