

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
March 7, 2022



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Castle, Leah; Favreau, Lennon; Harten, Michael; Hughes, Karin; Musko, Jason; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Len; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Thibodeau, Annmarie; Walley, David; Woodland, Julie; Young, Scott
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: May, Val; To, Thao (Stephanie)—alt.

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 February 7, 2022

MOTION: (Musko/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of February 7, 2022. All voted Yes except Scott Young, who abstained. Motion passed.

4. Personal Pronouns in World Language—presentation

World Language Department Chair Annmarie Thibodeau provided a PowerPoint presentation which elaborated on the gender-inclusive resources currently being provided in the world language classes. Within her department, great care was taken to craft a language statement which acknowledges the fluid nature of language and the commitment of her department to promote The Academy’s DEI initiative and mission of diversity and inclusion. Context and examples were given regarding how gender-neutral pronouns are being used in Spanish, German, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, and American Sign Language classes in both high school and college level classes. Gender-neutral pronouns are mainly used to respect the preference of individual students during conversation, are used in addition to traditional pronouns (rather than in place of), and students are not penalized for their use on written tests. Head of School Sandford thanked Mrs. Thibodeau and her colleagues for the powerful work they have done.

5. Attendance—presentation

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes provided a comparison of sending town attendance rates by academic year, saying the state is holding schools accountable for attendance standards despite the challenges associated with managing COVID symptoms and sickness. Next, a table was reviewed where attendance rates were compared to nearby high schools by academic year followed by a table where the numbers of truant students were sorted by academic year. Discussion led into ways to address truancy, which included making referrals to TEEG (via the Juvenile Review Board), committee meetings which troubleshoot solutions for individual students, establishing “attendance mentors” who try to increase a sense of community through increased contact, using Silver Linings where appropriate, and arranging assistance through the school’s behavioral analyst.

6. February’s PD Update

a. DEI

Dean of Academics Dr. Harten provided an overview of the DEI training materials shared at the faculty and staff professional development day held on Tuesday, February 22. A subsequent advisory day where students explored the mission and goals of the school’s DEI initiative was also discussed. The conversation shifted into mental health support and resources for students which included Silver Linings, hot lines, tip lines, and how best to identify/help students who might be under the radar and struggling.

b. ALICE Training

Dr. Harten briefly reviewed the ALICE training handout from the PowerPoint presentation used by Director of Campus Safety Craig Rich and Assistant Director of Campus Safety Sam Resnick at the last professional

development. This nationally recognized active shooter training program empowers staff (and students) how best to make decisions based on unique circumstances. Mr. Rich and Mr. Resnick planned to provide security training at the Brooklyn Public Schools at the end of the week. A two-day Safety and Security Conference has been organized for the end of June.

7. Other – None.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: (Young/Musko) To adjourn the meeting at 6:18 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.