

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
January 11, 2023



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Asikainen, Samantha; Cording, Leisl; McGinn, Walter; Quinn, Eric; Rich, Craig; Samborowski, Leonard; Hughes, Karin; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Garnsey, Arianna; MacKinnon, Leila; Marrow-Rivera, Danielle; Pandurevic, Nina

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Walter McGinn at 7:00 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report— Minutes of November 9, 2022

MOTION: (Quinn/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of November 9, 2022. All voted Yes except Sam Asikainen, who abstained. Motion passes.

4. School Safety / Campus Security Update

Director of Campus Safety and Dean of Students Craig Rich provided a follow-up to his comprehensive school safety presentation of one year ago. Highlights included last summer's successful school safety conference, the purchase of two forced entry kits (one per campus), and this year's individualized safety training geared to each staff member's distinct work/classroom space. The discussion shifted to the need to hire more armed campus safety officers and the challenges associated with the state's definition of which type of law enforcement background might qualify a candidate to carry a weapon in a school setting. Head of School Sandford has been drafting letters of support for several different legislative bills that State Representative Pat Boyd and State Senator Jeff Gordon have been working on that propose changes to this language.

Craig Rich exited the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

5. Community Lunch Survey Results

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton shared the results of a recent Community Lunch Survey. Beyond a variety of demographic-type data (grade, sending town/tuition status, when/where lunch is consumed, etc.), student feedback included quality time spent getting extra help, studying, exercising, socializing, participating in clubs, and enjoying downtime/freedom halfway through the school day. Student concerns/inconveniences included more cafeteria traffic at the beginning of lunch, travel between campuses, and finding good spaces to eat lunch during inclement weather days. Beyond a variety of demographic-type data (length of employment, north or south campus location, when/where lunch is consumed, etc.), adult feedback included enjoyable time spent eating, providing extra help, planning, running a club, supervising students, and collaborating/socializing with colleagues. Adult concerns/inconveniences included refining emergency procedures during the lunch block, the "unstructured chaos" of everyone eating lunch at the same time, and the challenge of breaking away from student engagement to make time to eat lunch. Questions were asked and answered. Student Life Committee members were invited to attend a community lunch of their choosing to experience it for themselves.

6. Tobacco Survey Results

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared the results of an annual Yale survey that 87.1% of our eligible students completed using their iPads during an advisory. The Academy was randomly selected to participate.

Students were asked about their lifetime or past month's use of nicotine/tobacco products, e-cigarettes (broken down by type), combustible tobacco products (broken down by type), oral nicotine products, alcohol, marijuana, CBD, and Delta 8 THC. The data did not sort by grade year or gender. Our drug and alcohol counselor (recently hired after receiving grant funding) is being sent student referrals after any drug or alcohol-related disciplinary incident. Since many of the products and devices were unfamiliar to the group, clarification was provided.

7. Certified Teacher / Counselor Demographics 22-23

Head of School Sandford shared a Certified Teacher/Counselor Demographics handout with the Committee. The data was sorted by gender, age, length of employment, certified teaching experience, and category averages. Brief discussion ensued about hiring and retaining employees.

8. Choices Matter Assembly—January 18, 2023

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared that a Choices Matter assembly has been planned for Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Choices Matter provides a powerful message about the dangers of impaired driving and automobile fatalities. In addition to hearing from speaker Chris Sandy, a drunk driving simulator will be available for student use. The program is free to The Academy; several teachers have signed up to bring their classes.

9. Other – None.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: (Quinn/McGinn) To adjourn the meeting at 7:45 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.