

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
June 14, 2021



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Child, Barbara; Paquette, Philippa; Harten, Michael; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Walley, David; Castle, Leah; Favreau, Lennon; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Telford, Richard; To, Stephanie; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Ignacio, Joey; Michalski, Alina (alternate); Samborowski, Len; Young, Scott

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:32 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of May 10, 2021

MOTION: (Musko/Singleton) To approve the minutes of May 10, 2021.

Unanimous

4. Welcome New Student Members; Goodbye Seniors!

Everyone present introduced themselves to the new members. Veteran member Leah Castle offered insight about serving as student representative on the Academic Committee.

5. English Department Changes (Guest: Richard Telford)

English Department Chair Richard Telford provided an overview of the changes to the English curriculum proposed for 2022-2023. In short, the proposal involves allows juniors and seniors an opportunity to take English classes beyond graduation requirements, as electives. Students considering English as a college major and students seeking to engage beyond traditional and contemporary authors and topics will benefit. Surveys will be given to students this fall to assess the level of interest for various offerings. Questions were asked and answered. The committee thanked Mr. Telford for his presentation.

6. Summer Programming Update (Refresh, Extended School Year, Liaoyuan)

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten described the Summer Refresh Program, where incoming freshmen and existing Academy students will have an opportunity to strengthen academics, take electives, work on relationship building, or even achieve some credit recovery during August. A detailed handout was provided, but interested families/students were urged to express interest/request more information from the school website.

The Extended School Year Program (ESY) was explained next. Primarily a special education program, offerings are geared toward putting daily living and transitional skills into practice, modeling appropriate behaviors in a variety of settings, and fostering a sense of community belonging. Classes will take place Mondays-Thursdays during July; lunch will be provided.

As part of the Liaoyuan program, Dr. Harten said we are expecting about ten sophomores to attend summer session and about eight seniors to arrive in August to begin attending school on campus.

7. Review 20-21 Goals

a. Monitor social and emotional support for students and staff and collect data.

Data was collected from teachers and year-end surveys will be reviewed in the fall.

b. Encourage BOT members to attend virtual classes and events.

With COVID restrictions, Trustees attended more events than classes.

- c. **Monitor progress on improving equity and inclusion; trustee members are also encouraged to read *The Person You Mean to Be* by Dolly Chugh.**

Denzel Washington was hired as the school's first Director of Equity and Inclusion. Several Trustees read Dolly Chugh's book.

- d. **Monitor and support effective eLearning practices.**

This was a focus of the committee all year long.

8. Endorse State Teacher Evaluation 21-22 Flexibility Guidelines

A memo from the State Board of Education regarding Flexibilities for Implementing the *CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2021-2022 School Year, dated June 9, 2021, was reviewed. Questions were asked and answered.

The committee unanimously endorsed the flexibility guidelines as presented.

9. Other

Barbara Child announced her retirement from the Board of Trustees, and as such, this was her last Academic Committee meeting. She was thanked for her 50 years of dedicated service. In turn, Barbara Child thanked the committee and the Board for this wonderful, unique opportunity.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: (Child/Musko) 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.