

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**October 18, 2022**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Asikainen, Samantha; Beckwith, Martha; Bentley, Cary; Blackmer, Robert; Carabeau, Garry; Cording, Leisl; Ellsworth, Robert (E); Frankhouser, Hans (W); Higgins, Edwin; Kelly, Paul; McGinn, Walter; Morse, David; Paquette, Philippa; Quinn, Eric; Rhyhart, Hans; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Leonard; Swenson, Christine; Tuttle, Brent (P)

**ADMINISTRATION:** Favreau, Amy; Harten, Michael; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Sturdevant, Jon; Susi, Michael; Woodland, Julie; Young, Thomas

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Duvall, Nancy (C); Larrow, Jeff; Livernois, Jay (Ex-Officio); Perkins-Banas, Melissa (B); Trivella, Joan; Young, Scott

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Swenson at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Nominating Committee Report and Possible Action**

Nominating Committee Chair Paul Kelly recommended Leisl Cording '04 serve as a Trustee of the Corporation. Questions were asked and answered as Leisl introduced herself to the Trustees.

**MOTION:** (Kelly/Tuttle) To accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to appoint Leisl Cording as a Trustee of the Corporation for a six-year term to end in 2028.

Unanimous

At the request of the current Foundation Directors (because the terms of several Trustees who presently serve on the Foundation will soon expire), Chairman Kelly expressed the need to appoint new Trustees to serve as Foundation Directors.

**MOTION:** (Kelly/Beckwith) To accept the recommendation of the current Foundation Directors to appoint Eric Quinn and Hans Rhyhart as Foundation Directors to terms which shall expire in August 2023 and Leisl Cording to a term which shall expire in August 2024.

Unanimous

**3. Community Participation – None.**

**4. Secretary's Report—Minutes of October 19, 2021, February 15, 2022, June 21, 2022, and September 10, 2022**

It was agreed to table approving the minutes of June 21, 2022.

**MOTION:** (Tuttle/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of October 19, 2021. All voted Yes except Hans Frankhouser, who abstained. Motion passes.

**MOTION:** (Tuttle/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of February 15, 2022. All voted Yes except Hans Frankhouser, who abstained. Motion passes.

**MOTION:** (Tuttle/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of September 10, 2022. All voted Yes except Hans Frankhouser, Samantha Asikainen, Bob Blackmer, and Brent Tuttle, who abstained. Motion passes.

**5. Board Reports**

**a. President's Report**

**i. Correspondence**

Head of School Sandford summarized the correspondence included in the packet, emphasizing letters to Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes and Director of Alumni Relations Brad Favreau for their recent leadership in the athletic and health services departments, thank you letters to Rick Branson and Nancy Dickson of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), a letter of congratulations to Val May for being named a Kim Foglia Service Award recipient, various letters of condolence, a letter of support for the CT Audubon Society's recent grant submission, a letter of commendation from the CIAC for the boys' ice hockey team for fine sportsmanship and good conduct during the 2021-2022 season, and a letter to the Woodstock Board of Education welcoming Hans Frankhouser back as Woodstock's sending town representative.

ii. Governance Committee / March Retreat

President Swenson thanked the Trustees for their participation in the September Board Retreat, expressing appreciation for the assistance of Rick Branson and Nancy Dickson. The next Governance Committee meeting will be scheduled sometime after November.

**b. Committee Reports**—questions/discussion on reports provided in packet

There were no questions about the meeting minutes.

**6. Woodstock Academy Administration Reports**

**a. Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Report**

i. 2022-2023—Budget Update

Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Mike Susi reviewed the profit and loss report, expressing some concern about the three payroll periods in December. Head of School Sandford thanked his team for finding creative ways to accomplish tasks without incurring added costs.

ii. Academy Building Restoration Project Update

Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Mike Susi shared that the current focus of the Academy Building Restoration Project is technology. The contractors have started to express concern that the re-opening date may be delayed, but there is plenty of time for that to change. Paul Kelly and Martha Beckwith were impressed when they recently toured the building. The display planned to show the historic clock's inner workings—including a swinging pendulum that will hang below floor level—is expected to be museum quality.

iii. 2021-2022 Audit Update

Mr. Susi stated that the auditors have all our documents but need to complete three distinct audits because of various grant requirements. The Board will be updated as progress continues.

iv. Other – None.

v. Board questions/discussion – None.

**b. Associate Head of School Report**

i. October Update

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton reported a more positive overall atmosphere on campus since school began and said students seem better behaved than at this time last year. The freshman class seems enthusiastic, and the senior class is providing quality campus leadership. Community lunch is going well—lunch lines are manageable, students are finding places to eat and unwind, student behavior is appropriate, and club participation is better than ever.

