

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE  
November 8, 2023**



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Asikainen, Samantha; Cording, Leisl; McGinn, Walter; Quinn, Eric; Do, Duy; Manning, Eli; Rivera Cabrera, Ryan; Hughes, Karin; Marrow-Rivera, Danielle; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Sean; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Munroe, Heather; Samborowski, Leonard; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo

**GUESTS:** Steve Fereno of Project Courage

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair McGinn at 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** (Quinn/Rivera Cabrera) To add an *Executive Session for a Personnel Matter* followed by a *Possible Action Based on an Executive Session* as item numbers 8.a. and 8.b. on the agenda.

Unanimous

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of May 10, 2023 and September 13, 2023**

**MOTION:** (Quinn/Cording) To approve the minutes of May 10, 2023, and September 13, 2023.

Unanimous

**4. Drug and Alcohol Counseling Presentation**

Steve Fereno of Project Courage provided an overview of his services to Academy students, saying he sees about 22 students weekly. Funding is provided through a grant we were awarded with the support of State Representative Pat Boyd. Related initiatives include working with fall athletes, advisory groups, parent night, and freshmen movie night. Director of Athletics Sean Saucier appreciates the support as student-athletes have many questions about alcohol, drugs, and sports performance. Within CT (excluding mandatory reporting matters such as safety, abuse, neglect, or harm to self or others), counseling services are pretty much confidential without a release form. Many students are referred through the disciplinary process, but all have chosen to continue sessions voluntarily.

**5. Club and Activity Updates**

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes reviewed a comprehensive Student Activities Updates handout. Each organization provided a paragraph about current events and initiatives and included the names of any advisors. Discussion ensued, and Dean of Student Affairs Hughes plans to provide a similar handout to the committee quarterly.

**6. Veterans Day/Week Events**

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes listed the many events planned to commemorate Veteran’s Day this year. Activities included ASVAB testing, guest speakers, a POW/MIA table in the cafeteria, a military appreciation ceremony at the football game, school-wide performances of “American Soldier,” several breakfast and lunch events for veterans in our community, recruiting events, gold star painting, a helicopter landing(!), and much more. WA veterans were listed so the greater community could acknowledge their service.

**7. Cheer/Dance Program**

**MOTION:** (Quinn/Rivera Cabrera) To table this item until a future meeting.

Unanimous

**8. Other**– None.

Duy Do, Eli Manning, and Ryan Rivera Cabrera exited the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

**8. a. Executive Session for a Personnel Matter**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Asikainen) To enter into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter, inviting all present to participate, at 7:29 p.m. Unanimous

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:56 p.m.

**8.b. Possible Action Based on an Executive Session – None**

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Quinn) To adjourn the meeting at 7:56 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.*