

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE  
September 8, 2021



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** McGinn, Walter; Quinn, Eric; Rhynhart, Hans; Rich, Matthew; Trivella, Joan; MacKinnon, Leila; McDonald, Haley (alt.); Smith, Adeline; Hughes, Karin; Marrow-Rivera, Danielle; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Saucier, Sean; Singleton, Holly; Washington, Denzel; Woodland, Julie  
**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Asikainen, Samantha; Samborowski, Leonard

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairman Trivella at 7:00 p.m.

### 2. Community Participation – None.

### 3. Welcome New Committee Members

Co-chairman Trivella officially welcomed Director of Student Engagement, Danielle Marrow-Rivera, and new Board members Eric Quinn and Matthew Rich to the Student Life Committee.

### 4. Back-to-School Update

Director of Student Affairs Karin Hughes described the return to school for students. She highlighted the annual Family Traditions event on Sunday, August 29, the first day experience for new and returning students, various presentations by Kevin Booker, Jr. about “getting comfortable with being uncomfortable,” the first advisory for the school year (students now grouped by grade level), picture taking day with a new photo company, and how the students were handling COVID protocols so far.

### 5. Residential Life Update

Assistant Head of School for South Campus John Rigney described how things are going on South Campus. A great opening was experienced by roughly 125 students, who seem to have good energy and are adapting to the new schedule very well. Director of Health Services Bobbie-Jo Saucier was glad to see students back and happy; she described the protocol for dealing with any positive COVID cases.

### 6. Tennis Courts

Director of Athletics, Sean Saucier provided a PowerPoint presentation which captured the condition of our tennis facilities at The Academy. In short, despite patching cracks and making repairs to the court surfaces over the years, poor drainage and age has essentially rendered the tennis courts at Bentley and those behind the dining hall building on South Campus (owned by the Town of Woodstock) unsafe and unusable. Furthermore, for high schools to be able to compete with surrounding schools, a minimum of four courts are needed to allow play, which we do not currently have. A proposal was brought forward to (1) create six new tennis courts (five tennis courts and one multi-purpose court) on South Campus, located on an existing soccer field; (2) transform the old courts located at the Bentley Field into a full-play soccer field while creating additional parking. Total project costs are estimated at \$1M. Questions were asked and answered by the group. Senior tennis (and soccer) player, Addy Smith shared her experiences on the court and strongly supported the proposal. Current tennis coach (and former Trustee of the Sending Towns) Keith Atchinson was praised for his coaching. The Committee unanimously supported moving forward with the project, suggesting the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee collaborate to work on plans and secure funding.

## 7. Equity and Inclusion in 2021-2022

Director of Equity and Inclusion, Denzel Washington reviewed his School-Wide Equity and Inclusion Goal Action Plan, which included three different objectives with corresponding evaluation points and action steps. He then detailed equity and inclusion initiatives and events that have occurred since August in school, on South Campus, and in the community. Head of School Sandford reviewed a handout that illustrated how staff demographics have changed from 2005 until now. By shifting the hiring from a departmental focus to a school-wide focus, The Academy has moved significantly closer to its goal of employing a staff group that more closely resembles the diversity of its student body. Director of Equity and Inclusion, Denzel Washington was asked to present to the full Board at its next full meeting.

## 8. Committee Goals 2021-2022

The Committee set the following goals:

1. Monitor social and emotional support for students and staff and collect data.
2. Encourage BOT members to attend student events and participate in the residential life community.
3. Encourage mutual understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion within The Woodstock Academy community.

## 9. Other – None.

## 10. Adjournment

**MOTION:** (Smith/Rhynhart) To adjourn the meeting at 8:13 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.*