

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**  
**September 13, 2021**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

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

**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 June 14, 2021**

**MOTION:** (Musko/Rich) To approve the minutes of June 14, 2021.

Unanimous

**4. Review Teacher Evaluation Plan (with State Flexibilities for 21-22)**

Dean of Academics Michael Harten provided an overview of the teacher evaluation guidelines for this year. Categories included Student Learning Indicators (45%), Observation Performance and Practice (40%), Stakeholder Feedback (10%), and Whole-School Student Learning Indicators/Teacher Effectiveness Outcomes (5%). Comments included how the old practices were mostly similar, that the “holistic approach” made more sense, and statements that valued the peer observation component were made. The Academic Committee unanimously expressed its support for the evaluation structure as proposed.

**5. Review School Goal/Action Plan**

Dean of Academics Michael Harten presented a summary of school-wide efforts related to equity and inclusion for this academic year so far, under the direction of the school's director of equity and inclusion, Denzel Washington. The action plan for Objective #1 (for employees and students to promote acceptance across all settings) is still being revised. Objective #2 (to foster growth and self-reflection practices related to diversity, equity and inclusion) has been facilitated by various training opportunities organized by Kevin Booker, Jr. It was agreed that Objective #3 (to encourage mutual understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion within The Woodstock Academy community) would become an overarching Academic Committee goal.

**6. Review 2021 Student Climate Survey Results**

Dean of Academics Michael Harten reviewed the results of the Student Climate Survey which was taken during an advisory period last school year. Only 439 students responded which seemed indicative of the generally low engagement during COVID-19. General discussion about students participating in activities included the types of activities offered, the levels of advertising for when/where various clubs meet, reasons why students might not choose to be involved, and how best to reach disengaged students. Dr. Harten agreed to breakdown future data into grades after the committee wondered if the participation level of seniors tended to drop off closer to graduation.

## 7. Discuss 21-22 Academic Committee Goals

The Academic Committee goals from 2020-2021 were used to develop goals in 2021-2022, resulting in the following:

- 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 Woodstock Academy community.**

Discussion included the role of transportation in the access and equity experienced by students participating in clubs and activities; an interest in exploring intramural sports programs to get more students involved; and encouraging work/study opportunities for students afterschool. Finding enough certified bus drivers continues to be a problem throughout the state of CT.

8. **Other** – None.

## 9. Adjournment

**MOTION:** (Musko/Young) To adjourn the meeting at 6:23 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.*