

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE  
November 10, 2021



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** McGinn, Walter; Quinn, Eric; Rhynhart, Hans; Samborowski, Leonard; Trivella, Joan; McDonald, Haley (alt.); Smith, Adeline; Hughes, Karin; Marrow-Rivera, Danielle; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Singleton Holly; Woodland, Julie

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Asikainen, Samantha; Rich, Matthew; MacKinnon, Leila; Singleton, Holly

**GUESTS:** Gronski, Melany; Nester, Emily; Ostaszewski, Nicole

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairman Trivella at 7:01 p.m.

### 2. Community Participation – None.

### 3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of August 23, 2021, and September 8, 2021

**MOTION:** (Samborowski/Quinn) To approve the minutes of August 23, 2021, and September 8, 2021.

Unanimous

### 4. Discipline Updates

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes described a wide variety of recent student acts that have resulted in a range of disciplinary action. Teachers and administrators have characterized behaviors such as using ketchup packets to create messes across campus, random acts of vandalism, and vaping in the bathrooms as more fitting of middle school students. Among other things, consequences have included locking rest rooms and removing exterior doors in lavatories. After a year of remote learning and social distancing, teachers and administrators consistently report behavior regression in students K-12. Associate Head of School Holly Singleton plans to meet with all grades to refresh expectations of behavior, rules, and responsibilities.

### 5. Schedule Updates

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared that the passing time between classes has gone from 14 minutes to 10 minutes and is now at 15 minutes. The increased travel time, particularly for students shuttling between North and South Campus, should allow teachers to start and end class on time, with an expectation that students will face consequences for arriving late to class.

### 6. Trail Project on South Campus

Science department chair Melany Gronski and Family, Career & Technology teacher Emily Nester shared their proposal to transform a deteriorating, small cabin in the woods on South Campus into a “nature’s classroom” space for student learning. Members of the faculty are interested in inexpensively fixing it up. Ms. Nester has already donated her \$500 referral bonus toward the project. Facilities Director Aaron Hogarty is calculating estimated costs to paint and repair windows, doors, and stairs. There will be no electricity and students will need to use restrooms located at the nearby maintenance shed. With the blessing of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, work could begin in the spring. Board members were encouraged to make an appointment to view the structure and learn more about it. The Student Life Committee unanimously agreed the project is a great idea.

## 7. South Campus Student Mixers

Director of Residential Life Nicole Ostaszewski provided details and photos of the events held on South Campus meant to build relationships between residential life students and day students. Boarding students were able to invite 2 friends or entire clubs; residential life staff coordinated activities and provided supervision. Events included:

- September: Karaoke and Shaved Ice Truck
- October: Outdoor Movie and Snacks
- November: Bonfire, Pizza, and Smores
- December: Holiday Movie in the Loos Center
- Ongoing: fan buses to sporting events and boarding students making arrangements to hang out with day students after school.

The Committee members praised these efforts to build a stronger relationships among all students across both campuses and were happy to see ever increasing participation and popularity of these events.

## 8. Vaping Cessation Program and Training

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes reviewed the Comprehensive Teen Vaping Plan Whitepaper handout with the group. After receiving an \$8K grant from SERAC (Supporting Education and Resources for Action and Change), five staff members (two nurses, two social workers, and the school psychologist) are able to deliver the American Lung Association's N-O-T (Not On Tobacco) program to our students. This certification is valid for three years. In addition, a minimum of three facilitators will be trained to deliver the American Lung Association's INDEPTH (Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco, and Health) program to students. This program will be a useful tool for students who violate WA's tobacco use policy. As of this meeting, 4-5 students have already benefitted from these resources. Mrs. Hughes is considering volunteering with the JRB (Juvenile Review Board) as an additional way to help youth in the community.

## 9. Club and Activity Updates and Highlights

Director of Student Engagement Danielle Marrow-Rivera updated the group about various clubs and activities which are working to bring students together, mentioning the success of the Wellness Committee and the Yoga/Mindfulness Club. Mrs. Marrow-Rivera expressed her appreciation for WA's supportive team and said she has been actively trying to engage with the various clubs to learn more about their missions/objectives/activities. Job descriptions are being created for the advisors in each club. Student Adeline Smith expressed a need for the various clubs who offer tutoring services to provide an easy-to-access list of tutoring coordinators.

## 10. Other

Returning to the topic of student behavior and discipline, the aftereffects of remote learning seem to go beyond students being unclear about expected behavior; it has also resulted in the creation of fewer role models to set an example at school. Some teachers have reported feeling disrespected. Retraining is needed and new expectations need to be set for students. The student leaders present were thanked for their insight and help with this topic.

## 11. Adjournment

**MOTION:** (Rhynhart/McGinn) To adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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.*