

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
May 8, 2023



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Favreau, Lennon; Gronski, Melany; Harten, Michael; Larrow, Jeff; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Nguyen, Cang—alt.; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Len; Singleton, Holly; Walley, David; Woodland, Julie; Young, Scott

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Sandford, Chris; Staples, Ethan

GUESTS: Tricia and Nicole Apicelli

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:31 p.m. Committee Chair Paquette asked those present to introduce themselves.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of April 17, 2023

MOTION: (Samborowski/Young) To approve the minutes of April 17, 2023. All voted Yes except Jeff Larrow, who abstained. Motion passes.

4. Review Concentrations and Conservatory Whitepaper

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten provided an overview of the College and Career Concentrations and The Conservatory Whitepaper included in the packet. Beginning in the 23-24 school year, students will have the option to select a College and Career Concentration (CCC) where they will focus their electives to develop competency in at least one area.

Concentrations will include:

- a. Humanities: Political Science & Law; Early Childhood Education
- b. STEM: Engineering; Animation & Video; Life Sciences
- c. Fine Arts: Visual Arts; Music (through the Conservatory)
- d. PE/Health/FCS: Sports Medicine; Culinary Arts
- e. World Language: Spanish, German, Italian, Classics (completion of a level 4 class and earning The Seal of Biliteracy is also required for WL Concentration)

All areas of concentration will require the following:

- a. Three additional courses past the core graduation requirements
- b. Completion of the mastery-based diploma assessment in the area of concentration
- c. Participation in at least one co- or extra-curricular experience in the concentration, such as an honor society, club, conference, team, travel experience, publication, performance, or peer tutoring
- d. Written application for the concentration by June 1 of junior year
- e. Other requirements as appropriate for individual concentrations

The Conservatory was described as a division of The Woodstock Academy that is focused on a comprehensive and interdisciplinary Fine Arts education to allow dedicated student visual and musical artists to earn the designation of a College and Career Concentration in Fine Arts on their transcript and resumes. In addition to the course offerings and outstanding faculty, students will have access to the theater and the art gallery in the Loos Center for the Arts.

5. Appoint New Faculty Member

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten informed the group that the administration has recommended science teacher Melany Gronski serve for a three-year term on the Academic Committee. Science teacher Valerie May will

be stepping down as a faculty representative. Committee Chair Paquette thanked Mrs. May for her many contributions over the years and warmly welcomed Mrs. Gronski.

6. Review Student Applications and Select New Student Members

Committee Chair Paquette thanked senior student Lennon Favreau for her valuable service and wished her great success in college. Cang Nguyen and Eli Staples were also thanked. Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten shared the applications of three students looking to join the committee. Names were not included. Discussion ensued, a blind vote was taken, and student Chandler Folkerts was selected to join the committee in 2023-2024. Dr. Harten planned to notify all three applicants in the next couple of days.

7. Recognition of Members Leaving the Committee

Committee Chair Paquette brought assorted desserts for the group to enjoy as they said goodbye to Lennon Favreau and Val May.

8. Review 22-23 Academic Committee Goals

- a. *Monitor social and emotional support for students and staff and collect data.*
- b. *Encourage BOT members to attend classes and events.*
- c. *Encourage mutual understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion within The Academy community.*
- d. *Monitor, assess results, and support plans to improve student assessment data, particularly in science, English and math.*

Each of the committee goals was evaluated and discussed. Faculty members offered feedback and shared personal experiences. As a way of showing Board appreciation, Committee Chair Paquette planned to offer ice cream sundaes to the faculty and staff this coming Friday after school.

9. Other – None.

Lennon Faveau and Cang Nguyen exited the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

10. Executive Session—Individual Student Requests

MOTION: (Larrow/Harten) To enter into Executive Session to discuss Individual Student Requests, inviting all still present, in person and on Zoom, to attend, at 6:19 p.m.

Unanimous

Tricia and Nicole Apicelli exited the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

The meeting returned to regular session at 6:39 p.m.

11. Possible Action Based on Executive Session

Dr. Harten was asked to communicate the Board's response to the student on the following day.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: (Samborowski/Walley) To adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Woodland

Julie Woodland, Board Clerk

The Woodstock Academy prepares all students by providing diverse opportunities through a rigorous curriculum and a variety of programs in order to cultivate the necessary skills to become lifelong learners and global citizens.