

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
October 21, 2025



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Beckwith, Martha; Bentley, Cary (7:06); Blackmer, Robert (7:05); Brown, Lauren (7:03); Duvall, Nancy; Ellsworth, Robert (E ); Higgins, Edwin; Keser, Adam (W); McGinn, Walter; Munroe, Heather; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Tuttle, Brent (P); Young, Scott

**ADMINISTRATION:** Filippelli, Larry; Harten, Michael (7:20); Rhynhart, Hans; Singleton, Holly; Sturdevant, Jon; Woodland, Julie

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Bessette, Andrew (C ); Langevin, Leisl; Larrow, Jeff; Morse, David; Perkins-Banas, Melissa (B); Quinn, Eric; Swenson, Christine

**GUESTS:** Eric Davison, Matthew Danis, Eric Collelo, Gary Giambatista, and Aaron Hogarty

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Higgins at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of June 17, 2025, and September 27, 2025**

**MOTION:** (Beckwith/McGinn) To approve the minutes of June 17, 2025, & September 27, 2025.

Unanimous

**4. Board Reports**

**a. President’s Report**

**i. Teacher and Staff People of the Year Recognition**

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton described the many personal and professional qualities that led to the selection of Eric Collelo as Teacher of the Year along with Matthew Danis and Eric Davidson as Staff Person (People) of the Year. Head of School Filippelli presented each with a celebratory gift on behalf of the Board of the Trustees.

Mr. Danis, Mr. Collelo, and Mr. Davidson exited the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**ii. Correspondence**

Head of School Filippelli reviewed the correspondence included in the packet, highlighting Associate Head of School Holly Singleton’s notice of retirement after 27 years of service at The Academy, several letters of resignation, letters of condolence, letters of congratulations to students being honored as CAPSS Award winners, and several letters from the CIAC. The Board was asked to let the administration know if they had any interest in attending the CABA conference.

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

There were no questions or comments.

**5. Woodstock Academy Administration Reports**

**a. Chief Finance and Operating Officer Report**

**i. 2025-2026 Budget Update**

Chief Finance and Operating Officer Hans Rhynhart reviewed the Profit and Loss Report noting no outstanding issues or concerns as efforts are underway to reduce an anticipated budgetary shortfall.

**ii. Loos Parking Lot Update**

Chief Finance and Operating Officer Hans Rhyhart shared that planning is well underway for the Loos parking lot project, with a start date set for June 22, 2026. The agreement with the contractor should be signed soon. The parking lot should be operational during the upcoming fall semester.

iii. **2024-2025 Audit Update**

The auditing team is expected to visit campus soon.

iv. Other – None.

v. Board questions/discussion – None.

**b. Associate Head of School Report**

i. **Activities and Achievements Update**

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton shared a comprehensive, detailed summary of the many achievements shared by Academy students, faculty, and staff. The entire report is available at the conclusion of these meeting minutes.

ii. **Other**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten provided his annual Academic Report, celebrating that the class of 2025 achieved a 100% graduation rate, falling rates of chronic absenteeism, and the highest AP testing scores the school has ever earned. Dual credit results, SAT scores, ELA trend comparisons, math trend comparisons, and Next Generation Science Assessments were all reviewed. The school-wide goal for 25-26 will focus on artificial intelligence and critical thinking.

iii. Board questions/discussion – None.

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

i. **Department and Events Update**

Associate Head of School for External Affairs Jon Sturdevant shared that the advancement team is still working toward building a boarding community at full capacity in the next couple of years. The upcoming Residential Life Family Weekend will include soccer games and a reception. The recent Alumni Weekend featured a 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion celebration and included the naming of the Morgan Gymnasium on South Campus.

ii. **Annual Giving Day: Tuesday, October 28, 2025**

Associate Head of School for External Affairs Jon Sturdevant urged full Board participation at The Academy's upcoming Annual Giving Day. An overarching goal will include attracting 225 donors to coincide with our 225<sup>th</sup> year as an institution. Events will include live interview segments on WINY Radio, matching donor incentive programs, and a Give and Graze event at the Vanilla Bean in Pomfret from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. that evening.

iii. Other – None.

iv. Board questions/discussion – None.

**d. Head of School Report**

i. **Board Retreat—Next Steps**

Head of School Filippelli offered a summary of the recent Board Retreat, calling it a success. Gathering input from faculty and staff through meetings and surveys is planned. Building Pathways Programs to improve the breadth of our student experience and possibly attract new students is underway.

ii. **2026-2027 Budget Planning**

Chief Finance and Operating Officer Hans Rhyhart reviewed the October 1<sup>st</sup> numbers which will drive the revenue figures generated by the sending towns. Numbers for the 2026-2027 school year reflect a drop of 18 regular education students and a drop of 7 special education students. Meetings with department heads have been scheduled as the finance team builds next year's budget.

iii. **Annual Holiday Gathering: Sunday, December 14, 2025, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Head of School Filippelli urged Board members to mark their calendars and plan to attend this fun annual event in the yellow, former head of school's house.

iv. Other – None.

v. Board questions/discussion – None.

**6. Other Items**

Brent Tuttle announced that this would probably be his last meeting as a trustee. The group thanked him for his service and wished him well.

**7. Executive Session—Personnel and Legal**

**8. Possible Action Based on Executive Session**

An executive session was not needed.

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Brown) To adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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.*



# October Updates from the Associate Head of School

## School Updates and Achievements

- At the Academic Convocation, 193 kids received 300 awards for their 24-25 academic performance.
- October is honor society induction month! Below are the totals for new student inductions.
  - The National Honor Society – 49
  - The Robert Holand English National Honor Society – 29
  - The Linda Steadman Social Studies National Honor Society – 34
  - The Mathematics National Honor Society – 22
  - The National Technical Honor Society – 20
  - The Science National Honor Society – 59
  - The Tri-M National Honor Society – 23

## Student Achievements

- The Quiet Corner CT PMC Kids Ride raised over \$12,000 for the Dana Faber Institute.
- Oliva Tracy (P) and Thatcher Paterson (W) received the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Scholar Athlete Awards.
- Isabel D'Alleva-Bochain (P) and Eli Manning (W) received the Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Athlete Awards.
- Oscar Pearman (T) received the Prep Scholar Athlete award.
- The following students were selected to receive the Connecticut Association of Public-School Superintendents (CAPSS) for their community service and service to others, academic prowess, and leadership service to the school community: Caleb Simoneau (B), Noemia Amaral (C), Lillian Morgis (U), Rania Almashharawi (T), Ivan Lin (P), and Nathaniel Couture (W).

## Faculty & Staff Achievements

- Cassie Olson, Amiah Jackson-Davis, Mark Smolak, Rachael Budd, and Lauren Briglia are now trained as TEAM mentors, allowing them to host student teachers and interns.
- Andrew Morehouse was invited to give the keynote address and lead a workshop at the Classical Association of the Empire State at the end of October.
- Val May will be presenting in the upcoming Howard Hughes Medical Institute BioInteractive Workshop: Developing and Using Models to Explore Systems in Biology.