

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**April 4, 2025**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Bessette, Andy (C); Blackmer, Robert; Ellsworth, Robert (E); Langevin, Leisl; McGinn, Walter; Paquette (7:08), Philippa; Perkins-Banas, Melissa (B); Rhynhart, Hans; Rich, Matthew; Swenson, Christine; Tuttle, Brent (P); Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Susi, Michael; Woodland, Julie  
**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Higgins, Edwin; Keser, Adam (W); Sturdevant, Jon

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Swenson at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of February 5, 2025**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Tuttle) To approve the minutes of February 5, 2025, as presented. All voted Yes except Hans Rhynhart, who abstained. Motion passes.

**4. Correspondence**

Head of School Sandford reviewed the correspondence which was included in the packet. Key letters included a letter to the State Department of Education announcing the hiring of Dr. Larry Filippelli as our new Head of School, a letter of congratulations to Mathematics and Science Dept. Chair Tom Young for receiving an award of excellence for teaching ECE statistics, several letters of condolence, and two letters banning individuals from entering Academy properties.

**5. HOS Transition Update**

Head of School Sandford reported that a transition schedule has been arranged to welcome new Head of School Larry Filippelli. His first full day on campus included meetings with the senior administrative team. In-person and “virtual” introductions are ongoing. A brief discussion ensued about spending time with various superintendents and trustees. Trustees were urged to coordinate any scheduling requests through Julie Woodland.

**6. Nominating Committee Update**

Nominating Committee Chair Matthew Rich shared that his committee has been very focused on developing a succession plan. He expects to have the 2025-2026 slate completed by the May 7, 2025, meeting and will provide an update at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**7. Legislative Update**

Head of School Sandford shared some information about a recently proposed state bill that would allow several members of the CIAC to join the CT Teacher's Retirement Plan. He explained his reasons for testifying against it. An update will be provided at May's Executive Committee meeting.

**8. Schedule a Possible Special Meeting**

A special meeting was not needed at this time.

**9. September Retreat Planning**

President Swenson plans to schedule a Zoom meeting ahead of the next Executive Committee meeting with new Head of School Larry Filippelli and Vice President Higgins. She would like to discuss ways they can make the Board Retreat in September as impactful as possible.

## 10. Other Items

During the next Executive Committee meeting in May, Head of School Sanford plans to provide a staff hiring update, saying he has been very impressed with the quality of the teachers they have been interviewing recently.

## 11. Executive Session

### a. Personnel/Employment Agreements

### b. Legal/Contract Negotiations and Attorney-Client Communications

**MOTION:** (Tuttle/Rich) To enter into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel/Employment Agreements and Legal/Contract Negotiations and Attorney-Client Communications matters, inviting all present to attend at 7:15 p.m. Unanimous

The meeting returned to regular session at 7:40 p.m.

## 12. Possible Action Based on Executive Session

**MOTION:** (Keser/Tuttle) To accept the administration's recommendation that Jason Pannone's and Tyler Langworthy's contracts are not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. Unanimous

**MOTION:** (Keser/Tuttle) To accept the administrator's contract renewal, as discussed in the executive session. Unanimous

**MOTION:** (Keser/Tuttle) To accept the contract with the Union Board of Education, as discussed in the executive session. Unanimous

## 13. Adjournment

**MOTION:** (Perkins-Banas/Langevin) To adjourn the meeting at 7:43 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.*