She shared her October Updates handout with the group, featuring school updates, student achievements, and faculty & staff achievements. A copy of emailed correspondence between cross-country student-athlete Lauren Brule and the CIAC and ECC regarding her concern about a Title IX compliance issue that resulted in a change to ECC bylaws was discussed. Associate Head of School Singleton's complete report is attached below.

ii. Academic Report

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten Mathematics and Science Department Chair Tom Young explained the Fall 2022 Academic Report data, saying this is the first year of “real” data following two years of COVID learning. Highlights included a 98% graduation rate for the class of 2022 and 85% of those students heading to a 2- or 4-year college. AP testing results are about the same as they

were in 2021, which are still slightly behind pre-pandemic scores. Seventeen ECE courses were offered in 21-22; 145 students took 253 separate classes; 926 ECE credits were earned, equating to over \$800K in tuition cost savings for these students. SAT and Next Generation Science Standards results were compared against area schools and compared within 5-year trends. Plans to improve assessment performance include identifying at-risk students using 7th-grade assessment data, staggering SAT prep across grade levels to reduce test prep burnout, making writing and language the focus of Junior English classes, making reading the focus in sophomore social studies classes, and targeting algebra I/algebra II/geometry for core math classes. Ongoing analysis of grade 9 assessments and October PSAT data will be used to determine curricular adjustments.

Efforts to support diversity, equity & inclusion were discussed. Examples included the summer institute with the National Council for Community and Justice, continual special programming focused on diversity, continued work through PLCs and Advisory to reach all employees and students, an upcoming advisory with a focus on cultural awareness, and continuing to survey all stakeholders in The Academy community.

A list of strategies being used to improve communications with families and caregivers was shared. Some examples included developing procedures around parent contact, unanswered emails, and phone calls, along with better record-keeping. PLCs will also focus on communication. The communications department is now bundling news and announcements into a Friday grouping that can be accessed by stakeholders directly and through the website. Questions were asked and answered.

iii. Other – None.

iv. Board questions/discussion – None.

#### **c. Associate Head of School for Advancement**

##### **i. Loos Center—Upcoming Events**

Associate Head of School for Advancement Jon Sturdevant shared recent and upcoming events at the Loos Center. Reflections—Story Telling of Artistic Freedom by Faustin Adeniran just opened in The Gallery. Besides his art, artist interviews and discussions have been very well received. In a few days, approximately 1600 students will experience Rhapsody in Black, a one-man show about racism in America at no cost, thanks to the New England Foundation for the Arts, Performing Arts of Northeast CT, and the WA Foundation – Loos Endowment. The group was urged to attend the Ocean State Pops Orchestra Concert scheduled for December 3, 2022, and the Tusk concert planned for January 21, 2023.

##### **ii. Advancement Update**

Associate Head of School for Advancement Jon Sturdevant described events at the recent alumni weekend, spotlighting the honoring of Lauren Anderson and the successful alumni dinner.

##### **iii. Annual Giving Day—November 15, 2022**

The group was reminded of the many ways to give and support the school. It is hoped that the results of the Annual Giving Day on November 15, 2022, will surpass those of earlier years.

iv. Other – None.

v. Board questions/discussion – None.

#### **d. Head of School Report**

##### **i. Enrollment Report**

Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Amy Favreau shared that The Academy currently has 1,050 students attending classes. The admissions department is seeing an increase in inquiries and applications as they keep busy attending a wide array of high school fairs, open houses, and boarding school conventions. Social media campaigns and radio commercials are in place as are planned international recruiting trips. Three confirmed deposits have been received for the spring semester and more are expected.

##### **ii. Approve Policies—Second Read**

Head of School Sandford explained any proposed changes to the policies included in the packet. Discussion included plans for Trustee Hans Rhyhart to collaborate with Director of Campus Safety Craig Rich to revise a policy related to campus safety.

**MOTION:** (Samborowski/Frankhouser) To accept the following revised and updated Policies listed below, as recommended by the Policy and Executive Committees.

- 3110 – Budget Planning
- 3515 – Community Use of Academy Facilities
- 4112 – Provisions/Process of Administrative Negotiated Contracts
- 5113.2 – Truancy
- 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse

Unanimous

iii. Theory of Action

Head of School Sandford presented the 2022-2023 Theory of Action which was already reviewed by the Executive Committee after the last Board Retreat.

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Rhyhart) To accept the 2022-2023 Theory of Action as presented.

Unanimous

iv. Holiday Gathering

A quick poll indicated an interest in holding the annual Board holiday party.

v. Other – None.

vi. Board questions/discussion – None.

