

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 21, 2021



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Asikainen, Samantha (6:52); Beckwith, Martha; Bentley, Cary; Blackmer, Robert; Carabeau, Garry; Duvall, Nancy (C); Ellsworth, Robert (E) (until 6:40); Higgins, Edwin; Kelly, Paul; Larrow, Jeff; Livernois, Jay (Ex-Officio); McGinn, Walter; Morse, David; Paquette, Philippa; Quinn, Eric; Rhynhart, Hans; Samborowski, Len; Trivella, Joan; Tuttle, Brent (P) (7:15)

ADMINISTRATION: Sandford, Chris; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Perkins-Banas, Melissa; Rich, Matthew; Swenson, Christine; Young, Scott

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Higgins at 6:32 p.m.

2. Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation Workshop

Vice President Higgins welcomed the group and thanked those who participated in the Governance Committee meetings that shaped this Retreat. He provided an overview of the evening's schedule, which was divided into three sections.

Reintroduction of Trustees

Trustees were paired off in order to learn the answers to "getting to know you" questions. Afterward, each member shared what they learned about each other with the larger group.

Full Board Discussion, "What are we looking for in new Board Members?"

Trustees generated a list of general attributes for all Trustees which included: having good listening skills, financial acumen, college experience, wide perspective, appreciation of the arts, international/global perspective, preparation, community connectedness, B&G/facilities experience, business background/experience, communication skills, sending town board of education experience and the ability/desire to ask hard questions.

Desirable characteristics for Trustees of the Corporation might include having a good historical perspective, knowledge of the school, business/fundraising experience, a background in international or continental recruitment, an appreciation for the WA experience, adherence/appreciation of WA standards, an understanding of the history of the WA BOT, and being an advocate for the school.

Desirable characteristics for Trustees of the Community might include having a different experience or perspective about education, having contrasting life experiences, being a community "sensor," having an interest in the school, or having a background in social work, clinical health, mental health, diversity & inclusion, or in a variety of other fields.

Desirable characteristics for Trustees of the Sending Towns might include having BOE or CABE experience, someone who appreciates how Board actions directly impact students, being actively involved and prepared for meetings, having an understanding of budgetary constraints and an awareness of WA finances, being an effective communication liaison with their Board of Education, and avoiding a personal agenda. Maintaining good relationships with sending town officials is also important.

Full Board Discussion, "What should Board orientation look like?"

The large group discussion continued. Trustees agreed to become more involved with the orientation process to support the efforts already made by administration. It was agreed a representative from the BOT should be the point person to assign mentors and clarify BOT responsibilities and expectations with

new members—similar to the role David Teed played in the past. At the time, no specific BOT member was selected for this role. Offering a virtual or in-person campus tour, providing new members with a copy of our history, and reviewing/updating the existing Board policy about orientation were each deemed important. The Nominating Committee was mentioned as a key component of this process.

3. Other Items

The group offered feedback on the Retreat, saying how much they appreciated the opportunity to get to know each other better and to discuss their role without conducting other Board business. It was noted that after being reminded of the wide array of professional and personal backgrounds/strengths of the existing Board members, the efforts of Nominating Committee over the years seem to be validated.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: (Samborowski/Duvall) To adjourn the meeting at 8:54 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.