

**WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, September 21, 2023**

1. The Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Principal's Report
 - b. Minutes from June 6 Meeting
3. Reports
 - a. Student Update – Taylor Young
 - b. Faculty Update – Rachel Lawrence
 - c. Finance Committee Report – Jeremy Moulton
 - d. Foundation Report – Jessica Oliver
 - e. Communications Committee Report – Andrew Borum
 - f. Personnel Committee Report – Charmaine Terregino
 - g. Board Development Report – Collette Drake
4. Business
 - Old Business
 - Principal's Goals
 - New Business
 - Policy Requirements from Recent NC Legislation
 - Laddering of Cash Reserves in US Treasuries
5. Closed Session
6. Adjournment Session
 - Action Taken/Voted
 - Adjournment

Principal's Report

September 21, 2023

I feel so much gratitude for how the year has started. Our students have arrived ready to engage, and our faculty are well poised to meet them with enthusiasm and big plans for the year! The vibe around the house is as positive as any year I can remember.

I'm feeling particularly thankful for the new faculty who have joined us this year:

Margaret Andrews, 6th Grade ELA (Part-Time)
 Hannah Kehrer, Speech Language Pathologist
 Ashley Lorusso, Elementary Art (Part-Time)
 Tara Murphy, Assistant Testing Coordinator (Part-Time)
 Kelly Norris, 4th Grade
 Reeves Raley, Kindergarten
 Kate Romatzick, EC TA
 Grace Siplon, EC TA
 Amanda Westle, Kindergarten
 Michelle Valdes, MS Spanish (Part-Time)
 Bailey Watson, HS Math

Summer Reading Camp

We had a very successful summer literacy program that took place over five weeks of the summer and involved twenty elementary students. The teachers were Amber Bates, Mikayla Castellano, Grace Siplon, and Beverly West. Mrs. West and Kathleen St. Lawrence, once again, took the lead in designing this summer's program.

Community Workday

On Saturday, August 12th, over 210 members of the Woods community came to school to help get the building and grounds ready for the start of school. We had an abundance of jobs, inside and out, and we completed all of them! The attendance was record-setting for the third year in a row! Thank you, Woods volunteers!

Safety Drills at Woods

We hold one fire drill each month at Woods. A typical fire drill lasts about ten minutes in its entirety. We've held two this year, so far.

On September 13th we conducted an emergency lockdown drill at school. We train all faculty in these procedures in August before school starts and retrain as needed during the year. We take guidance from the Chatham Sheriff's Office, F.E.M.A., and A.L.I.C.E. in preparing our possible responses to hostile intruders/active shooters. The drill was run by the Woods admin team and teachers but overseen by representatives from the Chatham

Sheriff's Office. The actual drill lasted four minutes, but classes spent some time at the conclusion of the drill to talk about safety procedures and various responses to hostile intruders.

Later in the year, typically during Severe Weather Preparedness Week, we will conduct a tornado drill.

New Student Lunches

Year two of a new tradition! We held lunches (one for MS, one for HS) at the Council House for new students, their assigned buddies, and their advisors on September 1st. We ate pizza, chatted, and played some fun games.

The 9th graders, their advisors, the school counselor, and the high school director spent this past Friday at Triangle Training Center for a day designed to help the 9th graders get to know each better and assist them in growing a group dynamic that is positive, inclusive, and respectful.

Parent Orientation Nights

We held parent orientation sessions on the evenings of September 13th and 14th. The sessions were not particularly well attended, but those who did make it out seemed grateful for the time and found it helpful to get to know teachers and their classes better. The WCS Foundation held a delightful reception for new parents at the Old Lystra Inn on September 7th.

College Counseling Update

Our high school director, Adrienne Berg, and our high school advisors take the lead on college counseling at Woods. Here are some updates of recent happenings in the college counseling domain:

- Meeting for juniors and families Sept. 14th
- Meeting for seniors and families Sept. 18th
- Senior advisors are supporting Morehead-Cain applications and will select two school nominees next week.
- Senior advisors are conferencing with individuals about college applications.
- Seniors are requesting letters of rec from teachers.
- 10th grade trip to Jamestown and Williamsburg in November will now include a group guided tour of William and Mary.
- SCAD admissions rep visited Woods last week. Other college visits are being scheduled.
- Updated school profile will be published in October.
- High school parents wanting to know what they should be doing and thinking about (related to college) in each year of high school can find guidance and great

resources on the High School page of the school website.
<https://www.woodscharter.org/Content/collegeplanning>

Capital Expenditure Update

This year's capital expenditure plan includes funds for . . .

- 29 Lenovo laptops for faculty
- 90 Chromebooks and their associated licenses and charging stations
- Network switches
- A school bus

We have ordered and received the laptops and Chromebooks. We are researching e-rate funding for the network switches. We have pressed pause on the school bus, as we're currently doing our best to find additional bus drivers. (Without additional drivers, we don't need another bus.)

We had two prospective drivers attend bus school last week and another tentatively set to attend next month.

38 families have signed up for the Woods Carpool Coordination Program. Once families sign up, they, then, have access to a google map with (currently) 38 pushpins on it, each pushpin representing a Woods family that has opted in. If you click the pushpin, you see the parent contact information. It's up to the parents at that point to make arrangements.

Students and Phones and Earbuds

We've been talking to students a lot about smartphone use since the start of school. See attached slides. Faculty have been "holding the line" in a more concerted way, and students have generally been understanding and following the rules.

Recent Action by the NC General Assembly

In August, the NC General Assembly voted to override several vetoes by Governor Cooper. With these votes, several bills SB 49, HB 574, HB 219, and HB 618 became law, and they all have significant impact on NC public schools. There are many corresponding policies and procedures which now must be put in place by our board and administration. Attached please find a legal briefing from Lisa Gordon Stella who serves as legal advisor to the NC Association for Public Charter Schools (of which Woods is a member).

Faculty Roster attached.

