

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**February 18, 2025**



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Bentley, Cary; Bessette, Andrew; Blackmer, Robert; Brown, Lauren; Duvall, Nancy (C); Higgins, Edwin; Keser, Adam (W); Langevin, Leisl; Larrow, Jeff; McGinn, Walter; Morse, David; Munroe, Heather; Paquette, Philippa; Perkins-Banas, Melissa (B); Quinn, Eric; Rhynhart, Hans; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Leonard; Swenson, Christine; Tuttle, Brent (P); Young, Scott

**ADMINISTRATION:** Favreau, Amy; Gronski, Melany; Harten, Michael; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Sturdevant, Jon; Susi, Michael; Woodland, Julie

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Beckwith, Martha; Ellsworth, Robert (E)

**GUESTS:** David Beecher from The Angeletti Group and Pat O'Brien

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Swenson at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of October 22, 2024**

**MOTION:** (Bessette/Young) To accept the Minutes of the October 22, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting. All voted Yes except Christine Swenson and Andy Bessettee, who abstained. Motion passes.

**4. Board Reports**

**a. President's Report**

**i. Correspondence**

Head of School Sandford reviewed the correspondence included in the packet, highlighting a letter from NEAS&C requesting a Substantive Change report to include the WTA and Virtual Academy. NEAS&C's next visits will be in the spring of 2029 (Foundation) and the fall of 2029 (program visit). Other correspondence included letters from the CIAC and EASTCONN, as well as letters of congratulations, condolences, and resignations/retirements. Key departures included long-time Board of Trustees member Samantha Asikainen, science teacher Peter Lusa (17 years), and HR Director Lori Carminati (45 years!).

**ii. Term Appointment—WA Foundation Directors**

Foundation President Leisl Langevin shared that the Foundation unanimously approved Lauren Brown's appointment as a Foundation Director via electronic vote.

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Quinn) To accept the appointment of Lauren Brown as a Foundation Director for a term that shall expire in 2028. Unanimous

**b. Committee Reports—questions/discussion on reports provided in packet**

There were no questions.

**5. Woodstock Academy Administration Reports**

**a. Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Report**

**i. 2024-2025 Budget Update**

Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Mike Susi reviewed the Profit and Loss statement with the group. Highlights included electricity, health insurance, and Eversource's plan to purchase our tax credits. Finance Committee Chair Hans Rhynhart recapped the Finance Committee's recent meeting discussion.

ii. Other – None.

iii. Board questions/discussion – None.

**b. Associate Head of School Report**

i. WA Activities and Achievements Updates

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton shared a comprehensive and detail-filled handout listing the tremendous achievements of students and staff and many upcoming events. Her handout has been pasted below these minutes.

Assistant Head of School Amy Favreau provided a residential life update, saying the addition of “head of duty” positions, assigning staff members to oversee academics and prefects, and having a staff member dedicated to planning activities is improving the boarding student experience.

ii. Other – None.

iii. Board questions/discussion – None.

**c. Associate Head of School for External Affairs**

i. Enrollment Update

Associate Head of School for External Affairs Jon Sturdevant shared a memo summarizing the current enrollment status within the admissions department. To date, fifteen new boarding students, two private-pay day students, and five contracts have been extended to current students. Currently, we have 165 boarding students from 32 different countries, and 21 private-day students. New staff have been added to the department, and the team is working hard on re-enrollments and new applications for the fall.

ii. Other – None.

iii. Board questions/discussion – None.

**d. Head of School Report**

i. 2025-2026 Calendars

A draft set of the 2025-2026 calendars was offered for review and for members to begin penciling in dates.

ii. Proposed Teacher Contract 2025-2028

With the input of members of the Negotiating Committee, Head of School Sandford reviewed key changes to the new contract with the WAEA. The overarching goal was retention and recruitment. President Swenson praised the efforts of all involved, offering her congratulations and expressing her gratitude.

**MOTION:** (Young/Tuttle) To approve the Professional Agreement between the Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees and the Woodstock Academy Education Association (WAEA) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

Unanimous

iii. 2025-2026 Budget and Tuition Rate

A tuition chart listing various programs, rates, and percentage increases was discussed.

**MOTION:** (Young/Morse) To set the 2025-2026 Tuition Rates as follows:

Sending Town Special Education:	\$19,783
Sending Town Regular Education:	\$18,233
STRIVE Tuition:	\$60,000
Therapeutic Tuition:	\$75,000
Private Boarding Rate:	\$65,200

Private Day Student Rate: \$20,900  
Unanimous

iv. Approve Policies

Head of School Sandford reviewed each of the policies and answered any questions.

