

**WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, December 18, 2025**

1. Welcome
 - a. Reading of the board norms
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Principal's Report presented by Cotton Bryan
 - b. Minutes from November 2025 meeting
3. Reports & Presentation of Committee Charters
 - a. Student Update – McKenna Sparrow
 - b. Faculty Update – Rachel Lawrence
 - c. Finance Committee Report – Courtney Cabe
 - d. Foundation Report – Jessica Oliver
 - e. Communications Committee Report – Doreen Messick
 - f. Personnel Committee Report – Rachel McInerney
 - g. Board Development Report – Charmaine Terregino
4. Business
 - Old Business - Discuss Draft 2026/27 Calendar, Community input
 (Final vote to take place in January 2026 meeting)
 - New Business
5. Closed Session (not expected)
6. Adjournment Session
 - Action Taken/Voted
 - Adjournment

Principal's Report

December 18, 2025

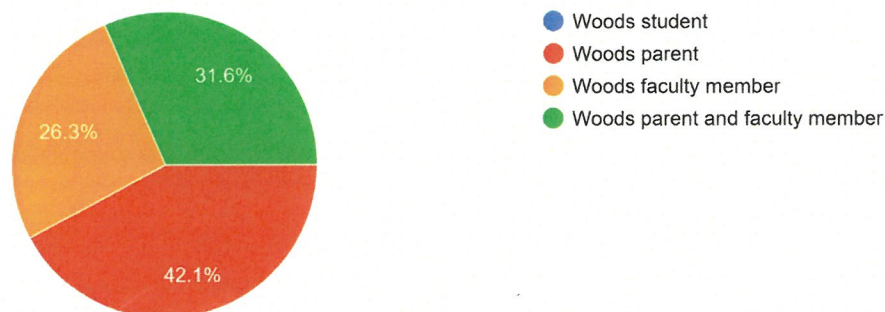
Calendar Feedback

My sense, derived both from direct in-person feedback and from our survey, is that most people in our community are pleased with the draft calendar. 79% of respondents are in favor of lengthening the school day. If we move forward with extending the day, I believe this lengthening should take place at the end of the day, resulting in a 3:05 dismissal for elementary and 3:15 dismissal for middle and high.

The survey has been out for three weeks and remains open. The results that we've received to date:

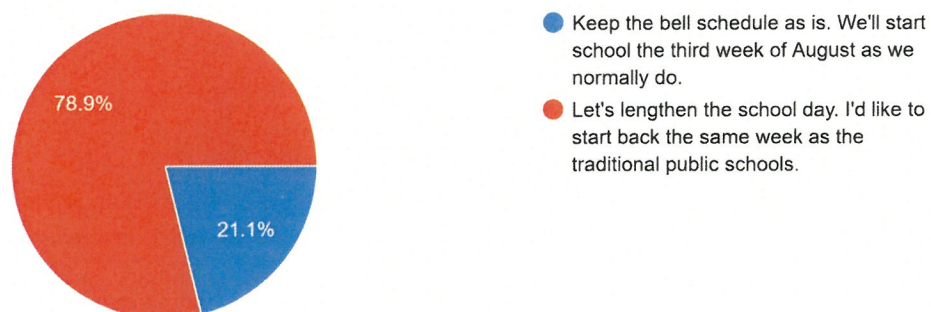
I am a . . .

19 responses



We are considering a change to our bell schedule that would slightly lengthen our school day (thus allowing us to possibly start the school year the s...inutes to each school day? Which would you prefer?

19 responses



The feature(s) of this calendar that I particularly appreciate are . . .

Faculty PD on Halloween

Spring break has Good Friday rolling into it, thereby lengthening spring break.

Solid 2 weeks at christmas

The spaced out interruptions to instruction time. As a faculty member, we can plan accordingly without much interruption.

Having Good Friday off

Jewish holidays off :)

Timing of fall break.

Thank you for having the school closed on Jewish High Holidays, which is very meaningful to our family.

Spring break during Easter

Traditional Easter Break

Fall break for faculty members

Long weekends and moving Fall Break back to the end of October.

We LOVE having that extra week in August and I was so happy to see the proposed calendar for 2026-2027. With three year-round swimmers and family in the UK, August is the only time we can feasibly go back to visit for two or three weeks as the championship swim meet is always the last week of July. A third week in August will mean we will be able to visit family and not miss the start of school :)

That Spring Break is the same week as the 25-26 year. I appreciate that it aligns with the local school systems, especially Chatham County Schools. It did not align last year (24-25) so I am grateful for this change this year, and that it may continue next year. Thank you!

