

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
September 13, 2023



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Asikainen, Samantha; Cording, Leisl; McGinn, Walter; Munroe, Heather; Quinn, Eric; Samborowski, Leonard; Do, Duy; Manning, Eli; Rivera Cabrera, Ryan; Hughes, Karin; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Marrow-Rivera, Danielle

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Asikainen at 7:01 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of May 10, 2023

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Welcome New Members

Duy (David) Do, Eli Manning and Ryan Rivera Cabrera introduced themselves to the group and briefly described themselves. All those present introduced themselves to the three new student members and warmly welcomed them.

5. Committee Goals for 2023-2024

Chair Asikainen facilitated discussion as the committee goals from 2022-2023 were edited for the new school year. After significant discussion, the group agreed to the following committee goals, but wish to review them again at a future meeting.

**Student Life Committee Goals
2023-2024**

1. Improve, enhance, review, and support the social and emotional support of students and staff. Create a plan based on data collection.
2. Encourage **all** BOT members to engage in the residential life community by attending student events and staying current with residential life news and updates.
3. Encourage mutual understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion within The Woodstock Academy community.
4. Future goals should be actionable, and data driven. For example, the student data survey should be reviewed twice each year.

6. Project Courage Update

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes provided a quick update about mental health services, saying this is the third year Silver Linings is providing counseling services on campus. Project Courage, which addresses substance abuse, was seeing 22 students by the end of last year and increased their days on campus from three to five. Beyond his 1:1 counseling services, Project Courage Drug and Alcohol Counselor Steve Fereno has expanded his role on campus to include work on advisory/activity days with students, staff, and sports teams. Among other things, topics can include stress management, substance abuse, and mentoring. Referrals are student-driven or come from guidance, the health office, or the administration. Every student who was referred for an appointment returned for a second appointment (or more). Many students continue their appointments with Silver Linings and Project Courage during the summer break. Appointments are confidential and do not require parental permission.

7. Handbook Policy Updates & Procedural Changes

Head of School Sandford, Associate Head of School Singleton, and Dean of Student Affairs Hughes provided an overview of the updates made to the student and faculty handbooks by comparing the old to the new versions. Changes were made to the late (homework) policy, the cell phone policy, teacher requirements regarding Canvas and PowerSchool, and the procedures for addressing tardiness. So far, all changes have been well received and seem to be working as hoped. Dean of Student Affairs Hughes was thanked for her hard work over the summer.

8. ResLife Houses Program

Assistant Head of School for South Campus John Rigney answered questions as the group reviewed The Academy's House Program in the residential life community. House programs are designed to create smaller subunits within a boarding community to create connection and camaraderie. A handout that explained the program in greater detail was provided.

9. Student Body Demographics

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared three PowerSchool-generated reports that looked at the number of students by grade level as well as the race/ethnicity and gender identification of the total student population. Mrs. Hughes planned to view the historical data to look for trends. It was noted that this year's boarding population comes from over 26 countries as opposed to last year's 19 countries.

10. Other

Director of Health Services Bobbie-Jo Saucier described the many creative ways our current athletic trainer shortage is being addressed.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: (McGinn/Samborowski) To adjourn the meeting at 8:05 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.