

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 18, 2020
BOT RETREAT



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Beckwith, Martha; Bellerose, James; Bentley, Cary; Carabeau, Garry; Child, Barbara; Duvall, Nancy (C); Higgins, Edwin; Johnston, Kevin (7:13); Kelly, Paul; Larrow, Jeff; Livernois, Jay (Ex-Officio); McGinn, Walter; Morse, David; Musumeci, Joseph; Rhynhart, Hans; Samborowski, Len; Swenson, Christine; Teed, David; Trivella, Joan; Tuttle, Brent (P/until 7:23); Young, Scott

ADMINISTRATION: Favreau, Amy; Guillot, William; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Sturdevant, Jon; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Atchinson, Keith (B); Asikainen, Samantha; Blackmer, Robert; Frankhouser, Hans (W); Paquette, Philippa

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by President Swenson at 7:09 p.m.

2. Secretary's Report—Minutes of January 21, 2020

MOTION: (Higgins/Carabeau) To approve the minutes of January 21, 2020. All voted Yes except David Morse, who abstained. Motion passes.

3. *Brief Recess for Annual Trustee Group Photo*

The photo was taken prior to calling the meeting to order.

4. Discussion about Strategic Direction

Head of School Sandford said, although he was not seeking a final decision during this meeting, he asked the Board to consider how these new ideas align with the mission and vision of the school.

Head of School Sandford began by highlighting the Board's current enrollment policy and how it relates to the 2019-2020 Theory of Action. He reviewed a Sending Town Enrollment Trends handout, which illustrated the number of students enrolled at each grade level on October 1 from each sending town, over time. The administration uses this data to stabilize enrollment by adding/adjusting programs (athletics, STEAM, 5-day Boarding, 2+1, etc.), expanding into new international markets for recruiting, and exploring other revenue sources (summer programming, facility rental income, etc.).

Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Amy Favreau provided an overview of the international market, with more detailed information about trends within China. She reviewed the admissions process for tuition students and described where The Academy fits into the boarding school market. Mrs. Favreau offered her views on what the Board could expect from the international market over the next several years.

Head of School Sandford described an international educational program that has been successful for many years in several independent schools where a "sister school" is established in another country. Typically, the independent school collaborates with a consultant who provides an array of suitable investment partners. The chosen investment partner secures or builds the actual school and the independent school coordinates the educational piece (Academy curriculum, taught in English) in exchange for a per student fee. Beyond the advantage of being able to reduce debt, opportunities for Academy students and staff include academically rich international study/professional development. The students who would typically participate are from families who intend to send students to U.S.

colleges but prefer not to board during high school years, or from U.S. families working overseas and living near this “American” school. Many colleges also follow this model.

Before more time is invested in research, the administration requested Trustee feedback. President Swenson coordinated Board discussion. Questions and comments included: The Academy mission and charter, an honors program, possible countries to consider, legal aspects, range of financial benefits, staffing parameters, degrees of labor intensiveness, and a review of the contractual parameters already proposed by the administration. The Board was intrigued and supportive of this concept.

The administration was asked to move forward and gather more information, casting a wide net of possible countries to consider, and report back to the Executive Committee. Board members were asked to email Julie in the Head of School’s office with any additional feedback.

5. Other Items

A leadership white paper called, “Leverage the Girls’ Hockey Program to Increase Private Pay Tuition” was given to the full Board. It has already been discussed with the Student Life Committee.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: (Bentley/Morse) To adjourn the meeting at 8:41 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.