Having a full week of school in October. :)

Inclusivity related to holidays, placement of winter break and spring break.

Thank you Board and Administration for putting such good thought into this draft. It looks great!

The feature(s) of this calendar that I don't like are . . .

One week for Thanksgiving break

Everything looks great.

I think it looks great!

starting back so early in August

October still looks a little crowded.

Nothing. I don't think an extra ten minutes will make much difference. I'd also be fine with finishing the full week when school ends (second week of June) to claw back two and a half days and losing two or three vacation days throughout the year, but I understand this might not please other families.

After a holiday weeklong+ vacation (like Christmas) it would be nice for that Monday to be a teacher workday (in the building). We need time to get ready for the start again, and without a workday, the assumption is that we are using our vacation time to prep for after vacation. This is not a respectful assumption, and it is not in line with what Chatham, or Chapel Hill/Carrboro school systems go. I understand wanting to bend to err on a calendar that is conducive to parents, but once in awhile it would be nice for the admin and Board to consider the teachers and what is being inferred to us. Likewise (it doesn't happen for this proposed calendar because Easter is early) but

having a teacher workday after Spring break, especially when the last day of Spring break is Easter (like this year 2026) is necessary because otherwise you are asking staff to travel home on Easter Sunday, which should be a consideration again .

A question I have for the Board about this calendar is . . .

Great idea on lengthening school day to enable same start as Chatham.

I'm wondering why the faculty retreat has to be in October? We already have PT conferences then (and I think they should stay in October). Wouldn't it also make more sense to have the PD faculty retreat during the last week of September?

Will fewer days of instruction balance out with longer periods or will kids learn less?

Please add the minutes to the morning -- Start advisory at 8:10 and class at 8:20. This allows use the wasted morning time that we currently have from 8:00-8:20. Please spread the added minutes out to make each period longer.

Could we add the extra 10 minutes to the start of the day. We could start advisory at 8:10 since so many kids already arrive at 8 am or before. We could start classes earlier at 8:20 to spread the time evenly among the class periods.

Can we extend the day extending class periods by a minute or two per class period and starting advisory at 8:10 for an 8:10-8:20 advisory time?

Thanks for all you do!

I am for lengthening the school day, but I ask that the Board consider student athletes when allocating the extra time. They already miss significant time in the last period of the day.

Gym Floor Refinishing

Last year and this year we've had trouble with our gym floor becoming slippery. It seems to lose its finish very quickly. We are consulting with a new floor refinishing company and will likely do a screening, tacking, and refinishing over the winter break. Typically we have only had to do this once a year (in the summer).

School Safety Summit

On December 2nd, Cindy Sperry, Ann Kaiyala, and I attended a safety summit with Chatham County Schools and Chatham County Sheriff's Department held at the school district's central services offices in Pittsboro. The meeting focused on connecting charter schools and private schools in the county with the school system's emergency operations plans. Dr. Brad Walston, Director of Security, Safety & Operations, organized the meeting, which also included presentations from Superintendent Anthony Jackson and Dr. Chris Blice, Assistant Superintendent of Operations. In addition, Captain Richard from CCSO spoke and made lunch for all attendees.

We will gather again in late January to talk about ways that we might assist each other with offsite reunification plans.

Into the Woods 5-K

I'm glad and grateful that we have a community that will show up to run even if the morning's air is uncomfortably cold. This year's race included about 235 runners/walkers and 20 or so volunteers. It is always a particular thrill to see our younger runners (especially those in our Running with the Wolves program) complete the challenge.

FY2025 Audit

This past week all board members received a digital copy of the audited financials for fiscal year 2025. I also provided a simple annotation to guide their review:

Page #	Topic
4	Financial Highlights of the Fiscal Year
8	Condensed Statement of Net Position/Balance Sheet
9	Condensed Statement of Activities/P&L
12	Remaining Debt on Our Building
12	NC Raised Per Pupil Funding by 1.5%
33	Further Details on the Note on Our Building
39 first paragraph	"no instances of noncompliance"
41 last paragraph	"we did not identify any deficiencies in internal controls . . ."
43-44	No findings

Winter Music Concert

Mr. Irons and his chorus and band students shone a light into the darkness at their concert December 16. We had a full house for this joyful and moving event. They performed 15 songs in one hour.

