

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
January 31, 2024



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Asikainen, Samantha; Langevin, Leisl; McGinn, Walter; Munroe, Heather; Quinn, Eric; Samborowski, Leonard; Do, Duy; Manning, Eli; Gomes, Anthony; Harten, Michael; Hughes, Karin; Marrow-Rivera, Danielle; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Woodland, Julie
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Rivera Cabrera, Ryan; Singleton, Holly

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair McGinn at 7:02 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of November 8, 2023

MOTION: (Asikainen/Quinn) To approve the minutes of November 8, 2023.
Unanimous

4. Director of Campus Safety—Anthony Gomes

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes introduced new Director of Campus Safety Anthony Gomes, saying Craig Rich’s last day was yesterday. Mr. Gomes stated he is happy to be part of The Academy and is finding the work both rewarding (nice, welcoming staff and students) and challenging (learning about our community and managing an open campus). Several questions were asked and answered. Mr. Gomes exited at the conclusion of this portion of the meeting.

5. New Position—Director of Campus and Residential Life

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes reminded the group that Assistant Head of School for South Campus John Rigney plans to depart at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. She shared a draft job description of a newly created position (Director of Campus and Residential Life Operations) that will incorporate most of his duties and responsibilities going forward. Suggested edits to the *Minimum Requirements* section will be made.

6. AI Presentation

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten provided an artificial intelligence presentation for the group. Topics covered included what AI is/is not, what education with AI is/is not, AI risks vs. opportunities, and a list of events when the topic of AI has been part of professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. So far, the academic integrity policy has been revised, the Academic Committee incorporated AI into their group goals, and the school is looking to enhance learning through the use of AI. Discussion shifted toward academic integrity, issues of plagiarism, and how the use of an AI-detection software package, such as Turn It In, will indicate AI use through Grammarly, SnapChat, or a variety of other online tools. AI is being used to detect AI.

7. New Student Pass System

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared that The Academy’s use of the Securly system to digitally create and track student passes and appointments is going well so far. Students or adults create the passes, adults approve the pass requests, adults (and sometimes students, depending on the settings) record the return/arrival times. The system eliminates paper passes, has already resulted in less hallway traffic during classes, limits large-group access to (bathroom) spaces, controls the number of times students leave classes each day, increases awareness of the length of time away from the classroom, and allows the administration to collect history and data patterns.

8. International Basketball Program

Head of School Sandford described the new Select Basketball program being started in the 2024-2025 school year. In partnership with High Level Training and Assistant Director of Admissions Reggie Stovell, this program will allow international students the opportunity to play year-round basketball in a league (AAU in the fall/spring and SENE in the winter). CIAC rules do not currently allow students studying under an F1 Visa to play varsity sports during their first year. At least ten games will be played at home. The level of play should be more typical of standard high school athletics rather than be similar to the prep program of recent years. There is still a desire to bring back the prep basketball program at some point in the future.

9. Absenteeism Report

Head of School Sandford mentioned next year's academic school calendar will have a two-week winter break. Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes supported that rationale, providing historical data that indicated "normal" attendance rates of about 92.5% plummet to about 75% in the day or two before a mid-week start to break due to student/family travel and/or recreational plans. For educators, presenting new material when nearly one-quarter of the class is absent is not effective.

10. Other – None.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: (Quinn/Samborowski) To adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Woodland

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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.