First name:	Last name:	Role	PT/FT
Margaret	Andrews	6th Grade ELA Teacher	Part-Time
Scott	Barnes	Technology Assistant	Full-Time
Amber	Bates	E.C. Teacher	Full-Time
Angela	Bell	Occupational Therapist	Full-Time
Adrienne	Berg	High School Director, AP Seminar Teacher	Full-Time
Pascale	Bost	Elementary French Teacher	Part-Time
Jessica	Bowman	Testing Coordinator	Part-Time
Jessie	Brown	MS/HS Art Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Cotton	Bryan	Principal	Full-Time
Gwendolen	Bushek	MS Electives (4 periods/week), MS French (12 periods/week), MS Advisor, Yearbook Advisor, ESL Coordinator	Full-Time
Mikayla	Castellano	1st Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Lindis	Chetwynd	HS Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Ella	Clarke	English Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Trina	Cole	Interventionist	Full-Time
Vanessa	Costa	Spanish Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Stephanie	Derfeuil	French Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Eryn	Dillard	2nd Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Amy	Dowden	Science Teacher	Part-Time
Shirley	Edwards	Front Receptionist	Part-Time
Trudy-Ann	Elliott	3rd Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Sara	Fields	4th Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Rachel	Finkelstein	English Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Dena	Floyd	Athletics Director, P.E./Health Teacher	Full-Time
Lynne	Giguere	EC Teacher	Full-Time
Rosline	Grant	Admissions Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator	Part-Time
Lauren	Gustafson	School Counselor	Full-Time
Karen	Hawkins	History Teacher	Full-Time
Aimee	Haygood	Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Deborah	Hoodiman-Beaudin	EC Teacher	Full-Time
Jamie	Horil	Lunch Program Coordinator	Full-Time
Kimberly	Houston	School Nurse	Full-Time
Creighton	Irons	Music Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Heather	Jester	MS Electives	Part-Time
David	Johnson	E.C. Teacher	Full-Time
John	Johnson	6th Grade Social Studies Teacher, H.S. Economics & Personal Finance Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Ann	Kaiyala	Director of Personnel, Director of Summer Program, Director of Special Services, Title IX Coordinator	Full-Time
Hannah	Kehrer	Speech Language Pathologist	Full-Time
Jessica	Knight	Music/Dance/Theater Teacher	Part-Time
Rachel	Lawrence	Math Teacher, Advisor, Instructional Tech. Lead Teacher	Full-Time

Ashley	Lorusso	Elementary Art Teacher	Part-Time
Kari	MacLean	E.C. Teacher	Full-Time
Jim	Malone	Facilities Manager	Full-Time
Alexander	Massengale	History Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Leonard	McNair	MS PE Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Janet	Moody	Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Kimberley	Moody	Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Tara	Murphy	Testing Coordinator	Part-Time
Andrew	Nelson	History Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Kelly	Norris	4th Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Jamie	Nuss	Teaching Assistant, Bus Driver	Full-Time
Amy	Odom	Speech Language Pathologist	Full-Time
Denise	O'Gorman	HS Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Jessica	Oliver	Director of Advancement	Part-Time
Teresa	O'Nolan	3rd Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Kristen	Pass	Teaching Assistant, Bus Driver, TA Coordinator	Part-Time
Misty	Peeler	English/Social Studies Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Michael	Raley	Kindergarten Teacher	Full-Time
Glorina	Rojas-Lupoli	MS/HS Spanish Teacher	Full-Time
Kate	Romatziak	EC Teaching Assistant	Full-Time
Mitchell	Rosen	MS Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Kimberly	Rossi	Business Manager, Communications Coordinator	Part-Time
Kathi	Shaw	Front Receptionist, Assistant to Directors	Part-Time
John	Sheridan	Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Suzanne	Sikes	Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Grace	Siplon	EC-Teaching Assistant	Full-Time
Cynthia	Sperry	Assistant Principal, K-8 Director	Full-Time
Kathleen	St. Lawrence	E.C. Coordinator	Full-Time
Anna	Thrower	Registrar, Database Manager	Part-Time
Taylor	Transue	1st Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Michelle	Valdes	MS Spanish	Part-Time
Ursula	Valgus	, MTSS Coordinator, Reading Interventionist	Part-Time
Robin	Wagoner	Social Studies Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Jessica	Walden-Gray	MS Science	Full-Time
Bailey	Watson	MS/HS Math	Full-Time
Jake	Weaver	Before/After School Director, ES Teaching Assistant	Full-Time
Amanda	Westle	Kindergarten Teacher	Full-Time
Beverly	West	2nd Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Jesse	Wilcox	Behavior Coach	Full-Time
Brittany	Wilson	MS English Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Courtney	Wilson	EC Teacher	Full-Time
Carmen	Wood	Elementary P.E. Teacher	Full-Time

Principal Goals 2023-24

Overall goal: Let's keep moving Woods forward on the path to excellence
in a way that's true to The Woods Way!

1. Support, retain, and develop our faculty.

- Provide regular and varied forms of constructive feedback for all faculty.
- Steward processes for reflective practice. (e.g., peer-to-peer observations, school visits, teacher book groups, instructional rounds, evaluations, Beginning Teacher Support Program, etc.)
- Continue Project Marigold to build collegiality and to emphasize the need for faculty self-care.
- Visit 10 classes or advisories per week.
- Hold one-on-one listening sessions with all faculty by February 1st.
- Recognizing the overall teacher shortage in our region, boost our efforts at recruitment, ensuring that we're as proactive and thorough as possible in connecting prospective teachers to Woods.

2. Strengthen and deepen the sense of community at Woods as experienced by students, faculty, and parents.

- Nurture the culture of Woods to make sure it continues to grow as a place that is inclusive, community-minded, and relationship-based where respect, civility, and a playful spirit thrive.
- Lead faculty in a process of discussing and clarifying The Woods Way.
- Foster a culture that supports diversity of thought and constructive, civil discourse.
- Host community-building events for students, parents, faculty: e.g., Community Workday, All School Campout, Grandparents'/Special Friends' Day, Senior Retreat, 9th Grade Retreat, Into the Woods 5-K, 8th Grade Leadership Summit, Senior Dinner, etc.
- Help design a joyful and memorable 25th birthday event for Woods.

3. Practice Leadership-by-Walking-Around.

- Be present in classrooms, hallways, and at extracurricular/athletic events.

4. Improve student and faculty access to, and experience of, educational technology.

- Partner with outside expertise to improve wifi, server, and network efficiency.
- Upgrade supply of chromebooks and teacher laptops.
- Clarify role of Instructional Technology Lead Teacher.

5. Work with High School Director and High School Faculty to clarify and articulate the college counseling process at Woods.

- Review overall structure of college counseling support at Woods to ensure that it is responsive to student needs.

6. Diversify our student body by increasing the diversity of our lottery pool and by attracting more job applicants from teachers of color.

