

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
November 11, 2024



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Bessette, Mikayla; Duvall, Nancy; Folkerts, Chandler; Gregoire, Avery; Gronski, Melany; Munroe, Heather; Musko, Jason; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Walley, David; Harten, Michael; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Samborowski, Len; Young, Scott

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 October 7, 2024

MOTION: (Singleton/Folkerts) To approve the minutes of October 7, 2024. All voted Yes except Philippa Paquette and Nancy Duvall, who abstained. Motion passes.

4. Veterans Day and Week Programming

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten shared an email listing some of the many events planned to honor veterans this year, saying Veteran’s Day has now become more of a Veteran’s Week. For the second consecutive year, Deb Sharpe has coordinated this impressive effort. Earlier in the day, over 400 students attended assemblies, and Mr. Bove’s foods class prepared a delicious lunch for the speakers. Dr. Harten was pleased with the level of support provided by teachers and the administration. Brief biographies of the speakers were included.

Dr. Harten spoke about the previous week’s “Ryan’s Story” program about teen suicide that was presented to students in grades nine and ten. It was described as a powerful and reflective experience. Discussion ensued about partnering with area schools to share the costs of this type of programming, the reasons behind not offering the experience to grades 9-12, and mental health supports in place for students.

5. WA Teacher Development Program

In response to a nationwide teacher shortage, Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten and Associate Head of School Holly Singleton discussed a proposal offering stipends for student teachers as a means to recruit and attract new educators. Discussion ensued. New monthly training meetings for newly hired teachers have begun with good feedback so far.

6. Community Service Credit Proposal

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten and Associate Head of School Holly Singleton described plans to allow students to earn a half-credit for performing 60 hours of qualified volunteer work over their four years here. This is permitted by state statute. Earning a “pass” for community service will not be calculated as part of a student’s GPA. Discussion ensued.

7. Next Generation Accountability

Dr. Harten reviewed the data provided in the Next Generation Accountability report for 2023-2024. Discussion included the state's definition of "chronic absenteeism," "approved travel," and inequities between our program and other schools (free and reduced lunch, K-12 programs, etc.). Ongoing concerns remain about math scores, college and career readiness, and absenteeism. Math department chair Tom Young plans to attend the next meeting to provide information about SAT scores.

8. Other – None.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: (Musko/Duvall) To adjourn the meeting at 6:18 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.