

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 21, 2019



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Asikainen, Samantha (7:08); Beckwith, Martha; Bellerose, James; Bentley, Cary; Blackmer, Robert; Carabeau, Garry; Child, Barbara; Frankhouser, Hans (W); Higgins, Edwin; Johnston, Kevin; Kelly, Paul; Larrow, Jeff; Livernois, Jay (Ex-Officio); Marmat, Gerald (E); McGinn, Walter; Morse, David; Musumeci, Joseph (7:07); Paquette, Philippa; Swenson, Christine (7:15); Teed, David; Trivella, Joan (B); Tuttle, Brent (P); Young, Scott
ADMINISTRATION: Chalupka, Eric; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Sturdevant, Jon; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Davis, Cliff; Duvall, Nancy (C)

GUESTS: Irene Askitis; Meg Ritzau; Amanda Bottone; Giorgia Giannini; Yvie, Nathalie, Henri, Donna and Andre Bessette; Michael, Cedric, Michael Sr. and Sheila Bilica

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Higgins at 7:02 p.m.

2. Head of School Recognition—April and May Honorees

Associate Head of School, Holly Singleton described the character and contributions that lead to the selection of Irene Askitis, Cedric Bilica and Michael Bilica as April Head of School Award winners; and Yvie Bessette and Giorgia Giannini as May Head of School Award winners.

- **Irene Askitis (Grade 12, Brooklyn)**—Irene is described by her teachers as enthusiastic, intellectually curious, and dedicated. Her coaches call her a tough, gritty athlete! Irene is also a genuine leader inside and outside of the classroom. In the classroom, Irene tackles every task with enthusiasm and curiosity. Her lab skills are phenomenal, and she has dedicated her time in an independent study to learn the skills of a laboratory technician. As a peer tutor, she has increased the understanding and interest of her students in science. She even created a new lab experiment for the class by collaborating with the science department teachers. Outside of the classroom, she is the President of the Science National Honor Society and a valued teammate on the ice rink and soccer field. After taking a cleat to the face during her ECC championship game, true to her nature, Irene got right back up to protect the net from a goal, never giving up! The next day, she came in with a big smile as she showed off her “battle scars” to her peers with pride. Mrs. Lovegreen calls her “an INVALUABLE resource.” And Mrs. Gronsky said this about Irene: “She is one tough young person. It is no wonder that she is receiving the Head of School award, she is truly Centaur Strong.
- **Cedric Bilica (Grade 10) and Michael Bilica (Grade 12, both from Eastford)**—Just when you thought having one Bilica at school was fantastic, you realize the school is blessed with the benefits of two! In recognition of Black History month this year, the Bilica brothers took the initiative to provide an educational service to The Academy students by creating informational posters about Great Black Leaders. They met with administration to create a plan, researched key individuals across history, designed, and then created displays which they put up on both campuses. The Bilica brother’s dedication to an inclusive school culture that celebrates diversity is one of the many special contributions these two make to The Academy. In the classroom, both students have been a delight to their teachers and peers.

Michael is described by his teachers as intellectually curious and an excellent thinker and conversationalist. Mr. Bourgeois stated that, “Michael is a smart young man who is very personable. He has a wonderful sense of humor. I enjoy having him in class every day.”

Cedric’s teachers describe him as kind, considerate, and always willing to help his peers. He is also willing to share new perspectives and insights in class, and his thoughtful perspectives often encourage other students to share new ideas and open a larger dialogue in the classroom. Mrs. Duquette had this to say about Cedric: “Cedric is the kind of student that stands out in the most positive ways. What I admire about Cedric is that I can always tell he thinks before

he speaks, which is something so rare to see in both teenagers and adults. He is humble and doesn't often recognize how successful he is. I am glad he is getting this recognition he deserves."

- **Yvie Bessette (Grade 11, Woodstock)**—If you've ever had the pleasure of meeting Yvie, then you know she is made up of positivity, joy, music, and dance. She has a deep passion for the theatre; you might recognize her from this year's *Footloose* where she played the lead part of Ariel.

