

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**  
**February 6, 2023**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Harten, Michael; Larrow, Jeff; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Nguyen, Cang—alt.; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Len; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Staples, Ethan; Walley, David; Woodland, Julie; Young, Scott

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Favreau, Lennon

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Community Participation** – None.

**3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of January 9, 2023**

**MOTION:** (Sandford/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of January 9, 2023.  
Unanimous

**4. Review Revised Policy 6146.3 – Early Graduation**

Policy 6146.3 was discussed by the committee members.

**MOTION:** (Samborowski/Singleton) To send Policy 6146.3 to the Executive Committee and then to the full Board as a second read.  
Unanimous

**5. Strings Program Whitepaper**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten reviewed the Strings Program whitepaper, noting this concept was developed prior to COVID, approximately four years ago. Any student will be able to enroll in Strings I and students with financial need would receive assistance from the school for any equipment rental. Strings I is expected to begin in the fall and students will be able to take this course many times, based on skill level. At the moment, less than ten students play together as part of the Strings Club which meets on Fridays.

**6. Course Proposals: ASL Level 2 and 3; Strings Level 1**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten elaborated further on the Strings I curriculum proposal, saying the main instruments are expected to be violin and cello. Students need only have a basic ability to read music to start. This one-credit course will meet daily and will be taught by Mrs. Churchill.

He next explained the American Sign Language, Levels 2 & 3 curriculum proposals, saying since American Sign Language Level 1 began, over 40 students have taken the course across grades 9-12. Currently, two sections are running with approximately 20 students per class. These students now want to continue their studies and could be eligible for the Seal of Biliteracy since ASL is considered a world language. Brief discussion ensued about who might teach the ASL classes next year. Student feedback so far has included comments such as, “fun, more participatory, and harder than expected.” Head of School Sandford hopes to see Academy students offering sign language services at public events someday.

**7. Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment**

Dr. Harten and Associate Head of School Mrs. Singleton described the statutorily required, one-credit Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment initiated by the State of CT which must be completed in order for students to meet graduation requirements. The class of 2023 will complete the assessment as part of a pilot program. Students from

the class of 2023 will complete an online portfolio/reflection during a February advisory. Students are expected to become complex thinkers, effective communicators, sensitive to the aesthetic world, physically and mentally healthy, and effective processors of information before they graduate. Discussion ensued as questions were asked and answered.

#### **8. Spring Professional Development Update**

Dr. Harten said the learning topics planned for the professional development day being held on Tuesday, February 21 were selected based on staff survey responses. Overarching PD themes for the year include social emotional learning, family communication, DEI/Diversifying the Curriculum, and technology. Dr. Therese Bouley, ECSU, author of *Implicit Bias: An Educator's Guide to the Language of Microaggressions* will be speaking from 10:00-11:30 a.m. that day; several area superintendents are planning to attend.

**9. Other** – None.

#### **10. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Larrow/Rich) To adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m.  
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Woodland*

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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.*