

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 26, 2019



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Bellerose, James; Bentley, Cary; Blackmer, Robert (7:44); Carabeau, Garry; Frankhouser, Hans (W); Kelly, Paul; Livernois, Jay (Ex-Officio); Marmat, Gerald (E); McGinn, Walter; Morse, David; Musumeci, Joseph (7:27); Paquette, Philippa; Swenson, Christine; Teed, David; Tuttle, Brent (P); Young, Scott

ADMINISTRATION: Guillot, William; Harten, Michael; Rigney, John; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Sturdevant, Jon; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Asikainen, Samantha; Beckwith, Martha; Child, Barbara; Davis, Cliff; Duvall, Nancy (C); Higgins, Edwin; Johnston, Kevin; Larrow, Jeff; Trivella, Joan (B)

ABSENT: Field, David

GUESTS: Eric Chalupka; Craig Rich; Bobbie-Jo Saucier; Thomas Young; Alyssa Arends and family; Kursen Bai; Eddy Chen; Quincy Li; Sunny Mo; Abner Shen

1. Call to order

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

2. Head of School Recognition—February Honorees

Associate Head of School, Holly Singleton described the students who were awarded Head of School recognition during February.

Alyssa Arends, 11, Brooklyn—Alyssa was described as intelligent, insightful, and enthusiastically positive. She has a keen awareness of political issues, unrelenting compassion for others, and a strong commitment to learning. Her teachers describe Alyssa as curious, creative, and diligent. In her time at The Academy, she has exhibited a passion about human rights, has been an outstanding tutor at the Writing Centaur, and has been recognized by the Connecticut Writing Project at UConn for her outstanding writing ability. Mrs. Mizak, her English teacher, had this to say about Alyssa: “Alyssa is simply ahead of her time. She is naturally inquisitive, and her curiosity leads to insightful and impressive discoveries in her research and writing. Her unique perspectives always shape group discussion, and her peers benefit from her participation. But in addition to her beyond-her-years intelligence and enjoyable writing ability, Alyssa is truly kind—and that’s something you can’t always get in such a bright student. I can’t wait to see where Alyssa goes!”

The Woodstock Academy esports team, “League of Legends” and CIAC Champions, comprised of:

Eddy Chen, 12, Harbin, China

Jiacheng Ying, 10, Zhejiang, China

Sunny Mo, 11, Guangzhou, China

Kursen Bai, 11, Hong Kong, China

Abner Shen, 12, Nantong Jiangsu, China

Quincy Li, 11, Shenzhen, China

Coach Tom Young

This fall season, The Woodstock Academy esports team for League of Legends brought home the Championship win against Manchester High School in the first-ever CIAC-sanctioned esports season. Thirteen Connecticut schools participated in the League of Legends season, and our team entered the finals as the number two seed after a loss to Manchester in the regular season. Being leaders in CIAC esports from the start, this is our seventh overall championship for esports at The Woodstock Academy over the last three years. Our students have been part of multiple articles, videos, and interviews. (Channel 8 and Channel 3/Eyewitness News did segments featuring our esports teams; The Hartford Courant featured our students in an article about the championship match; and the CIAC had a separate article about esports.) When these students talk about esports, they grow confident, their personalities start to overcome their shyness, and they become teammates, leaders, and captains. Coach Tom Young

had this to say: “I met many of these students as quiet sophomores or freshman, and I have seen them come out of their shells and get passionate about something, seen them fight for a title with everything they have, and seen them cope with and rally from defeat. Esports has brought out the best in these young men, ignited a spark in their competitive spirits, and brought them all together as a team, victorious.”

3. Community Participation—None.

4. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of January 15, 2019

MOTION: (Livernois/Kelly) To approve the Minutes of January 15, 2019.
Unanimous

5. Student Council Report—None.

6. Board Reports

a. President’s Report

i. Correspondence

Head of School Sandford reviewed the various pieces of correspondence included in the packet.

ii. WA Trustee President Emeritus

Head of School Sandford reminded the group about the presentation by Bob Smith at the last meeting. Brief discussion ensued.

MOTION: (Livernois/Teed) To confer the title of Trustee President Emeritus to John McClellan, esq.; Abel Child II; Arthur Sherbourne Hardy; Marvin Barrett; and William Bentley.