**MOTION:** (Samborowski/Bessette) To approve the Policies listed below as presented:

Policies – New

- 3600 – Memorials
- 4000.1 & 5145.44 – Sexual Harassment/Title IX
- 6148 – FAFSA Completion Requirement

Policies – Revised/Updated

- 4112.5 – Security Check/Fingerprinting
- 4118.24 – Staff/Student Non-Fraternization

Unanimous

v. Other – None.

vi. Board questions/discussion – None.

**6. Other Items – None.**

Head of School Sandford, Associate Head of School Holly Singleton, Associate Head of School for Finance and Operations Michael Susi, Assistant Head of School Amy Favreau, and Dean of Academics Michael Harten exited the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**7. Executive Session—Contract Negotiations**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Morse) To enter into Executive Session to consider Contract Negotiations, inviting David Beecher from The Angeletti Group, Jon Sturdevant, Pat O'Brien, Mel Gronski, and Julie Woodland to attend at 8:06 p.m.  
Unanimous

The meeting returned to regular session at 9:36 p.m.

**8. Possible Action Based on Executive Session – None.**

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Brown/Bentley) To adjourn the meeting at 9:37 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.*



## Activities and Achievements from the Associate Head of School

February 18, 2025

### Student Achievements

- For the 4th year in a row, WA students have won top awards in the National Center for Women & Information Technology program. Diya Patel (W) and Isabel D'Alleva Bochain (P) received Connecticut Awards. Sophie Jung (T) received Honorable Mention. And Reagan Scheck (B) won the Rising Star Award.
- 14 students were selected into the New England Musical Festival. Orchestra: Kate Ritzau (T). Band: Olivia Dahl (W), Lilah Jafar-DeCesare (W), Madison LaVallee (B). Chorus: Nathan Couture (W), Ben Cross (W), Georgia Cross (W), Chandler Folkerts (W), Judah Gagnon (P), Lily Mercier (P), Xander Miller (W), Evony N'Chonon (P), Michael Susi (W), and Sadie Wood (W). The vocal quartet of Maddie LaVallee, Sadie Wood, Chandler Folkert, and Ben Cross were nominated as best vocal quartet.
- Jamie-Dean Stewart was selected to represent the Caymen Island for Boys U17 National Basketball Team.
- Ethan Hayes, Shihab Juman, and Jacob Gollop were selected to represent Barbados on the Football Association's Under 17 Boys' National Team.
- 5 students received Scholastic Art Awards: Maddie Jezierski in photography; Luke Davis (W) in Ceramics & Glass, and in Drawing & Illustration; Jack Wiggin (B) received an award in Jewelry and in Ceramics & Glass; Kevin Lewis (W) received an award in Painting; and Chandler Folkers (W) received an award for his Portfolio.
- At the Yale MUN conference, two students earned awards. Maggie McHugh (W) received Honorable Mention and Tanner Graham (W) received Outstanding Delegate.
- At the Boston University MUN Conference, three students earned honors. Tanner Graham (W) won Outstanding Delegate, Evelyn Young (T) won a Commendation, Maggie McHugh (W) also won a Commendation.

### Faculty & Staff Achievements

- Kelly Danielson & Mike Harten presented at the NCTE Conference in Boston; their session was titled *Ensuring Student Voices through Discussion: The Socratic Seminar*.
- Adam Bottone was named the ECC Coach of the Year for Volleyball.
- Andrew Morehouse was selected to present at the American Council for Teaching a Foreign Language conference in Philadelphia; this presentation was funded by a UConn ECE grant and led to him being featured on the UConn ECE magazine. And he was selected to present at the Classical Association of New England's annual meeting; his session was titled *Classroom Routines in the Target Language for Boosting Linguistic Proficiency*. AND he was invited to lead a Latin Immersion professional development workshop at The North American Institute for Living Latin.
- Connor Elliott has received instructor certification from the University of Connecticut for the class, EDLR 2001: Contemporary Issues in Sport.
- Tom Young has been accepted into the Apple Learning Coach program.
- Andrea Danforth was selected as an Assistant Coach in the Soccer Olympic Development Program.

### Upcoming Events

March 4<sup>th</sup> – College Planning Night, 6:30 PM, Bates Auditorium  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – College Fair, 9:00 AM—10:45 AM, Alumni Field House  
March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – WAMD Spring Concert, 6:30 PM, The Loos  
March 14<sup>th</sup> – Apple Distinguished School Visit