- Skillfully implement the school's revised Admissions Policy (in year #4 of its implementation) that includes a priority placement category for students from economically disadvantaged families.

- Increase opportunities for faculty to participate in professional development that focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion in K-12 education. Partner with outside expertise to provide high-quality, ongoing, in-house professional development related to DEI.
- Ensure that admissions materials are broadcasted widely, strategically, and available in Spanish.

7. Communicate regularly and proactively with Woods families.

- Leverage traditional and digital media for articulating and reiterating our philosophy, mission, and values.
- Work with Board Communications Committee to strategize improvement to overall school communications.
- Provide ongoing articulation to Woods faculty and families of how we have responsively incorporated community survey feedback into action plans.
- Increase community survey participation in year #2.

8. Oversee consistent, firm enforcement of our School Handbook.

- Provide consistency and clarity to discipline processes and consequences. Lead faculty in being more unified and cohesive in how we respond to infractions.

DRAFT

We're trying
to build a community
that focuses more on
people
than on devices.

Researchers have known
for a while
that there was
a correlative relationship
between smartphone use and the
rates of anxiety, depression, and
loneliness
experienced by high schoolers.

More recently
(this past spring)
substantial, legit research
has shown that the
relationship is, in fact,
causative.

There are MANY reasons
people experience anxiety,
depression, and loneliness
that have nothing to do with
smartphones,
but . . .

In short, for most of us,
the more time we spend on
devices,
the more likely we are
to experience
anxiety, depression, and
loneliness.

And we want people
to feel
calm,
happy, and
connected
(the opposite of anxious, depressed, and lonely).

So, we're asking students
to be smart
in how they use
their devices.

And the faculty will be more
serious than ever
in enforcing
our school rules
around devices.

Phones/Earbuds are allowed . . .

at lunch,
after school, and
when teacher gives explicit
permission in class

Phones/Earbuds are
NOT allowed . . .

in advisory, or
in hallways, or
during mid-morning break, or
in class (unless teacher gives explicit
permission)

1st Infraction:
Warning (and device put away)

2nd Infraction:
phone/earbuds taken until end of day –
can be retrieved by student

3rd Infraction:
after-school detention,
phone/earbuds taken and must be retrieved by
parent/guardian

We're trying
to build a community
that focuses more on
people
than on devices.



CHARTER SCHOOL

Legal Alert

AUGUST 18, 2023

- SB 49
- HB 574
- HB 219
- HB 618

On August 15, the North Carolina General Assembly voted to override a number of vetoes by Governor Roy Cooper. Those bills now become law with **immediate effect—there is no waiting period**. However (deep breath), the reality is that these laws apply to every public school in the state of North Carolina, and it will take time for policies to be adopted. So even if you have parents coming to you, you can tell them that you are aware of the new laws and are working with legal counsel. Further, at least one of the policies mandated requires information from the State Board of Education, so this too will take time. Finally, many important questions remain regarding the legality and enforceability of some of the new laws.

At the end of this Legal Alert, there are meaningful and actionable next steps for you. We are also drafting the policies necessary for charter school compliance with the new laws. We are offering the template policies cited below to all current clients for \$350 per school; NCAPCS members will receive a \$50 discount. This charge will appear on your next invoice as SB49 Compliance. If you would like to purchase the policies, please email me at Lisa@LGStellaLaw.com. We expect to have the template policies completed by the end of August.

SB 49 / Parents' Bill of Rights

With the adoption of Senate Bill 49, North Carolina joins four other states—Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana—that have enacted laws focused on parent rights. Current state and federal law already provided parents with substantial rights and control over their students' education, including the ability to request medical or religious exemptions from vaccine requirements and evaluations under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act. Parents also have access to a substantial amount of information about their students' schools and the state education system.

Now, under SB 49, schools will have to post and distribute information about these rights and also provide additional information on how to help children succeed in school, including more information about instructional materials used and promotion requirements.

SB 49 also directs schools to establish procedures for responding to parent concerns. The law specifies timelines; for example, governing boards must adopt procedures that will aim to have principals resolve parent concerns within 7 days of notification of a concern, and if the concern is unresolved after 30 days, the public

school unit must provide a statement explaining why it has not been resolved. The parent can then request a parental concern hearing before the State Board or bring a declaratory judgment action for injunctive relief. Under SB 49, schools also must establish procedures requiring them to notify parents if a student wants school staff or school records to call them by a different name or pronoun.

Another section states "instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality shall not be included in the curriculum provided in grades kindergarten through fourth grade." Curriculum is defined as meaning "the standard course of study and support materials, locally developed curriculum, supplemental instruction, and textbooks and other supplementary materials." The law does not, however, prohibit responses to student-initiated questions.

HB 574 / Fairness in Women's Sports Act

Called the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, this bill mandates that interscholastic or intramural teams be designated for males, females, or coed, and that athletes in middle school, high school, and college must play according to their sex assigned at birth. The law explains "a student's sex shall be recognized solely based on the student's reproductive biology and genetics at birth." The law provides for civil causes of action. Students can sue for appropriate relief, if, as a result of a violation of the new law, they are deprived of an athletic opportunity, they suffer or are likely to suffer from any direct or indirect harm, or they are subjected to retaliation or other adverse action for reporting a violation. Public school units and their representatives and employees who suffer direct or indirect harm for complying with the new law can also sue for appropriate relief.

Yet it is unclear whether this new law is constitutional. Similar laws across the country are being challenged in federal courts as violating the 14th Amendment and Title IX. In February 2023, a similar West Virginia law (called the Save Women's Sports Act) was temporarily blocked by a federal appeals court, and the United Supreme Court in April refused to intervene. As a result, a twelve-year old transgender girl was allowed to continue participating on the girls' track team. HB 574 is in direct violation of Title IX regulations and guidance.

HB 219 / Charter School Omnibus

A number of significant changes impacting charter schools will go into effect following the General Assembly's override of Governor Cooper's prior veto on HB 219. First, with regard to charter amendments, approvals, renewals, and terminations, the State Board is now prohibited by law from considering impact on a local district. Additionally, the State Board must compare subgroup academic data from the charter school to the district in which it is located when making renewal decisions.

Enrollment preferences are now allowed for students of active military duty families and for students coming from certain pre-k programs. For the pre-k preference, the student must have attended a program for at least 75 consecutive days, and the program cannot be operated by the charter school but must have a written enrollment agreement with the school. Additionally, only up to 10 percent of a school's enrollment can come from this preference.