Woods Charter School
Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2025

Voting members present Charmaine Terregino, Rachel McNerny, Doreen Messick, Courtney Cabe, Michelle Pearlstein, Amy Garrett, Alex Protzman

Non-voting members present: Rachel Lawrence (Faculty Representative), Oakes Ulrich (Student Representative), Cindy Sperry (sitting in for Cotton Bryan)

Absent voting members: None

Non-voting members not present: Cotton Bryan

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm and was held in person, with guests having the option to watch via Zoom.

- Public Comment: None
- Norms reiterated
- Consent Agenda: No Changes

Principal's report <i>Cindy Sperry (for Cotton Bryan)</i>	Principal report highlights: • Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day was a success with almost 300 guests. • School tours have started; first one had approximately 60 present • Fall Faculty Retreat was held on 10/31. • On 10/27, Woods held presentation by Drs. Prinstein and Telzer of the UNC Winston Center on technology, anxiety and the brain. There are plans to have them return for a similar presentation to MS and HS students. • Brief discussion of draft calendar for 2026-2027. The full Principal's Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Minutes from October meeting	Additional Comments: None
Action Taken	A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Amy Garrett, seconded by Alex Protzman, and unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

• Reports

Student Update <i>Oakes Ulrich</i>	Oakes Ulrich updates: • Three upper-level grades had out of town for field trips this week • Halloween Movie Night was successful with over 50 students show up • CORA food drive coming up • MUN attended William & Mary MUN conference in early November and are preparing for upcoming Yale MUN competition. • Homecoming Dance coming up on Dec 6 with Spirit Week preceding • Many recent field trips include: ◦ NC state crime lab
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	- o UNC science fair - o Tremont, Biltmore, Jamestown field trips going on right now. The full Student Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Faculty Update <i>Rachel Lawrence</i>	Rachel Lawrence shared updates • MS science and engineering elective students have been using Otto robots for building and coding. • HS engineering are working on building boomilevers • Trailblazers Outdoor Club has held shoreline cleanup at Jordan Lake, rock climbing at Pilot Mountain and twilight paddle at Haw River. The full Teacher Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Finance Committee <i>Courtney Cabe</i>	Courtney Cabe shared budget, revenue, and expenses for October 2025 Highlights include: • Utilities have gone up secondary to price increase • County revenues are coming in. • Overall, financial standing is good • Will investigate specific line items such as sales tax, various, The full Finance Committee Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Foundation Report <i>Jessica Oliver</i>	Written report prepared by Jessica Oliver was reviewed by the Board • Foundation has raised \$323,857 towards Annual Fund as of October, 2025. • Percentage of family participation was down; however, monetary contributions were up compared to last year. • Similarly, Grandparent and Special Friends overall contributions were greater than last year . • Currently, 60K ahead of same point last year. • Giving Tuesday: a school family has offered to match up to \$10K in donations. • Restaurant Nights are happening. So far, have raised funds from Guanajuato, Tomato Jake's and Breakaway Café. The full Foundation Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Communications <i>Doreen Messick</i>	• Doreen Messick updated Board on upcoming goals. Next meeting will be in December. No written report.
Personnel <i>Rachel McInerney</i>	• Rachel McInerney reported no new updates. No written report.
Board Development <i>Charmaine Terregino</i>	• Charmaine Terregino updated Board on upcoming goals. Next meeting will be likely December. No written report.

- Old Business:

	• None
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- New Business:

Discussion Title	Draft Calendar for 2026-2027 • The Board reviewed the first draft of the 2026-2027 Draft Calendar • In order to align start and stop dates more closely with surrounding districts will need to consider adding 10 minutes to school day. Admin team is still considering where those minutes would be added. • We have reviewed positive aspects including inclusion of various holidays. • Draft calendar will be published and open to community feedback. Board will review feedback and vote in January
Action Taken	None.
Discussion Title	Amendment and Restatement for Faculty 403 (b) Retirement Plan
	A motion was made by Alex Protzman to approve the 403(b) plan re-statement put forth by Principal Cotton Bryan, was seconded by Amy Garrett and unanimously approved by all voting members.