**7. Other Items – None.**

Thomas Young left the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

**8. Executive Session—Legal and Real Estate**

**MOTION:** (Rich/Rhyhart) To enter into Executive Session to consider Legal and Real Estate matters, inviting Chris Sandford, Holly Singleton, Jon Sturdevant, Michael Susi, Amy Favreau, Michael Harten, John Rigney, and Julie Woodland to attend at 8:17 p.m. Unanimous

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:25 p.m.

**9. Possible Action Based on Executive Session**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Carabeau) To endorse the Security MOU with the Woodstock Board of Education as discussed in Executive Session. All voted Yes, except Hans Frankhouser, who abstained. Motion passes.

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Asikainen) To endorse the sale of the Academy-owned home located at 500 Route 169 under the terms as discussed in Executive Session. Unanimous

**10. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Frankhouser/Tuttle) To adjourn the meeting at 8:26 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.*



## October Updates from the Associate Head of School

### School Updates

- 51 students inducted into the National Honor Society.
- 26 students inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society.
- 18 students inducted into the Math Honor Society.
- 39 students inducted into the Science Honor Society.
- Woodstock Academy Pep Band has been asked to represent the University of Connecticut as their pep band for some upcoming home hockey games! (UConn will provide transportation and swag 😊)

### Student Achievements

- 13 students received 15 awards from The College Board as part of their National Recognition Program; they were honored with a National Rural and Small-Town Award: Aly Niemiec (B), Brian Jameson (W),

Bryn Miller (W), Connor Dunkley (P), Elais Newall Vuillefont (W), Elizabeth Morgis (U), Emma Korsu (B), Ethan Staples (P) [also received National African American Recognition Award], Jaydon Gormley (C) [also received National Hispanic Recognition Award], Matthew Myslenski (B), Owen Tracy (B), Paige Owens, (W) and Violet Young (B).

- The following students were accepted into the CT American School Band Directors Association Honor Symphonic Band: Sophia Quinn (W), flute; Emily Smock (W), bassoon; Olivia Smith (C), clarinet; Carolina DaSilva (W), tenor saxophone; Violet Young (B), trumpet; Aaron Allard (W), trumpet; Elizabeth Short (W), French horn; Joaquin Fraga (W), trombone; Bryn Miller (W), euphonium; Kate Ritzau (T), string bass. Three students were also accepted into the CT ASBDA Honor wind ensemble: Grace Smith (B), clarinet; Cameron McNally (W), clarinet; Cormac Nielsen (W), alto saxophone.
- The Woodstock Academy has chosen its scholar athletes for the 2022-2023 school year. Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Athletes include Braiden Saucier (W), and Lennon Favreau (W); the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Scholar Athletes are Lauren Brule (W) and Brian Jameson (W).
- Senior Lauren Brule (W) recently advocated for Title IX compliance in cross country with the CIAC and the ECC. Her letter resulted in a change in ECC bylaws regarding the distance of the girls race as well as an immediate change at the Fitch match. [Her letter is at the end of this report.]

### Faculty & Staff Achievements

- Chris Sandford was asked to serve on the CAPSS Legislative Committee.
- Andrew Morehouse was invited to teach at a Latin immersion event in Florence, Italy in October.
- Val May received the Kim Foglia AP Biology National Service Award.
- Tyler McCarthy has been selected as a volunteer physiotherapist/EMT on the medical team at the 31<sup>st</sup> World University Winter Games taking place in Lake Placid this upcoming January.
- Victoria Despres was invited to hold a seat on the Connecticut Transition Taskforce for the 22-23 school year.

From: **Lauren Brule**<[brulel05@gmail.com](mailto:brulel05@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Oct 10, 2022 at 5:33 PM

Subject: Fitch Girls Cross Country Races

To: <[hrondon@casciac.org](mailto:hrondon@casciac.org)>

Hello Mr. Rondon,

I am Lauren Brule and a member of the Woodstock Academy girls' cross country team. I'm not sure if you are the person I should be reaching out to about this, but I am concerned about a possible Title IX violation occurring at Fitch High School's cross country meets. Consistently at their meets, the male runners run the full 5k, yet the female runners are limited to a 2.6 mile race every time. It isn't an issue of timing or not having a course long enough since the girls run first this year and they obviously have a 5k course if the boys are running one.

I was just concerned about this since every year we run there, and it is not fair for the boys to run the full race but not allow the girls to run the same. I will understand if there is some conflict that makes the girls run the 2.6 miles if it is made clear of a valid reasoning of why that is. I'm sorry if you are not the correct person to reach out for this, but I would greatly appreciate it if you could refer me to someone who would be appropriate to talk to if you aren't the correct person. Thank you so much!

Best,  
Lauren Brule