Charters that are unable to fill its current enrollment with eligible students may now enroll out-of-state students. Those out-of-state students will be charged at least 50 percent of the total of the per pupil allocation for the

county where the school is located and the per pupil State appropriation. Out-of- state students may not exceed 10 percent of the enrollment of the charter school.

Charter schools that are not low-performing will be able to grow without any oversight by the State Board of Education. Currently, these schools can only increase enrollment by up to 30 percent and must have growth plans approved by the SBE. And, low-performing charters will now be able to increase enrollment more than 20 percent with SBE approval. The new law also prohibits local boards of education from discriminating against students currently or formerly enrolled in a charter school. Counties now may also use property taxes to fund charter schools.

HB 618 / Charter School Review Board

Finally, under HB 618, the Charter School Advisory Board is now called the Charter School Review Board. The Review board will have many of the responsibilities previously assigned to the State Board of Education, including approving charter school applications, renewals, revocations, and material revisions to the contract. Final decisions by the Charter School Review Board now can be appealed to the State Board of Education, which must issue its decision on any appeal within 60 days.

Next Steps for Charter Schools:

We recommend charter schools take the following steps:

I. Inform parents of their rights to the following (this can be done by posting on the website):

1. Make decisions for participation in reproductive health and safety education programs.
2. Seek exemptions from immunization requirements.
3. Review statewide standardized assessment results.
4. Request an evaluation of their child for identification as a child with a disability or as academically or intellectually gifted.
5. Inspect and purchase textbooks and other supplementary instructional materials.
6. Access information on promotion and retention, including high school graduation requirements.
7. Receive regular report cards that show academic performance, conduct, and attendance.
8. Access information on the State public education system.
9. Participate in parent-teacher organizations.
10. Opt-in to participation in protected student information surveys in accordance with State law and opt-out of data collection in other surveys in accordance with federal law.
11. Review available records of materials their child borrowed from a school library.

II. Provide, at the start of the school year, a parent guide to student achievement: This must include the State Board's requirements for student achievement in a format that is in writing, understandable, and discussed at the beginning of each school year in a meeting with parents, students, and teachers. This could be done during Open House or Back to School Night. **Please note that the State Board is in the process of developing such requirements, and all public school units will be waiting for the SBE's guide.**

III. Provide policies that provide for parental involvement which must include the following:

1. Providing links to parents for community services. **This can be achieved through the School's existing website.**
2. Establishing opportunities for parental involvement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of family involvement programs. **This can be done through PTO/PTA and other mechanisms that already exist.**
3. Establishing opportunities for parents to participate on school advisory councils and in school volunteer programs and other activities. **This can be done through PTO/PTA and other mechanisms that already exist.**

IV. Review your existing policies to ensure that they contain the following:

1. Provide for parental participation in their child's education to improve parent and teacher cooperation in areas such as homework, school attendance, and discipline that aligns with the parent guide for student achievement. **This can be achieved through your parent/student handbook.**
2. Effectively communicate to parents the manner in which textbooks are used to implement the school's curricular objectives. **This can be achieved through your parent/student handbook.**
3. Establish a procedure for parents to learn about their child's course of study and the source of any supplementary instructional materials. This procedure shall include the process for parents to inspect and review all textbooks and supplementary instructional materials that will be used in their child's classroom. The policy shall be available for in-person review by parents at the school site and publicly available on the school's website. **New Policy Required.**
4. Establish a means for parents to object to textbooks and supplementary instructional materials consistent with the requirements of G.S. 115C-98.
5. Establish a process for parents to review materials for and to consent or withhold consent for participation in reproductive health and safety education programs. **Most Charters already have this in place but be sure that you check your policies.**
6. Establish a process for parents to learn about the nature and purpose of clubs and activities offered at their child's school, including both curricular and extracurricular activities. **This can be achieved through your parent/student handbook and your website by posting such information.**

V. Adopt procedures to notify parents of information set forth below. This can be done through parent/student handbooks and communications prior to the start of the school year, which include the following:

1. Notice of each health care service offered at his or her child's school and the means for the parent to provide consent for any specific service. A parent's consent to a health care service does not waive the parent's right to access his or her child's educational records or health records or to be notified of changes in his or her child's services or monitoring.
2. How to exercise their rights under this new law. **New Policy Required.**
3. Prior to administration to students in kindergarten through third grade, a copy of any student well-being questionnaire or health screening form and the means for the parent to consent to the use of the questionnaire or form for his or her child.
4. Prior to or contemporaneous with changes, notice of changes in services or monitoring related to his or her child's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school's ability

to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for that child.

5. Prior to any changes in the name or pronoun used for a student in school records or by school personnel, notice to the parent of the change. **New Policy Required.**

VI. Adopt the following policies:

1. At ___ School, we encourage students to discuss issues related to their well-being with their parents. We prohibit school employees from not notifying parents about their child's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring. Further, we do not encourage or take actions that have the effect of encouraging students to withhold information from their parents about their mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or a change in related services or monitoring.
2. Parents have the right to access their student's education and health records created, maintained, or used by the School consistent with state and federal law, except as limited by G.S. 114A-10(6)a or when disclosure would result in the child becoming an abused juvenile or neglected juvenile, as those terms are defined in G.S. 7B-101.

V. **Ensure compliance with curriculum and instructional guidelines for K-4:** Schools are also not permitted to provide instruction or curriculum in grades kindergarten through fourth grade on "gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality," regardless of whether the information is provided by school personnel or third parties. However, school personnel may answer and provide responses to student-initiated questions. For the purposes of this section, the curriculum includes the standard course of study and support materials, locally developed curriculum, supplemental instruction, and textbooks and other supplementary materials.

VI. Lastly schools are required to provide certain notices, opt outs and appeal procedures to comply with this new law. **New Policies Required.**

Woods Charter School
Board Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2023

Voting members present: Collette Drake, Robb Czyzewski, Andrew Borum, Nada Mohamed, Doreen Messick, Jeremy Moulton, and Charmaine Terregino

Non-voting members present: Rachel Lawrence (Faculty Representative), Graden O'Connor (Student Representative), and Cotton Bryan (Principal)

Absent voting members: None

Non-voting members not present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and was held in person, with guests having the option to watch via Zoom.

