

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
May 12, 2025



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

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

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 March 10, 2025

MOTION: (Gronski/Bessette) To approve the minutes of March 10, 2025. All voted Yes except Holly Singleton, Len Samorowski, and Avery Gregoire. Motion passes.

4. SAT Results

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten provided preliminary data from the spring SAT. Academy students outpaced the state in both English and Math and year-to-date growth increased from 30% to 35% and met goal. Discussion ensued about digital test taking and the Smarter Balance assessments. It was agreed the data is positive, but the goal remains to seek improvement through more practice.

5. WA AI Guidelines for Educators

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten elaborated on the school's AI guidelines for education. Discussion included the purpose of AI in schools, its practice, promoting transparency, adherence to student data privacy laws, ensuring equal access, and reflection on its usage. A handout illustrating student guidelines for AI use was also discussed. More information is expected in the fall.

6. Learning Allies (plus Independent Study, Peer Tutor review)

Creative ways for students to earn credit, such as Independent Study, Peer Tutoring, and Learning Allies, were discussed. The Learning Allies Program is new for 2025-2026 and is a year-long opportunity to earn credit through the STRIVE program.

7. Bell Schedule for Fall

Anticipated adjustments to 2025-2026 bell schedule will include moving the morning announcements to the beginning of second block, adjusting passing time from 15 to 13 minutes, and extending second block to 82 minutes to accommodate morning announcements.

8. Guest Speakers Report

Data on guest speakers during the 24-25 school year included 67 total speakers in 47 classes, for 20 clubs/activities/school-wide events. Many speakers supported career and technology classes in addition to science, humanities, and fine arts.

9. Recognize Departing Committee Members

Committee Chair Paquette thanked trustee Len Samborowski for his many contributions and said he would be missed. Student Representative Mikayla Bessette was thanked for all her thoughtful contributions and was wished all the best as she begins her college years at the University of VT. Cupcakes were enjoyed by all.

Heather Munroe exited the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Mikayla Bessette and Avery Gregoire exited the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

10. New Student Member Selection

Blind applications (without names or genders) of new and returning members were considered. After some discussion, it was agreed to invite the following students to serve on the Committee in the 2025-2026 school year. Avery Gregoire and Adelyn Cournoyer will be invited to serve as full members. Danylo Kyryliuk will be invited to serve as an alternate member. Dr. Harten will notify every applicant of the decisions.

11. Other

- It was agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for June 15, 2025.
- Committee Chair Paquette thanked the group for being wonderful members and wished everyone a wonderful summer break.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: (Musko/Gronski) To adjourn the meeting at 6:23 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.