

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**  
**January 10, 2022**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

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

**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 November 8, 2021**

**MOTION:** (Musko/Rich) To approve the minutes of November 8, 2021.  
Unanimous

**4. Course Proposals**

**a. American Sign Language**

The course proposal for American Sign Language, Level 1 was reviewed. This unique offering has been in the works for the last two years, and Mr. Connor Elliott will be certified to teach this course next spring. The current plan is to teach one section per school year; it is hoped our students might be able to provide sign language services at a wide variety of events if needed. Questions were asked and answered.

**b. eSports**

The course proposal for University of Bridgeport ESPT 220: Intro to eSports was reviewed. Since the course is being offered in conjunction with the University of Bridgeport, students will be able to earn college credit. Mr. Tom Young will be teaching the class and anticipates getting an extensive breakdown of requirements from the University of Bridgeport. It is expected to be an exciting elective option for upper classmen. Based on student demand, one section may be offered every other year.

**c. Stop-Motion Animation**

The course proposal for Stop-Motion Animation was reviewed. Mr. Eric Collelo plans to teach this multimedia course which will use both physical and digital tools to work with students interested in physical and digital art classes. Based on student demand, one section may be offered every other year.

**d. ECE Biology**

Mrs. Val May described the reasons she has asked to modify this aspect of The Academy's Biology offerings. Targeted for juniors and seniors, it is hoped this change will create opportunities for more students beginning next year.

After brief discussion, the Academic Committee agreed they supported/approved of all four proposals.

**5. Fall Testing Update**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten reviewed a handout which summarized the results from The Academy's Test Day held in fall 2021. The scores were around the same as they were before the pandemic and are continuing

to improve. He was glad to get a new baseline and was happy to see that students seemed to maintain their skills and growth.

**6. DEI Fall Survey Update**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten stated that the DEI Survey was completed by 215 students, 138 families, and 78 faculty/staff. After meeting with the consultants, a summary will be prepared and shared in the future.

**7. Check-in with Students, Faculty, Admin: What additional support is needed?**

Committee Chair Paquette asked for a general update from the group. While Covid-related absences for students and staff have been challenging, it hoped this will improve going forward. Many shared struggles with supporting students quarantining or convalescing at home ranging from tracking assignments to preparing materials to creating consistency. Committee Chair Paquette reiterated her support, and the Board's support, for the efforts being undertaken by all members of The Academy community.

**8. Other – None.**

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Samborowski/Rich) To adjourn the meeting at 6:26 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.*