

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
April 12, 2021



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Child, Barbara; Paquette, Philippa; Samborowski, Len; Young, Scott; Harten, Michael; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Walley, David; Castle, Leah; Ignacio, Joey; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Michalski, Alina (alternate)

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

- a. Minutes of February 8, 2021
- b. Minutes of March 8, 2021

MOTION: (Musko/Walley) To approve the minutes of February 8, 2021. All voted Yes except Barbara Child, who abstained. Motion passes.

MOTION: (Young/Singleton) To approve the minutes of March 8, 2021. All voted Yes except Barbara Child, who abstained. Motion passes.

4. World Language Curriculum Revision

Dr. Harten, Mr. Musko and Mrs. Singleton described a new proposal being developed to create more opportunities for students wishing to explore Italian, Mandarin or German courses. Originally suggested by Melita Monahan, this “gentler approach” allows Honors Italian I, Honors Mandarin I and Honors German I students to begin by focusing on culture while learning basic vocabulary and pronunciation. Over the summer, students are able to complete a summer self-study program and test into the second level honors course.

It is hoped that by increasing the opportunities to foster a love of language and culture earlier in the learning process more students might be interested in trying a new language for the first time—particularly since so many eighth graders have already started learning Spanish in middle school. The counseling department has already started encouraging new students to try a new language. The committee agreed that shifting the more grammar-intensive learning until the second level may be the way welcome more students into the World Languages department; the World Languages department was thanked for this excellent idea.

5. Liaoyuan Update

Dr. Harten provided an update about the Liaoyuan program, a partnership program where students attend classes in China through their junior year (using WA curriculum) and complete their senior year of high school (and a summer) at The Academy. During the pandemic last summer, students were only able to take online courses. This fall (due to pandemic travel restrictions), our one Liaoyuan student has taken all his classes virtually from China. A talented percussionist, this student has been on the honor roll for the last three semesters and will attend Berklee College of Music in the fall. So far, at least seven new students will join our campus in fall 2021 and another twelve new students will join us in fall 2022. Over this summer, all seven of these rising seniors have enrolled to take U.S. History and College and Career Readiness classes, along with a group of rising juniors who will take U.S. History and a STEM elective.

The committee considers our current senior from the Liaoyuan program to be a great success story and encouraged the administration to entertain a similar program in other countries.

6. 2021-2022 Academic Committee Membership

Academic Committee membership for 2021-2022 was reviewed. Len Samborowski has stepped forward to help the committee and hopes to be officially appointed by Board President Swenson in the coming months. Jason Musko and Val May offered to continue as faculty representatives. Dr. Harten is accepting applications from rising Academy juniors and seniors until April 30. The questions for student applicants were examined and Dr. Harten planned to include a question which might better help the committee select student members who represent a wide range of diverse viewpoints.

7. Other – None.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: (Young/Child) To adjourn the meeting at 6:07 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.