Unanimous

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

Each of the meeting minutes provided were mentioned. There were no 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 and Head of School Sandford discussed the current budget. The year-to-date reports for encumbrances and revenues were reviewed with the Board. Reports are expected to be of better quality next year, when we have a full year in this format to compare to. Layout issues continue to be addressed and payroll has been uploaded successfully to this system.

ii. Roofing and Underground Storage Tanks Update

Interim Associate Head of School Guillot announced that Eagle Rivet, of Bloomfield, has been awarded the roofing contract and will begin work around June 17. The walk through for the underground storage tank project occurred on February 6. The plan is to meet with low bidder/s next week to check compliance with the specifications, and to select a contractor by the next BOT meeting.

iii. Other—None.

iv. Board questions/discussion—None.

b. Associate Head of School Report

i. February Update

Associate Head of School, Holly Singleton reviewed her February Update, which featured the many recent WA successes in academics, sports and clubs, as well as highlighting many upcoming events.

ii. Other—CIAC Rule Changes for Students with F-1 Visas

Associate Head of School, Holly Singleton and Assistant Head of School for Enrollment, Amy Favreau explained how the CIAC's rules changes will alter the recruitment of future boarding students. Discussion ensued about the application and implications of the new language.

iii. Board questions/discussion—There were no additional questions beyond the CIAC changes.

c. Associate Head of School for Advancement

i. Center for the Arts

Associate Head of School for Advancement, J. Sturdevant highlighted the following events:

- March 8: The Guess Who Concert with guest, Granite (tickets still available at www.wacenterforthearts.org) Granite's members are WA alumni.
- April 6: Locally Sourced Farm to Table Dinner in the Atrium (tickets available for \$50 each at www.wacenterforthearts.org) He hopes BOT members will be able to attend.
- April 26: Lenny White & Friends Concert
- The next gallery show will feature student submissions (still looking for more) from WA and middle schools from the sending towns. The attendance of gallery shows at the Center for the Arts is steadily growing—first show/300+ people; last fall/600+ people; Wind and Water/520+ people.

ii. Annual Giving Event Update

WA's first annual Giving Day approaches on Tuesday, April 30. A "headquarters" with telephones is planned with a presence both live and on social media. Director of Communications, Julia Budd and Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations, Brad Favreau are helping to organize the event.

iii. The Gleaner

J. Sturdevant thanked Julia Budd and Communications Specialist, Joel Tretheway for their hard work on the Gleaner. Paper copies have been mailed out, and the electronic version has already had over 850 views to date. It has been a useful tool when recruiting.

iv. Other—Alumni events

J. Sturdevant mentioned the Homecoming Banquet for alumni; 50th Reunion; and other alumni events in DC, Boston, and Putnam.

v. Board questions/discussion—None.

d. Head of School Report

i. 2019-2020—Budget Presentation

Head of School Sandford presented the proposed budget for FY 19-20, which had been previously endorsed by the Executive and Finance Committees. Additional information was shared regarding projected expenditures/revenues, tuition costs, and fees to cover necessary capital projects. Board discussion included: enrollment trends, cost breakdowns for day vs. boarding students; capital expense fees/projects; per student tuition rate comparisons between WA and other high schools; the large number of campus improvement projects which have already been covered by Foundation funds; the need for a facilities study to map out a schedule for necessary capital maintenance/replacements; charging fees for athletic programs that involve additional cost to rent practice/play venues; the number of local, private tuition students from non-sending towns; and the value of ECE credits to students/sending towns.

MOTION: (Kelly/McGinn) To accept the 2019-2020 Budget, which was endorsed by the Finance and Executive Committees, as presented at \$22,847,895.

Unanimous

ii. New and Revised Policies—First Reads

- 3453 – School Activity Funds
- 0050 – Code of Ethics
- 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

This item was tabled until the March meeting.

iii. Legislative Update

Head of School Sandford explained how the Governor’s Bill 874 might impact The Academy, noting the public hearing will be held on this Friday. Board consensus was unanimously opposed. Head of School Sandford planned to write a letter on behalf of the Board expressing opposition.

iv. Other—None.

v. Board questions/discussion—None.

8. Other Items

MOTION: (Musumeci/McGinn) To add **Possible Action Based on Executive Session** as item 10. a., making **Citizen’s Participation** 10. b.

Unanimous

A five-minute break was called by President Swenson at 8:40 p.m.

9. Executive Session

a. School Security MOU

b. School Security Update

c. Personnel

MOTION: (Musumeci/McGinn) To enter into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the School Security MOU, a School Security Update, and Personnel matters. B. Guillot, M. Harten, J. Rigney, C. Sandford, H. Singleton, J. Sturdevant, E. Chalupka, C. Rich, and Bobbie-Jo Saucier were invited to attend.

Unanimous

B. Guillot, M. Harten, J. Rigney, J. Sturdevant, E. Chalupka, C. Rich, and Bobbie-Jo Saucier exited Executive Session at 9:10 pm.

The meeting returned from Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

10. a. Possible Action Based on Executive Session

MOTION: (McGinn/Frankhouser) To accept the Administrator contract with amendments as discussed in Executive Session.

All voted Yes except D. Morse, C. Bentley, and H. Frankhouser, who abstained. Motion carries.

10. b. Citizen’s Participation – None.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: (Musumeci/Morse) To adjourn the meeting at 9:32 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.