

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
February 12, 2024



These minutes are for informational purposes

PRESENT: Folkerts, Chandler; Gronski, Melany; Harten, Michael; Larrow, Jeff; Munroe, Heather; Musko, Jason; Nguyen, Cang—alt.; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Len; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Walley, David; Woodland, Julie; Young, Scott
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Staples, Eli

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:30 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of January 8, 2024

MOTION: (Musko/Nguyen) To approve the minutes of January 8, 2024.
Unanimous

4. Course Registration/Recommendation Process

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten and Director of College and Career Counseling David Walley explained the new process by which students can apply for a course-level change when their prerequisites and recommendations do not already support their desired path. In short, department chairs will now formally review a student's grades, teacher recommendations, skills, content gaps, and past performance in other classes to make a recommendation about placement to the Dean of Academics and the student. Parent signatures indicate awareness rather than participation. While this process existed informally before, this more formal process creates more uniformity and consistency. Student success remains the top priority. A robust discussion ensued as various stakeholders shared their perspectives.

5. February 20th's Professional Development Topics

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten shared the itinerary for the professional development day planned for Tuesday, February 20. Discussion ensued about how the school's DEI goals were developed. It was noted that the school's DEI goals align with the Academic Committee's goals.

6. New Course Proposal: Certified Nursing Assistant

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten explained that Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes, Director of Health Services Bobbie-Jo Saucier, and PE, Health and Student Services Department Chair Adam Bottone met with QV to discuss a partnership with Putnam and Thompson to use grant funds to purchase needed equipment to begin a Certified Nursing Assistant course. This course involves book learning, exam taking, and clinical experience. Currently, we have two students taking this course in Putnam, and there is ever-increasing student interest and community demand for this program. Discussion included offsetting student costs, possible locations for the clinical experience requirement, and the need for student feedback about the Putnam program. Committee members granted preliminary approval, assuming the department chairs sign off on the course.

7. School Visits Update: Apple, CAIS, Kazakhstan

Dr. Harten provided information about various groups planning upcoming visits to The Academy.

- Apple—After a preliminary visit on February 1, The Academy was offered a chance to apply to be an Apple Distinguished School. If accepted, WA would be the first school in CT and one of only 200 schools worldwide.
- CAIS (CT Association of Independent Schools)—Representatives from other independent schools recently visited campus. Guests observed classrooms, had lunch, and asked questions. Their thank you notes reflected their great appreciation, along with requests for follow-up information.
- Japan Visit—Science teacher Melany Gronski has been working to coordinate a visit from a group of seventeen Japanese students. Students will stay with host families and attend classes with student guides.

8. Executive Session Regarding a Confidential Student Matter

9. Possible Action Based on Executive Session

An executive session was not needed.

10. Other – None.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: (Gronski/Samborowski) To adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.
Unanimous

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.