

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
November 11, 2020



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Asikainen, Samantha; McGinn, Walter; Rhynhart, Hans; Trivella, Joan; Du, Stella; Smith, Adeline; Preston, Megan (alt.); McDonald, Haley (alt.); Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Hughes, Karin; Samborowski, Leonard

1. Call to Order

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

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of October 13, 2020

MOTION: (Singleton/Trivella) To approve the minutes of October 13, 2020.

Unanimous

4. AIM—Hybrid Learning Recap

Associate Head of School Singleton said hybrid learning was off to a great start. It was wonderful to see students back on campus. Teachers reported feeling safe and a group of students told her “teachers were funnier in person.” 470 students attended on Monday; 465 students had been scheduled for Tuesday. Twenty percent of the boarding students opted out of in-person classes. Student representative Megan Preston, Hailey McDonald and Stella Du reported classes averaging about seven students in each one, “positive confusion” with the extended passing time in the schedule, and the struggle to wake up early (again) to get to school on time. Associate Head of School Singleton will address the challenges for students passing between classes when the weather gets colder. Director of Health Services Bobbie-Jo Saucier was relieved with the success of the day, saying she saw students following the rules and didn’t observe overcrowding in the student spaces or hallways.

5. Residential Life Update

Assistant Head of School for South Campus John Rigney is preparing for a reduced student population in the weeks ahead. Thirty-five students plan to go home prior to Thanksgiving; twenty-five more plan to depart prior to Christmas break. The residential life staff is still determining how many students intend to stay on campus through winter break. Boarding students have shared concerns about international travel during the pandemic and hope to return to campus with confidence.

Director of Health Services Bobbie-Jo Saucier detailed her ongoing challenges with COVID-19 testing which includes type of test, turnaround time for processing, cost, and availability. The lack of timely, official notification being provided after positive test results in the greater community has put the burden of contact tracing back on her office. Families have been reporting COVID infections to her directly, and she has learned a lot about community spread.

6. Committee Goals 2020-2021

The group modeled their committee goals based on the Academic Committee 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.

Discussion included various ways to increase understanding and engagement with boarding students such as sharing meals and participating in outdoor/weekend activities.

It was agreed that the weekly residential life updates/schedules would be forwarded to the Student Life Committee as received. Committee members were encouraged to contact Mr. Rigney if they wanted to participate in any of the featured activities.

7. Other

Inquiries were made about overall athletics, the prep basketball schedule, and the CIAC banning spectators at athletic events. Brief discussion ensued about creating increased (post-pandemic) opportunities for day students and boarding students to socialize together.

Director of Health Services Bobbie-Jo Saucier commended all The Academy athletic teams for their successful seasons despite the challenges of COVID. Head of School Sanford reiterated his commitment to create some sort of athletic opportunity for Academy students with or without the ECC. Student representative Adeline Smith expressed her appreciation for being able to have a soccer season at all.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: (Singleton/McGinn) To adjourn the meeting at 7:48 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.