Closed Session

None	None
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- Adjournment Session

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:16 pm by Michelle Pearlstein, was seconded by Rachel McInerney, and was unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

Student Report

December 18, 2025

Snow is finally falling so of course that means winter break is almost here. Just a few days ago, there was a somewhat cinematic scene where snow was falling in the morning, and several teachers were nice enough to let the students go outside to see it in person, which I'm sure the students were very appreciative of. Still, we're not quite done with school yet. Since we are a school that tries to prepare students for college life, the vast majority of our classes have midterms which we have and will be taking yesterday, today, and tomorrow. While this has meant that the students have been doing a lot of studying, this doesn't mean that there hasn't been fun activities mixed in there as well.

December 6th we had Homecoming, which was the first Homecoming we have held before winter break for several years, and I'm proud to say it was a success. The snowball themed dance had over 100 people attend, and we raised a significant amount of money for charity focused on fighting food insecurity. We thought it was a good cause to support, especially with the uncertainty that the government shutdown brought to a lot of families in the state.

In the theme of charity, the school's Cora food drive just finished with Ms. O'Gorman's advisory donating the most at 77 items! Ms Clarke and Ms. Lawrence's advisories trailed behind her, with 55 and 54 items respectively. In exchange for being so generous, Ms. O'Gorman's advisory has won an advisory ice cream party when we get back from break.

On a bit of a random note, ugly sweater day also happened just two days ago, where a large amount of the student body participated in wearing their wackiest holiday sweaters. Students also matched clothes in spirit week, which was held the week leading up to Homecoming. A large amount of the student body participated in themes such as jersey day and twin day.

MLK Day is also planned to happen soon after we get back from break, where BIPOC will hold their MLK day festivities, inviting guest speakers and holding workshops. Soon after that, Student Council is planning to hold their annual dodgeball tournament, which is a beloved tradition in the student body. Students and teachers throughout high school will be mixed into teams and will compete to see which team will reign supreme this year. Now onto our reports from each grade, starting with the freshman report by Nathan Dilworth.

As 1/3rd of the year has passed, the freshman class has been having a great time in the high school wing. Experiences such as Homecoming and Door Decorating have not only improved morale but an overall wanting to be at school. As midterms come closer, students are starting to feel more stressed, as for a majority, this is their first midterm, however with help from teachers and older students giving us study habits and tips, and our classmates continuing to prepare, the stress has begun to fade. The freshman class is very excited for winter break, and for the 2026 portion of this school year. A main point of excitement is the yearly dodgeball game, as many students have been talking about how excited they are to participate in the yearly tradition.

Overall, the freshman class has almost fully transitioned into high school life, and are loving all the perks that come with it!

Sophomores bonded this month and worked hard to finish out the first half of the year. We enjoyed curating a class album, where everyone inputted their #1 listened to song of 2025, and compiled it into one big album for us to listen to during advisory. The snow was exciting as well, and we took laps around the school while trying to catch snowflakes in our mouths. Furthermore, the sophomore class felt disappointed that we never got a zoo field trip last year, but there has been a push to go this year! Sophomore advisors Costa, Chetwynd, and Finkelstein are up to bringing us to the zoo sometime this year, which gives our class a boost of motivation and excitement for the next half of the year. As days get shorter and colder, our spirits get more enthusiastic and stronger as we reach the final stretch of midterms, with winter break short after.

The juniors had a blast at Tremont. They finished up their schooling exploring nature, science, and doing all kinds of fun activities in the cool weather of the Smoky Mountains. The class loved getting to hear fireside stories, take pictures with friends, play games, and catch salamanders. This trip was extra special for a couple of reasons. This junior group saw a couple extra special moments at Tremont, including seeing a black bear for a long time and getting to walk alongside it, as well as seeing two elk fight in the forest. The trip ended with a reflection the following school week in the Glade to discuss what made Tremont special and how we can bring that back to Woods. After November, the juniors came back to Spirit Week and a phenomenal Homecoming, where students enjoyed dancing, food, decorations, and music with their friends. I heard many good things about Homecoming, which, in part due to the nature of having a dance as an average of student preferences, is rare for school dances. Students, after a brief curricular period, are headed into midterm exams, for which students are well-prepared, and excited for the Winter Break to follow.

As for the seniors, tensions have been high for college applications. Duke and Davidson early decisions came out just a few days ago, and UNC early action results are set to come out either today or tomorrow. This has brought a lot of stress to the seniors, but it's also been incredibly rewarding for many. As visible on the board in the hallway upstairs, the class of 2026 has already gotten lots of college acceptance letters from a wide range of institutions. Several students have even been admitted to international Canadian universities, which is always interesting to see. While midterms have also added some stress to the seniors, many feel that the years of experience in high school has helped prepare them for exams like these, making the workload manageable.

