

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
November 13, 2024



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Brown, Lauren; Greene, Kira; Langevin, Leisl; Le, Kenzie; Manning, Eli; McGinn, Walter; Quinn, Eric; Hughes, Karin; Sandford, Chris; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Munroe, Heather; Samborowski, Leonard; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; Singleton, Holly

GUESTS: Shannon VanderSwaagh and Anthony Gomes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair McGinn at 7:00 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of September 11, 2024

MOTION: (McGinn/Brown) To approve the minutes of September 11, 2024.

Unanimous

4. The Woodstock Therapeutic Academy Presentation

Director of Student Support Shannon VanderSwaagh provided an update about The Woodstock Therapeutic Academy since it launched this fall. Eight students from three different towns are currently enrolled. The program's mission is for students to feel safe, valued, connected to adults, engaged in activities, and academically challenged. Among the special education and general education teachers, there are two mental health clinicians, two mental health technicians, and one administrative assistant. A typical day was described, and questions were asked and answered throughout. There is a significant need for this program in our area, and inquiries come in on a regular basis.

Mrs. VanderSwaagh exited the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

5. First Quarter Activity Update

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes has been asking for periodic updates from the various clubs and organizations on campus. A comprehensive handout captured news from the B Club, Kindness Club, DECA Club, Production Club, Anime Club, History Club, Robotics, Amnesty International, Science Bowl, the Centaur Chronicles, the Deep End, Students of Color Association, Earthsave, GSA, Envirothon, and more.

6. Ryan's Story Recap

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes described last week's Ryan's Story presentation for grades nine and ten. Students were engaged and respectful as John Halligan shared the story of his son Ryan's experiences with cyberbullying, depression, and, ultimately, suicide. With messages about redemption, kindness, and forgiveness, many teachers reported this was the best speaker they had ever seen at The Academy. School counselors, nurses, and staff members were available to speak to any students who wanted support at the conclusion of each presentation. Program costs were shared with Putnam Public Schools.

7. South Campus Dance Studio

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared that private dance lessons are being offered in the space formerly occupied by the Centaur Shoppe in the Student Center (Round Building) on South Campus. Student and staff participants are enjoying this new opportunity.

8. Other – None.

Student Representatives Kira Greene, Kenzie Le, and Eli Manning exited the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

9. Executive Session—Security

MOTION: (Brown/Quinn) To enter into an Executive Session to discuss Security, inviting all remaining to attend, at 7:34 p.m. Unanimous

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:46 p.m.

10. Possible Action Based on Executive Session – None.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: (Brown/Quinn) To adjourn the meeting at 7:46 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.