

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
October 13, 2020



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Child, Barbara; Paquette, Philippa; Harten, Michael; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Walley, David; Ignacio, Joey; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Castle, Leah; Michalski, Alina (alternate); Young, Scott

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:33 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of September 14, 2020

MOTION: (Child/Singleton) To approve the minutes of September 14, 2020.

Unanimous

4. Class Size Report

Dean of Academics Dr. Harten reviewed his Class Size Report 2020, saying that although targeted class sizes are between 18-22 students, the school-wide average is currently 21.6. Classes were categorized as below, within, or above ranges and specific sections with less than nine students or greater than 27 students were also listed. Several social studies and math classes were particularly crowded. He noted that there had been reductions to faculty in every department except student services; and overall class size has increased by 3.5 since fall 2019. ELearning has allowed classroom capacity to increase for Art 1, Digital Drawing, Guitar, Piano, Biology, 3D Animation, Multimedia and Game Design. Associate Head of School Holly Singleton indicated that class sizes would most likely be smaller next semester. Discussion included how larger class sizes combined with eLearning have led to difficulty providing timely student feedback and how teachers struggle to manage a higher volume of student emails requesting assistance. Even creating student recommendations for college applications have been more difficult to accomplish. There is frustration with working twice as long to complete half as much.

5. Student Survey Report from Student Members

Dr. Harten shared his screen with the group to provide information gleaned from Leah Castle's Student Council survey, where students shared their thoughts about returning to school and online engagement. Ms. Castle will be asked to review her report at the next meeting.

6. Trusted Adult/PD Survey Results

Dr. Harten reviewed the results of a Social Emotional Learning: Trusted Adults survey that was given to students in February, May, and September 2020. Overall, increasing numbers of students indicated they had adults in their lives they felt comfortable reaching out to for help, and over 100 different faculty or staff people were specifically named as a "trusted adult" on the survey.

He next reviewed the SEL: Instructional survey where approximately 80% of staff felt eLearning was more stressful than in-person learning, 69% felt the professional development they received helped them better meet the needs of their students, 17% felt comfortable going to at least one member of the administrative team with a problem, and 18% felt the culture and emotional climate was positive and supportive only some of the time.

A comprehensive report was reviewed related to the professional development offered on the opening days in August 2020. Specific staff feedback was provided about topics such as COVID/Health Update, Social Emotional Learning, Equity/Inclusion/Bias, eLearning, and additional topics to be considered for future professional development.

7. Parent/Student/Staff Reopening Survey Results

Head of School Sandford reviewed the feedback received from a recent survey given to parents, students and staff regarding a return to in-person learning on campus. In response, a proposed hybrid schedule handout was provided, in which students would attend live classes on Monday or Tuesday (depending on their last name or special requirements) and eLearning would continue on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Discussion included concerns about increased teacher workload, how to avoid taking away from class time, how best to handle students who miss work and meeting the needs of medically fragile or non-local international students. Student representative Joey Ignacio made some specific suggestions about how to incorporate students learning remotely into in-person classroom settings.

8. Other – None.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: (Child/Harten) To adjourn the meeting at 6:24 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.