Aside from many contributions and accolades in the performing arts, Yvie is being recognized tonight for her work as a peer tutor. She has been working with one specific student for 3 semesters. Yvie is the one who implements each lesson plan and sometimes she has even created her own lesson. As a direct result of Yvie's connection and dedication to this student, this student has made significant progress in her academics, independent living, and social skills; the student is even more willing to talk with other people.

What makes Yvie special is her genuine personality; she shows real friendship to the student. Outside the classroom, they walk to the shuttle stop together, Yvie visits her lunch table, and is always introducing her friends to the student. Yvie goes out of her way so that they can have meaningful conversations; she has all of the student's favorite music ready for her so they can listen and sing to it as they cross campus. Yvie even watches the student's favorite show so that they can talk about it. As Mrs. Hotta says, "Yvie is a very exceptional individual that shines a special brand of kindness wherever she goes. All the students at The Academy have benefited from her commitment to others."

- **Giorgia Giannini (Grade 12, from Italy)**—Giorgia has been a positive presence on the South campus since she arrived in the fall. Giorgia is always willing to try new activities or lend a helping hand, but she is best known for going out of her way to make others feel welcomed and included. She has been a big sister to the younger family members on South campus and has made many friends throughout the community. She works incredibly hard academically and strives for excellence in everything she does. She has helped as a wing prefect, offered insight to staff regarding improvements that could possibly enhance Res Life, and has been an avid fan of our sports teams.

Mr. Zolobkowski had these words to say about her: "Giorgia is a shining example of what WA is all about. Her story finds her here accidentally when her school was unable to continue its international student program. I have had multiple conversations with her about her appreciation for this place. She is thankful for the teachers and the amazing choices of classes she has had. She truly is grateful to be here and wishes it was for longer. She is kind, respectful, focused, creative and interested in the world around her. She gets it. She gets the hard work. She gets why she is doing things and can see the value. She truly has been a pleasure to meet, to chat with, and have as a student. She is the reason we should continue to reach out and bring people here from all over the world. She makes this place better and more interesting by being here and being a part of what we are trying to do."

3. Community Participation – None.

4. Secretary's Report—Minutes of March 19, 2019

MOTION: (Carabeau/Morse) To approve the Minutes of March 19, 2019.

Unanimous

5. Student Council Report

Student Council President, Meg Ritzau, told the Board about a recent Student Council blood drive where over 70 pints of blood was collected. Changes are expected for next year's Student Council sponsored events. When asked about her future plans, Meg said she plans to attend Vassar where she will study math, music, and science.

6. Board Reports

a. President's Report

- i. **Correspondence**—President Swenson reviewed the pieces of correspondence included in the packet. It was mentioned that all towns but Woodstock have replied as to whether their BOE or

BOS should receive the WA bills in July. P. Paquette told the group how much the Academic Committee appreciated the contributions of the mature and committed group of student representatives who served in FY 18-19, and the committee is excited to add Joey Ignacio and Alyssa Arends in FY 19-20.

ii. **Fall Retreat Date and Location**—After some discussion, it was agreed to change the September retreat date from Tuesday, September 17 to Saturday, September 14. The agenda will consist of a planned giving presentation and facilities tours of both campuses.

b. **Committee Reports**—questions/discussion on reports provided in packet

There were no comments or questions.