In conclusion, December has been a difficult month with midterms, but has also been incredibly rewarding. The students had the opportunity to enjoy Homecoming together and bask in the snow, and it has proved itself to be a great end of the year. As usual, if there are any questions please reach out to stuco@woodscharter.org, and happy holidays board.

I apologize for not being able to make it to the meeting tonight. McKenna Sparrow, Stuco's vice president will be there in my place. - Oakes

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DECEMBER 2025

ANNUAL FUND

The Lincoln family's \$10,000 Giving Tuesday match was so well received! Parents, grandparents and faculty sent in \$12,230 in donations, meaning our Annual Fund grew by \$22,230 the first week of December. With that boost, we are over \$346K in support so far this year, which is by far the most we've ever received at this point in the year! Last year was a record-setter and we were at \$293K mid-December – it is hard to believe that we are quite a bit past that total! We are incredibly grateful for our generous community and happy to say we are on track to hit our June goal of \$545K.

RESTAURANT NIGHTS

Since your last meeting, we have received the restaurant donation totals from Breakaway and Alpaca Chicken. Breakaway donated \$294 and Alpaca Chicken gave \$158 to our Annual Fund. We do not have any more restaurant nights scheduled currently, but will plan some for early 2026.

INTO THE WOODS 5K

It was a cold race day for December 6th's 5K, but our racers brought lots of energy and enthusiasm! We had 317 registrants, compared to 329 last year and 323 the year before, so we are pretty steady in our numbers. We had 81 registrants who did not show up for the race, which is oddly the same exact number of no-shows the year before!

Alumni Coen Figge finished first with a time of 17:38. Teacher Creighton Irons was second and 9th grader Aiden O'Neil came in third. Our first place female finisher was 13-year-old Megan Leonard with a time of 19:14. School parent Katherine Kennedy finished behind her and Woods 8th grader Nadia Podolyanskya was the third female finisher.

Big thanks to the many volunteers who made the event a smooth one and a huge, giant thank you to Jim Malone for the many hours he spent preparing a great course.

Next month, I'll report our net profit.

HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS

At \$5,200, our Holiday Gift Card sales were only about half of what they were last year. However, they still added \$520 in gift card profit and another \$110 in gift wrap sales to our Annual Fund.

WANDERLUST

As of Wednesday, we have sold 193 of our 350 tickets! Ticket sales close tonight and will reopen in February.

MCINTYRE'S BOOKS SHOP-IN DAY

Our Shop-In Day was last Thursday. I have not received the totals yet, but while I was there in the morning and then again for a couple of hours in the evening, there was a good flow of Woods folks shopping. I was especially heartened to see lots of kindergarten families participating in the fundraiser! We did solidify our Book Fair dates – it will be held at Woods March 19 and 20th!

TEACHER DISCOVERY FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications for Teacher Discovery Fund grants are due upon our return from break. A panel consisting of last year's grant recipients (Vanessa Costa and Karen Hawkins) along with three Foundation board members will review the applications against a rubric and select our next recipient/s! It is inspiring to read the proposed experiences and I am thankful the Foundation is able to fund professional growth at this level!

2025-26 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17	NEW PARENTS WELCOME RECEPTION
SEPTEMBER 27	ALL SCHOOL CAMPOUT
OCTOBER 8	WALK TO SCHOOL DAY
OCTOBER 13-17	ANNUAL FUND WEEK
OCTOBER 17	GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY
DECEMBER 6	INTO THE WOODS 5K
DECEMBER 11	McINTYRE'S BOOKS SHOP-IN DAY
MARCH 19-20	BOOK FAIR
APRIL 17	BENEFIT AUCTION

2025-26 GRANTS TO WCS

Individual Teacher, Director & Dept Support	Up to \$20,000.00
Faculty Appreciation Events	Up to \$9,000.00
Curricular Materials	\$4,993.43
Student Consumables	\$26,299.91
Professional Development	\$8,285.30
Teacher Discovery Fund	\$1,497.32

Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of 11/30/25:

Fidelity Bank Checking: \$483,056 (\$264,034 designated)

Treasury Bond: \$104,944

Woods Endowment: \$88,861

LPL Financial: \$55