

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE  
November 12, 2019



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Musumeci, Joseph (5:40 p.m.); Paquette, Philippa; Young, Scott; Harten, Michael; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Singleton, Holly; Walley, David; Ignacio, Joey; Pan, Jingyi  
**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Child, Barbara; Arends, Alyssa (alternate)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paquette at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Community Participation** – None.

**3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of October 7, 2019**

**MOTION:** (Singleton/May) To approve the minutes of October 7, 2019.

Unanimous

**4. Data Team Update**

Dr. Harten said he, the Department Chairs from English (Mr. Telford) and Math (Mr. Rhault), Student Services Director Morse, and student services teacher Despres agree that quality assessment is a first step to developing more meaningful numbers to assist in proper student placement. Question types that highlight skill gaps can help identify students whose higher needs can be addressed in other, crossover departments/subjects—such as science or social studies. This assessment data will be compared to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT results. Some towns are considering a spring assessment for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, which might be helpful. We intend to pilot data analysis conferences with current 11<sup>th</sup> graders in which PSAT results are reviewed by students and goals are set for improvements.

**5. Class of 2023 Requirements Preliminary Discussion**

Dr. Harten and Mrs. Singleton described how new state requirements for graduation might affect curriculum at The Academy. It was noted that current 9<sup>th</sup> graders conform to the new state requirements. The state seems to be trying to offer more flexibility.

- Humanities—no change at WA except English 1B
- STEM—the technology requirement was removed and two STEM electives are required.
- Physical Education—must include health and safety (through multiple pathways) and no waiver is allowed
- Health, Civics, U.S. History—all still required

There will be a mastery-based diploma assessment (not based on seat time) where achievement is demonstrated by three out of five of our student outcomes/portrait of a learner. Options could include the following:

1. Independent Study—video, report, portfolio
2. Work study/Apprenticeship—demonstrating achievement
3. Specific existing courses and experiences (according to the provided handout) in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Administration may try to pilot a program with next year's seniors to aid in the process of creating systems.

The Experiential Learning grant from E.E. Ford may provide additional opportunities since the economic means of all students are not equitable.

The committee supported this approach to the new requirements.

**6. NEASC Discussion**

The group discussed Head of School Sanford's letter to NEAS&C which identified concerns about the evaluation process.

**7. Other** – The group discussed the conduct of Alumni Association President Jay Livernois at the last meeting, expressing disappointment how routine committee discussion became adversarial and was at times insulting to the student members of the Academic Committee.

It was agreed to cancel the December meeting.

**8. Community Participation** – None.

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Harten/Pan) To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Scott Young*

Academic Committee Member

*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.*