7. Woodstock Academy Administration Reports

a. Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Report

i. **2018-2019—Budget Update**—Interim Associate Head of School Guillot reviewed the year-to-date reports for encumbrances and revenues, noting more in-depth analysis occurs at the Finance Committee level. Various questions were asked and answered.

ii. **Facility Project Update**—Interim Associate Head of School Guillot reviewed the underground storage tank projects, both of which are scheduled to begin around June 17. Buildings and Grounds Chair Blackmer complimented administration's job vetting contractors and saving money. Failure to perform penalties are in place. Some expensive, unexpected facilities costs have been incurred. Upgrading/replacing our fire alarm system on North campus became necessary after our 3rd or 4th lightning strike and will cost over \$80K. We are hoping for at least partial insurance coverage. The front steps, slate patio, and planter area at the Center for the Arts also required repairs recently at a cost of approximately \$30K.

iii. **Approve Scholarships** – Scholarship amounts needed Board approval for the last time, since the Foundation will be managing these funds in the future.

MOTION: (Blackmer/Paquette) As endorsed by the Finance Committee, to accept the 2018-2019 scholarships as presented.

All voted Yes except G. Marmat, who abstained. Motion carries.

iv. **Select Auditor**

MOTION: (Johnston/Marmat) As endorsed by the Finance and Executive Committees, to appoint Maletta and Company as the auditor for FY 2018-2019.

Unanimous

v. **Other** – None.

vi. **Board questions/discussion** – None.

b. Associate Head of School Report

i. **April and May Updates**—Associate Head of School Singleton reviewed all the academic, musical and athletic accomplishments during April and May, along with the many individuals and teams to be celebrated. Her report is attached below.

ii. **End of Year Memo** – A handout invited BOT members to attend various events during June.

iii. **Other** – None.

iv. **Board questions/discussion** – None.

c. Associate Head of School for Advancement

i. **Giving and Event Updates**—Associate Head of School for Advancement Sturdevant mentioned alumni events in D.C. and Boston as well as a local event planned at the Stomping Grounds in Putnam prior to the Pops Concert on May 31. The first annual WA Giving event raised \$8,830 from 89 different donors, 45 of which had never given before. BankHometown recently donated \$15,000 for new STEAM equipment and we are hoping to secure a donation to match the grant funding we may be awarded from the Edward E. Ford Foundation. The Board strives to reach 100%

participation from each of its members in annual giving. The WA Annual Golf Tournament will be held on August 14. Visits to the Gallery continue to increase—Gloria Hanczar is doing a great job.

ii. **Other** – None.

iii. **Board questions/discussion** – None.

d. Head of School Report

i. **New and Revised Policies—Second Reads**

- 3453 – School Activity Funds
- 0100 – Mission Statement
- 0200 – Educational Purposes, Goals and Objectives
- 1120 – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- 5141.3 – Health Assessments and Immunizations
- 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse
- 0050 – Trustee Roles and Responsibilities

Head of School Sandford described the content and reason for all proposed modifications to the BOT Policies listed above—most of which were the result of changes to state law or minor but necessary changes to specific language. Two minor typos were corrected.

MOTION: (Tuttle/McGinn) To accept the following policies as presented.

- 3453 – School Activity Funds
- 0100 – Mission Statement
- 0200 – Educational Purposes, Goals and Objectives
- 1120 – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- 5141.3 – Health Assessments and Immunizations
- 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse
- 0050 – Trustee Roles and Responsibilities

Unanimous

Turini, ii. **Staff Emeritus**—Head of School Sandford proposed that Janet Jayne Collins, Susan Powers, and Sharon Walsh be considered for the honor of the title “Staff Emerita.” Brief discussion ensued.

MOTION: (Johnston/Asikainen) To accept the recommendation of Head of School Sandford and confer the title of Staff Emerita to Janet Turini, Jayne Collins, Susan Powers, and Sharon Walsh.

Unanimous

iii. **Other** – None.

iv. **Board questions/discussion** – None.

8. Executive Session

a. Legal Correspondence

b. Personnel Update

MOTION: (Bentley/Child) Following a 10-minute recess, to enter into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Legal Correspondence and Personnel Update. C. Sandford, H. Singleton, J. Sturdevant, J. Rigney, J. Woodland, and E. Chalupka were invited to attend.

Unanimous

The meeting returned from Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

9. Possible Action Based on Executive Session

MOTION: (Musumeci/Asikainen) To assign the Executive Committee to handle a possible termination hearing to be held in May or June.