- The Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comment: None
- Norms reiterated
- Consent Agenda: No Changes

<p>Principal's report <i>Cotton Bryan</i></p>	<p>Principal report highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solar panels update: producing over 1,000 megawatt-hours of energy. · Discussed how main grants will be applied. · Maintenance for over the summer: strip and wax VCT through building, sand and reseal gym floor, complete outdoor pond lab space. · Proposed board meeting dates for 2023-2024. · Woods summer camp details. · Capital expenditure plan for 2023-2024 will be discussed in "Old Business." · Final events of the year include 8th Grade Ceremony, Graduation Walk, Senior Dinner, Graduation, Closing Circle for faculty, Admin Retreat, Report Card Stuffing Party. · High school women's soccer team were state runners-up. <p>The full Principal's Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.</p>
<p>Minutes from May Meeting</p>	<p>Additional Comments: None</p>
<p>Action Taken</p>	<p>A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Rob Czyzewski, was seconded by Doreen Messick, and was unanimously approved by all present voting board members.</p>

- Reports

Student Update <i>Graden O'Connor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No updates. · No report.
Faculty Update <i>Rachel Lawrence</i>	<p>Rachel Lawrence shared updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Good show for high school musical performance. · Today was elementary school day field day. · No report.
Finance Committee <i>Jeremy Moulton</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No updates. · No report.
Foundation Report <i>Cotton Bryan</i>	<p>Cotton Bryan discussed events and financial summary including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Most successful year ever for foundation and had its largest grant given to teachers. <p>The full Foundation Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.</p>
Communications <i>Doreen Messick</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Discussed possible exit survey to determine reasons families leave. · No report.
Personnel <i>Charmaine Terregino</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No updates. · No report.
Board Development <i>Collette Drake</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Last goal is to update the handbook. Charmaine offered to take over – updates in handbook include new dress code, pronouns/gender-inclusive language. · No report.

- Old Business:

Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Discussion over Capital Expenditure Plan for 2023-2024 which consisted mainly of improvements to technology and network as well as school bus. · Changes to this year's budget are \$213,000 more in charter school revenue. · Interest income was \$81,000 instead of \$90,000. · Building services was increased from \$41,000 to \$46,000. · Benefits number changed for dental, health and life insurance.
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Action Taken	A motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 revisions discussed at the meeting was made by Rob Czyzewski, was seconded by Andrew Borum, and was unanimously approved by all present voting board members.
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• New Business:

Board Officer Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Board Chair: Collette Drake, unanimous approval. · Vice Chair: Charmaine Terregino, unanimous approval. · Treasurer: Jeremy Moulton, unanimous approval. · Secretary: Nada Mohamed, unanimous approval.
Action Taken	Votes were taken for each of the above roles and all were approved unanimously (no motions were made).
Board Meeting Dates 2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Retreat Date: August 31, 2023, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm · Proposed Dates Board Meeting Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 21, 2023 ○ October 18, 2023 ○ November 16, 2023 ○ December 14, 2023 ○ Jan 18, 2024 ○ Feb 15, 2024 ○ March 21, 2024 ○ April 18, 2024 ○ May 16, 2024 ○ June 14, 2024
Action Taken	A motion to approve the retreat date as August 31, 2023 and eliminate the August 24, 2023 board meeting was made by Andrew Borum, was seconded by Rob Czyzewski, and was unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

Closed Session

None	None
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Adjournment Session

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 pm by Rob Czyzewski, was seconded by Andrew Borum, and was unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

9/21/2023

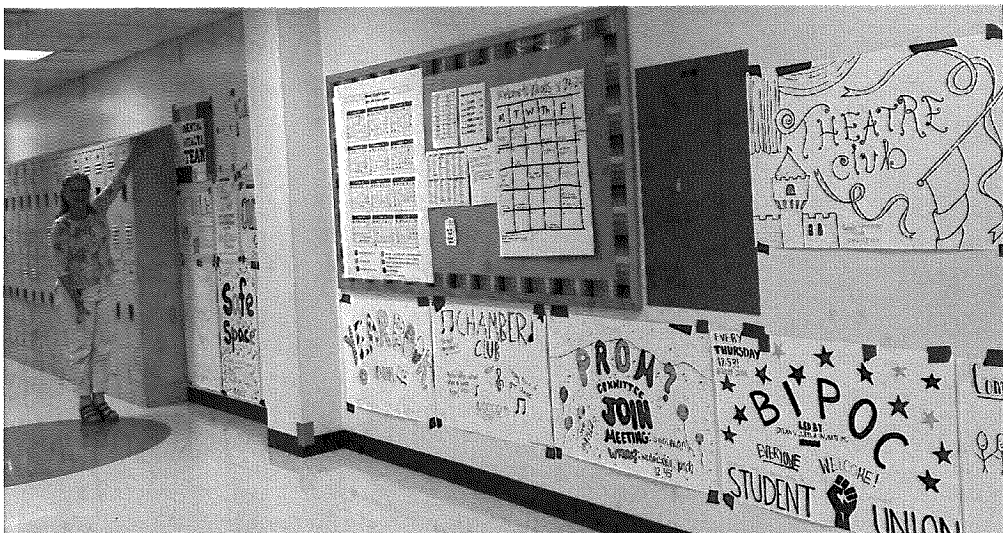
Taylor Young - Student Report

Throughout the student body, there seems to be a positive outlook on the school year. Along with the many new students in the building, specifically in the Freshman class, there is good energy in the school. This year's New Student Luncheon allowed Senior Sibs to begin relationship with the incoming freshmen.

Seniors are immersed in their college application process. The senior advisors and Ms. Berg hosted a meeting earlier this week aimed at supporting students and families with the college application process. There was also a Junior college planning night last week. Students have reported that both of these info sessions have been very helpful.

Students are also grateful for the teacher's increased use of the test schedule, which allows teachers to coordinate with each other so as to avoid overloading students with test days/weeks. Although there is discussion and discontent amongst students regarding the heightened enforcement of the phone policy, there's a lot of excitement surrounding this year's Fall Family Campout, which is on the 30th.

The HS Club fair was two weeks ago, and it was a total success. Even though clubs are just picking up, Green Team is already revamping composting in the school, GLI has started their first pad and tampon drive of the year, and the Ronald McDonald Club is in the process of organizing a meal for next week.



