

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
February 8, 2021



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Paquette, Philippa; Young, Scott (5:45); Harten, Michael; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Walley, David; Castle, Leah; Michalski, Alina (alternate); Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Child, Barbara; Ignacio, Joey

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 January 11, 2021

MOTION: (Musko/Harten) To approve the minutes of January 11, 2021. All voted Yes except Alina Michalski, who abstained.
Motion passes.

4. Course Proposal: Intro to Genocide Studies

Dr. Harten provided an overview of a new course: Introduction to Genocide. The course is part of UCONN's ECE program. Social studies department chair Sara Dziedzic was asked to be part of a group who would pilot this new course. It will be a compliment to her Human Rights course and will be offered on alternate semesters. Cross departmental collaboration with the visual arts program was suggested. The committee agreed to accept the course as proposed.

5. Graduation Rate Report

Dr. Harten and Mrs. Singleton reviewed a state report comparing cohort graduation rates by CT schools in 2020, saying The Academy is at a 97.3% average over 5 years, which is above most other towns and local schools. Data incorporates various student changes and relocations and considers seniors who started and finished their senior year at The Academy. EastConn, who handles our GED classes, will likely be impacted due to COVID.

6. Schedule and Class Size Update for Second Semester

Dr. Harten and Mrs. Singleton explained the parameters of the proposed student schedule for the spring semester. Student attendance for in-person classes continues to rise in response to student desire to participate in clubs/sports combined with lower COVID rates in the local area. Adjustments to the schedule include a 10-minute per class increase in instructional time and scheduled office hours on Wednesdays. Academic Chair Paquette encouraged all members to share any thoughts or concerns about the scheduling changes; responses were supportive and members were appreciative.

Head of School Sandford and Associate Head of School Singleton have addressed the need to reduce the classroom sizes of in-person classes by adding sections and teachers with a targeted number of less than 22 students per class. At least seven FTE teachers will be hired to support a full return to in-person schooling in the fall. An incentive for Academy employees to recruit certified teachers has been proposed and the hiring committee remains committed to increasing diversity within the faculty and staff.

7. Spring Testing/Guidance Update

Director of College and Career Counseling Services Dave Walley reviewed a handout listing various spring testing and guidance events for all grades over the next several months. The PSAT, SAT, ACT and a wide array of

meetings for students considering a career in the armed forces will be offered in March and April, as well as a workshop for freshmen about what steps they should be taking now in order to most successfully apply to colleges and universities during their senior year. It was suggested that these sessions be recorded for repeat/ later viewing by students and families. Mr. Walley described the ongoing efforts within his department to support the efforts of current seniors to continue applying to colleges and universities.

Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Amy Favreau plans to dedicate at least 15 minutes of her senior (graduation) meeting on February 18 to a guidance presentation about using Naviance to access scholarship opportunities.

8. Other – None.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: (Singleton/May) To adjourn the meeting at 6:22 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.