Unanimous

MOTION: (Kelly/Morse) To rename the Center for the Arts as the Loos Center for the Arts.

Unanimous

10. Other Items – None.

11. Community Participation – None.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: (McGinn/Johnston) To adjourn the meeting at 8:32 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.



May Updates from the Associate Head of School

What's Happening...

School Programs:

- Both chorus and band received “Superior” ratings at the Virginia Beach Music Festival at Busch Gardens; band won first place and chorus won second place at the event.
- Over 200 students attended The Academy’s inaugural Human Rights Conference in April.
- 84 students were recognized at the Freshman Scholars’ Brunch for making honor roll for 3 consecutive quarters.
- The boys’ hockey team received a commendation from the CIAC for exemplary sportsmanship!
- The WA Special Olympics team played its first soccer game at UConn this month.
- TWO teams won their respective events at the CT Seaperch Championships, qualifying for the national competition in June. Ely Driscoll (E) and Ashley Smith (W) won the Stock Class Championship; David May (P) and Nathan Craig (W) won the Open Class Championship.
- The Academy has received \$1,132,000 in School Security Grant Funding from the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Student Achievements

- Katherine Harrington (P) won \$10,000 from the Connecticut Women’s Golf Association!
- Two students studying Italian at The Academy, Josie Dlugosz (W) and Zachary Girard (B), have won the IACE-NY Video Competition; the award is a two-week study in Italy this summer!
- The League of Legends team (Eddy Chen, Kursen Bai, Jiacheng Ying, Sunny Mo, Abner Shen, Quincy Li, and Tom Gao) has won an all-expenses paid trip to Los Angeles, California to play at the Collegiate League of Legends esports playoffs.
- Ryan Hanlon (W), Cole Gremo (W), Marissa Mayhew (W), Xijing “Thomas” Wang (I), Zachary Bertram (E), and Jack Savage (E) won TWO awards at the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance Video Competition: Best Narration and Most Creative.
- The high-caliber artwork of Jordyn Brousseau (W), Maximilian Bosio (P), Wu Zhexuan (I), Cecilia Hawkins (B), Zachary Fontaine (W), Emmalyn Bunker (W), and Rebekah Wesler (W) was selected for inclusion in the 2nd annual ECE Nation Art Show, hosted by NFA.
- McKenna Gagnon (P), in recognition for her community service, has received a Young American Award from the Connecticut Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Staff and Faculty:

- *Music & Literature Magazine* has published Melissa Beck’s review of *The Fox and Dr. Shimaura* by Christine Wunnicke (translated from German by Philip Boehm).
- Sara Dziedzic was selected as the 2018-19 ECE Outstanding Teacher of the Year!

- Communications Specialist, Joel Tretheway, had his poster design selected for Putnam’s 2019 First Fridays series!
- Brendan Ostaszewski was selected as the Connecticut State High School Strength & Conditioning Coach of the Year!
- Amy Ranta received her UConn ECE certification in Music Fundamentals.
- Val May received her second UConn ECE certification in Bio Tech.

Upcoming Events...

05/29 – World Language Honor Society Inductions, The Center, 6:30 PM

05/31 – Alumni Gathering at The Stomping Grounds, 4:00–5:30 PM

 Pops in the Park, Rotary Park in Putnam, 6:00 PM

06/06 – Art Awards, The Center, 6:00 PM

06/11 – Pink House, Roseland Cottage, 10:45 AM

06/14 – Donor’s Reception, Head of School’s House, 6:00 PM

 Class Night, The Center, 7:00 PM

06/15 – Graduation, The Woodstock Commons, 10:00 AM (Please let Holly know if you would like
 to give the diploma to your graduating senior)

06/29 – The United States Coast Guard Band concert, The Center, 6:00 PM
(<http://wacenterforthearts.org>;

 use code USCGB2019)