Fall Sports are underway. The Men's soccer team has faced some very challenging opponents but secured their first win yesterday evening against Ascend Leadership (3-0). The Women's volleyball team is looking very strong, maintaining first place in the conference (6-0) with a win streak of 11. The golf team--composed of Paige and Teddy--is also doing well. Boys and Girls Cross Country are looking really good starting this season. There is only one home meet this year, which is next Wednesday, September 27th, so we are trying to build a lot of hype for that.



There has been limited student attendance at home games, so we are making efforts to bolster support for our sports teams. With Student Council now up and running, the StuCo Instagram page will post about student events—such as sports games. Our upcoming Student Council retreat at the Triangle Training Center will be on October 2nd, and I'm really excited to bond as a team and create goals for this year.

Woods Charter School

Committee Name: Finance

Mission/Responsibility: The finance committee is commissioned by and responsible to the board of Directors. It has the responsibility for working with the charter school administrator to create the upcoming fiscal year budget; presenting budget recommendations to the board; monitoring implementation of the approved budget on a regular basis and recommending proposed budget revisions; recommending to the board appropriate policies for the management of the charter school's assets. The charter school administrator shall assist the finance committee.

Job Descriptions

Chair	Members
Must be a member of the Board	Regularly attend committee meetings
Oversees the logistics of committee's operations including gathering information necessary for committee to work	Serious commitment to participate actively in committee work, including accepting assignments, staying informed and reviewing minutes of prior meetings
Reports to the full board on committee's decisions/recommendations	Builds a collegial working relationship with other committee members and works to build consensus
Assigns work to the committee members, sets the agenda and runs the meetings	
Initiates and leads the committee's annual goals and evaluation	

2023-24 Members

Name
1. Jeremy Moulton, Chair, Board Representative
2. Rachel McInerney, Board Representative
3. Kim Rossi, Administration Representative
4. John Sheridan, Faculty Representative
5. Caroline Dilworth, Foundation Representative
6. Cotton Bryan, Principal (ex officio)

Meeting Schedule: The Finance Committee will meet once a month via Zoom (or other virtual meeting platform) during the week before each regularly scheduled Board meeting at 12:30pm. The scheduled meetings for 2023-24 are as follows:

- Monday, September 18, 2023
 - Monday, October 16, 2023
 - Monday, November 13, 2023
 - Monday, December 11, 2023
 - Tuesday, January 19, 2024
 - Monday, February 12, 2024
 - Monday, March 18, 2024
 - Monday, April 15, 2024
 - Monday, May 13, 2024
 - Monday, June 10, 2024
-

Board Reporting Process: The Finance Committee Chair will report to the Board at its monthly meetings.

2023-24 Annual Goals and Actions Items

Goal	Action Item	Assigned To	Target Date	Completion Date
1. Complete the Annual Budget for the School.		Jeremy/Cotton/ Kim	1/31/24 (initial draft)	
	a) Present the initial budget to the Board prior to contract negotiations.	Jeremy	2/15/24	
	b) Present the final budget to the Board for approval.	Jeremy	6/10/24	
2. Recruit and mentor new finance committee members.		Finance Committee		
3. Update authorized signers on bank accounts.		Cotton/Jeremy/Coll ette	12/31/2023	
4. Monitor legislation related to teacher salaries with particular focus on maintaining, or increasing from, the state standard at Woods. Review possibility of adjusting budget line items during the academic year based on increases in revenue sources.		Finance Committee		
5. Communicate with Woods' community the Woods Charter School finances, goals, and challenges.		Finance Committee		
6. Find additional investment opportunities for cash reserves.		Finance Committee		

Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2023

FOUNDATION BOARD

All of our board members are returning this year and I'm looking forward to another year with this strong team!

Erin Grossmann – President
Cristina Lincoln – Vice President
Caroline Dilworth – Treasurer
Elise Stanford – Secretary
Dana Crotts
Dominique Gignac
Beth Kennedy
Richard Nuss
Nicki Schreiber
Eryn Dillard – Faculty Representative
Cotton Bryan – Principal
Jessica Oliver – Director

Of note, Caroline Dilworth, Erin Grossmann, Cristina Lincoln and Elise Stanford will all hit their 6-year term limit upon close of this year.

ANNUAL FUND

Last year, we raised \$436,553 towards our Annual Fund – the highest ever and almost \$63K more than the year before! Our biggest gains were Raise the Paddle (up \$23K from the year before) and Grandparents & Special Friends Day (up \$19.8K from the year before).

Our major supports to Woods for the 2022-23 school year were:

- \$39.7K in Student Consumables
- \$20K in Curricular Materials
- \$17.6K in Professional Development
- \$236.3K in EOY Supplement
- \$11.6K in Teacher/Director/Department Support
- \$7.2K in Faculty Appreciation

We ended the fiscal year with a non-designated balance of \$185.1K.

This year's Annual Fund goal is \$440K, which would allow the Foundation to support:

- \$42K in Student Consumables
- \$31K in Curricular Materials

- \$23K in Professional Development
- \$244K in EOY Supplement
- \$17.5K in Teacher/Director/Department Support
- \$8.5K in Faculty Appreciation

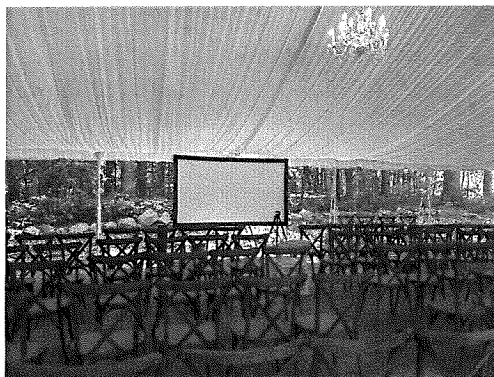
As of the 8/31, we have raised \$39K towards our Annual Fund.

2023-2024 EVENTS

New Parents Welcome Reception	Sept. 7 th
All School Campout	Sept. 30 th
Walk to School Day	Oct. 4 th
Annual Fund Week	Oct. 23 rd -27 th
GP & SF Day	Oct. 27 th
Into the Woods 5K	Dec. 2 nd
McIntyre's Shop-In Day	Dec. 14 th
McIntyre's Book Fair	Mar. 14 th -15 th
Benefit Auction	Apr. 19 th
Woods' 25th Birthday Party	May 17 th

PARENTS WELCOME RECEPTION

September 7th's reception was a fun one! The Old Lystra Inn graciously hosted us. About 75 parents, faculty and Foundation Board members mingled and ate on the back lawn before gathering under the tent for the speaking portion of the reception. Cotton Bryan, parent/teacher Dena Floyd, alumni Jenna Apolito and myself spoke to the vision, culture, strengths and needs of Woods. We heard lots of great feedback from parents who are so excited to be part of the school.



