

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**  
**September 9, 2020**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Asikainen, Samantha; McGinn, Walter; Rhyhart, Hans; Samborowski, Leonard; Trivella, Joan; Du, Stella; McDonald, Haley (alt.); Hughes, Karin; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Smith, Adeline; Preston, Megan (alt.)

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of March 11, 2020**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of March 11, 2020.

Unanimous

**4. Welcome New Committee Members**

Co-chairman Asikainen welcomed new committee member Stella Du, since the other new student members had other obligations which would make them late or absent. Stella, a senior, shared her experience as a boarding student who was able to spend the summer locally and return to campus this fall. The committee looks forward to incorporating the first-hand perspective of students into future committee discussions.

**5. COVID-19 Testing Update**

Director of Health Services Bobbie-Jo Saucier stated all staff and student coronavirus testing has yielded negative results so far. She shared the challenges associated with processing the tests through Day Kimball Hospital which included changes in the price per test and a refusal to bill patient insurance. Hans Rhyhart summarized how testing is conducted on the UCONN campus. Additional discussion included how HIPAA regulations rule out collaborating with other schools because results are typically grouped together.

**6. Residential Life Update**

Assistant Head of School for South Campus John Rigney provided a chronological summary of events leading up to the return of students on South Campus. He described the wide array of summer messaging sent to parents and students, and how smooth this year's move-in process went for students and families. He explained the quarantine process for students in order to establish a safe, connected community. Stella Du provided insight into her personal experience during quarantine, saying it was difficult but getting better since students were following the rules. She was asked to send ideas about her residential life experience to the other committee members for future discussion topics. Other concerns included keeping students safe while doing sports and activities off campus.

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton provided a school-wide opening update, saying good quality planning resulted in a very successful opening. When new students came to campus on the first two days, they provided good feedback on their experience and had fun. Over the next three days, nearly every upperclassman came to campus for materials pick up. The first days of school were slated to focus exclusively on relationship building within the classroom and no homework was to be assigned over the long weekend. Despite some issues with Teams, the attendance rates have been good, and students are engaged. Disconnected students and students with diminished engagement are a focus. Joan Trivella noted positive feedback on social media.

Mrs. Singleton described plans for on-campus opportunities for student activities each Wednesday, saying it is particularly important for special education students and students in need of other assistance to participate. All students will be emailed a wide variety of session offerings each week. Signups will be handled through a JotForm with a maximum number of spaces available.

#### **7. Committee Goals in 2020-2021**

This topic was tabled until the next meeting to allow discussion of the school goals along with the committee goals.

#### **8. Other**

Head of School Sandford thanked Len Samborowski for welcoming the faculty and staff at the first professional development day in August.

Regarding mental health services, the transition from Harrington Health to Silver Linings was discussed. Harrington Health abruptly closed its Putnam office mid-summer, leaving some of our students in limbo. An agreement was reached with Silver Linings and space was found at The Academy for student appointments. Bobbie-Jo Saucier believes this change will be a positive one for our students.

#### **9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Trivella/Samborowski) To adjourn the meeting at 7:54 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.*