

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**  
**June 13, 2022**



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Castle, Leah; Favreau, Lennon; Harten, Michael; Musko, Jason; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; To, Thao (Stephanie)—alt.; Walley, David; Woodland, Julie; Young, Scott  
**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** May, Val; Samborowski, Len  
**GUESTS:** Zoe Botta, Cang Nguyen, Ethan Staples

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:33 p.m.

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of May 9, 2022**

**MOTION:** (Singleton/Musko) To approve the minutes of May 9, 2022.  
Unanimous

**4. Welcome New Members (Ethan Staples, Cang Nguyen)  
Goodbye Old Members (Leah Castle, Stephanie To)**

The new and existing members introduced themselves to each other. Graduating members were thanked for their many contributions. Assorted desserts, provided by Committee Chair Paquette, were enjoyed by the group.

**5. Approve 22-23 Teacher Evaluation Flexibilities (approved by Teaching and Learning Committee on 5/19)**

Dr. Harten and Mrs. Singleton highlighted the main sections of a letter on this topic from the State Department of Education, saying the State has extended the flexibilities we are currently operating under. Between our current guidelines and the teaching and learning communities, The Academy will reevaluate its teacher evaluation process, but it is likely that the process will be similar. Final decisions will be made by August. The new, 23-24 guidelines have not yet been released by the State.

**6. Review Plan for Seniors on October Test Day**

Mr. Walley explained the reasons that seniors will no longer be offered the October SAT during “school test day,” beginning this year. Given the de-emphasis on SAT scores in the college application process, the many opportunities to take the test at other times and the high cost of administering the test, offering other activities to seniors seemed of greater value. Possible activities could include trips to local colleges and universities, “college boot camp,” community service events, and military/career presentations. This concept was supported by senior representatives.

**7. Review 21-22 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.**

Brief discussion ensued about sticking with the 21-22 goals during the 22-23 school year. It was agreed to continue the conversation at the next meeting.

**8. Other**

Associate Head of School Singleton elaborated on the “Increasing Focus on the Whole Child Through Scheduling Adjustments” leadership whitepaper. After reviewing the student data from 20-21 and noting a decline in the strength of teacher-student relationships, it was agreed to make restoring social deficiencies a priority. Administration, WALT, and several student groups collaborated on this concept. In short, the proposed schedule for 22-23 will be modified to provide three full blocks of instruction, a one-hour lunch block, and then the fourth instructional block. The one-hour lunch block will allow students to meet for clubs, students to meet with teachers for extra help, larger groups of students to dine together / share a bit of down time, and teachers to enjoy a 30-minute, uninterrupted lunch break. Having clubs meet during the school day increases equity for students who need afterschool transportation or a late bus to participate. Despite some concerns about initial logistics (transportation, food service flow, supervision, etc.), it is hoped the new schedule will be a very positive change for students and teachers.

## **9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Nguyen/Staples) To adjourn the meeting at 6:29 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.*