ALL SCHOOL CAMPOUT

After last year's weather cancellation, our fall family campout has been received with excitement! We already have over 300 parents and students registered for the September 30th event! Sign-ups to provide food for the cookout and helping the night of are going well, and we will also have our Senior Sibs on hand to assist with set-up and the night hike.

Folks can start setting up their tents on the Back 40 at 4pm and we'll serve dinner around 6:30pm. The night will include a campfire and night hike. Fingers crossed for good weather!

Go to the school website to sign up for the event or to help with food and/or help with the night.

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

October 4th will be our 3rd Annual Walk to School Day, such a fun tradition we've begun! All students (and family members, if they'd like!) are invited to meet at the pavilion in Briar Chapel's Great Meadow Park before school. Our buses will drop students there and then we'll head to school on foot together, starting around 8:15. Cotton will again be meeting us at the park after his long journey from home and we hope to have the Sheriff's Department escort us to school. It is a joyful start to the day!

ANNUAL FUND WEEK & GP/SF DAY

The last week of October we will ask our community to give to our Annual Fund with the culmination being Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day on October 27th.

In preparation for the week, we are sending out a survey to our school families in hopes to gain more understanding around why those who donate do, why those who don't don't, and what messaging resonates and what is being lost.

ALUMNI OUTREACH

I've made a calendar of e-newsletter outreach for the year and the first newsletter will go out this week. I've asked alumni to submit any news they would like to share and plan to make an active alumni page on the school website, highlighting alumni news and events.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The Gift Card Program is underway for the year, with the first month of cards ordered and delivered. We had 42 orders, compared to 38 orders last September, so happy with the direction we are going!

FACULTY APPRECIATION

Ann Kaiyala is again spearheading Faculty Appreciation. I am thankful for all of the time and energy she puts into making each event a success. The week before students were in the building, faculty were treated to a breakfast from Flying Biscuit, a lunch from Carrburritos and a happy hour gathering at Carolina Brewery to end the week. A wonderful start to fuel everyone for the year!

AUDIT

We've begun working Sharpe Patel on our audit and I anticipate it being a quicker process than last year's audit!

GRANTS TO WCS

As of 9/12/23:

Individual Teacher, Director & Dept Support	Up to \$17,500.00
Faculty Appreciation Events	Up to \$8,500.00
Curricular Materials	\$26,274.12
Student Consumables	\$29,390.56
Professional Development	\$2,176.55

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of 8/31/23:

Fidelity Bank Checking: \$294,466

LPL Financial: \$100

Designated monies within these accounts: \$109,560

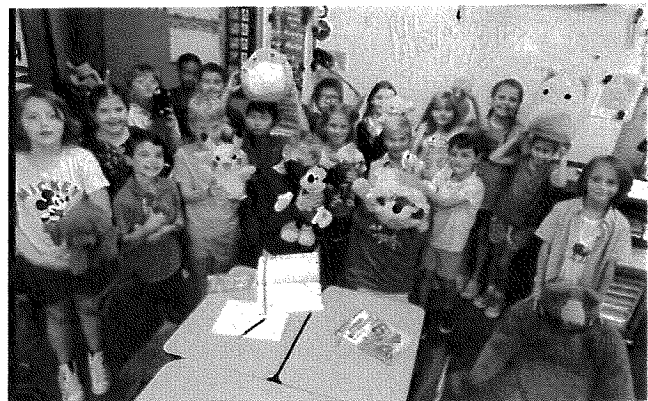
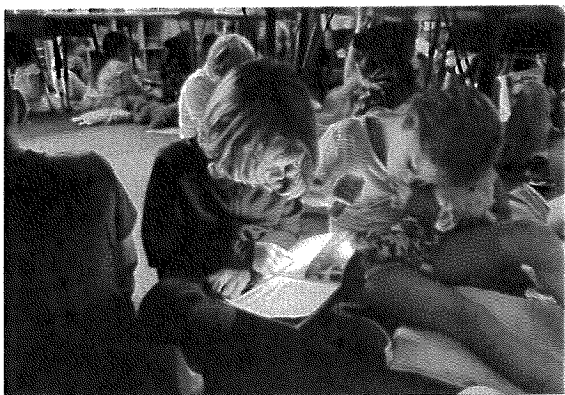
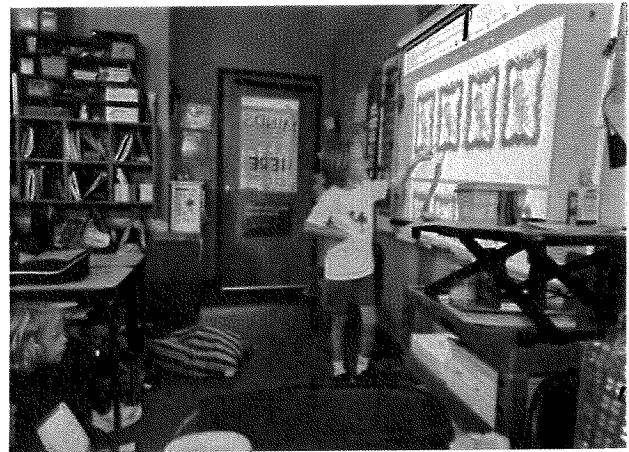
September 2023 Faculty Board Report

Prepared by Rachel Lawrence, September 21, 2023

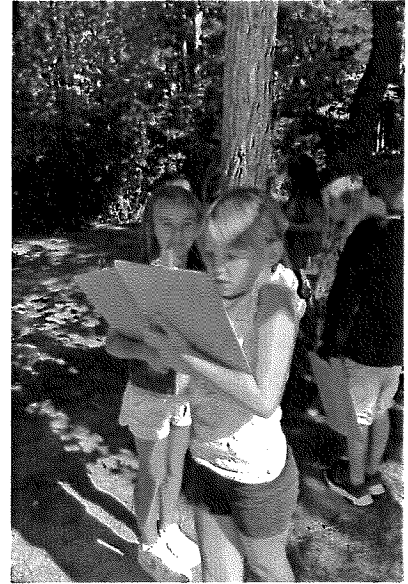
Classrooms across divisions start the year with a lot of community and routine building. Elementary classrooms, particularly, spend a lot of intentional time helping our youngest learners get settled, as well as assessing and testing to plan the most effective instruction for the year.

In the midst of BOG testing 3rd grade has managed to fit in some pretty relaxing and fun moments scattered throughout their week. In Ms. O’Nolan’s classroom one student followed the third grade birthday tradition of standing on the desk while being sang happy birthday, complete with birthday badge, letter of kindness from classmates, and a choice of what fun activity to add on to the day.

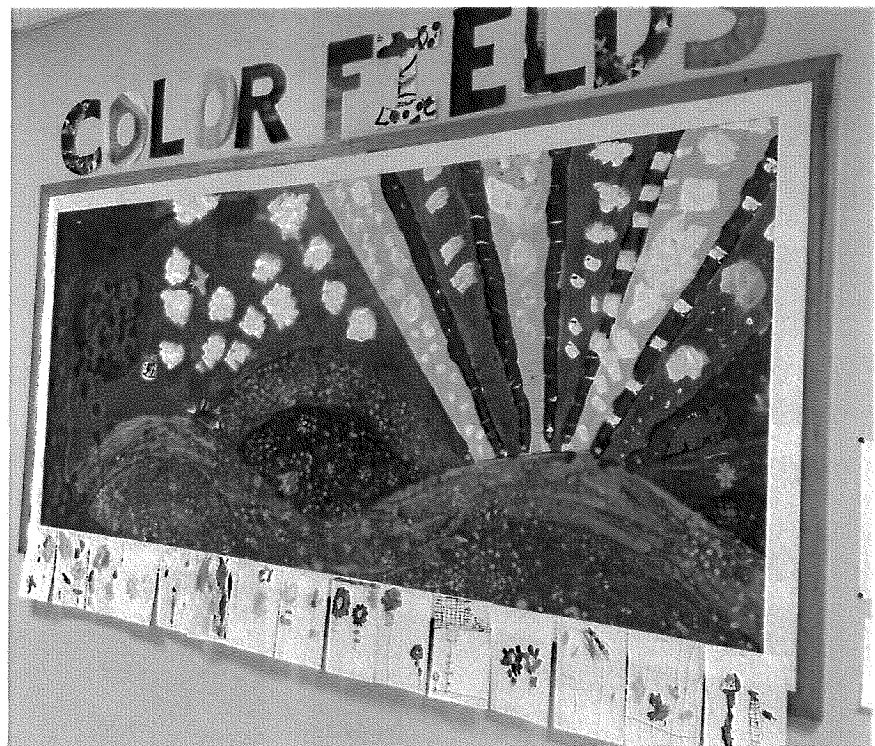
A class family member visited to teach about her country and culture of Chile, the class earned a “stuffy day” from receiving 10 teacher compliments in the hallway (4 weeks is the fastest record ever!), and they visited their little buddies in Ms. Castellano’s class. With their buddies they completed some activities with a “night time theme”; they used under the desks as “tents”, flashlights, night time sounds playing, and an astronaut sight word game led by the 3rd grade “teacher in training” of the week.



Ms. Dillard's class is also up to their usual outdoor shenanigans, pictured here going on a bug hunt.

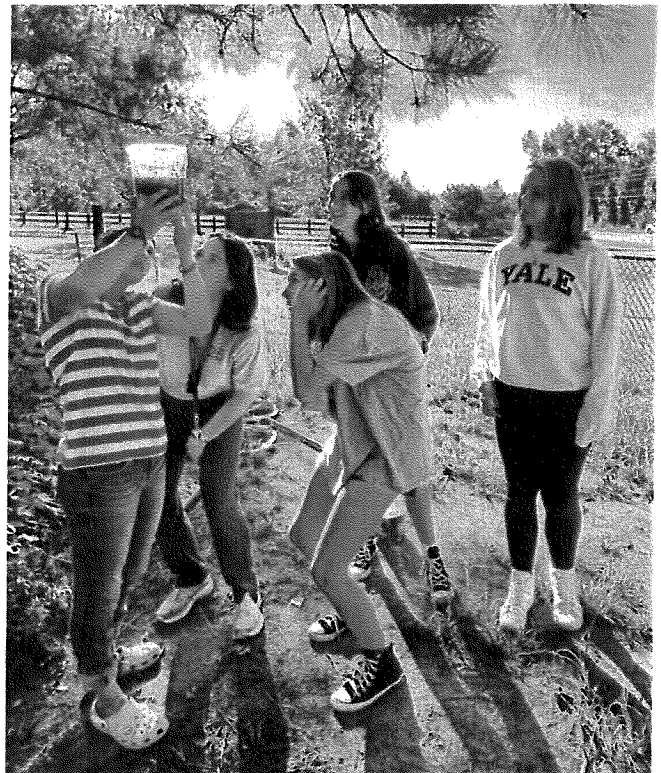


New Elementary Art teacher Ashley Lorusso is hard at work helping third graders prepare background art for the bulletin board, teaching new classroom routines, and introducing her students to her classroom guinea pigs, Snowball and Rose.



7th and 8th graders have been using the new outdoor classroom to explore its ecology and the microscopic world beneath the pond's surface. Using dip nets and clear buckets, they have found the usual suspects of crayfish, tadpoles and salamander larvae. They also learned to keep their fingers clear of the giant water bugs (a.k.a. toe biters) and water scorpions they found in the leaves and muck at the water's edge.

7th graders learned to use microscopes and found signs of life as small as a single cell in the water when they made slide preparations in the lab. They also got to see protists called volvox, mosquito larvae, and teeny tiny crustaceans called water fleas zipping around once they got the water under the dissecting scopes.



Denise O'Gorman was awarded the Environmental Educators Outstanding Practitioners Award on 9/8/24.

Environmental students have been learning about the overarching environmental problems, the high use of Palm oil and it's consequential destruction of forests in developing countries and the Tragedy of the Commons - where everyone shares a resource, no one owns it, and eventually the resource is overused/overexploited.

For stress relief a giant sea turtle coloring poster has been placed on the Marine bulletin board (across from room 103) for all to contribute their coloring skills.



Students in AP Seminar examined research on book bans from around the world and considered the potential impact of SB 49 on reading and free speech in schools in North Carolina.