

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
November 12, 2025



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Ellsworth, Robert; Le, Kenzie; Leite, Payton; Manning, Eli; McGinn, Walter; Munroe, Heather; White, Heath; Filippelli, Lawrence; Hughes, Karin; Saucier, Bobbie-Jo; VanderSwaagh, Shannon; Woodland, Julie
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Brown, Lauren; Langevin, Leisl; Quinn, Eric
GUESTS: Lisa Sumner, Christine Rahall, David Rahall, Abigael Stevens, Lilyanne Mercier, Julia Kerr, Baylee Rosinski, Nate Couture, Kiley Elliott, Adelyn Cournoyer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair McGinn at 7:00 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of September 10, 2025

MOTION: (Munroe/Manning) To approve the minutes of September 10, 2025.

Unanimous

4. Review Committee Charter

Chair McGinn noted that the committee charter states the committee will meet at least five times annually, which coincides with the current number of scheduled meetings.

5. Student Group Presentations—Service Learning/Empathy and Student Voice

a. Supplies for Smiles CT

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared that although Spanish teacher Annemarie Thibodeau was unable to attend the meeting, Mrs. Thibodeau was the adult responsible for helping her students bring a hypothetical fundraising proposal to life as “Supplies for Smiles CT.” Students Abigael Stevens, Lilyanne Mercier, Julia Kerr, and Baylee Rosinski shared a slide presentation detailing how the impressive number of donations they collected positively impacted grateful recipients in Guatemala.

b. Unified Athletics

Students David Rahall, Adelyn Cournoyer, and Kiley Elliott described the fundraising efforts used to give back to the greater community during the holiday season such as creating gift bags with beauty items for teens and toys for children. Building relationships on and off the field through the Unified Sports and Learning Allies programs is very meaningful and rewarding. Director of Student Services Shannon VanderSwaagh and College & Career Counselor Lisa Sumner provided additional programmatic details, saying inclusion is the mission in school and the community.

c. Kindness Club (WAK—Woodstock Academy Kindness Club)

Students Lilyanne Mercier and Nate Couture stated that the goal of the Kindness Club is to spread and create a culture of kindness. With over 40 active members, many students are interested in participating in various ways. Activities have included Fun Fridays (with bubbles, chalk, cornhole, etc.), bake sales, a seasonal bulletin board with messages of kindness, greeting cards sent to retiring staff members, December’s “Kindness Project” calendar, and much more.

College & Career Counselor Lisa Sumner, Christine Rahall, and students David Rahall, Abigael Stevens, Lilyanne Mercier, Julia Kerr, Baylee Rosinski, Nate Couture, Kiley Elliott, Adelyn Cournoyer exited the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

6. Update on Attendance Recovery Intervention for Q2

Dean of Student Affairs Karin Hughes shared some data about the ongoing success of the Attendance Recovery Intervention Program, which was piloted at the end of last year. This year, using program parameters such as administrative partnerships, positive feedback/rewards, maximizing time in the community lunch block, and more, the behavioral change objectives have expanded from only attendance recovery to include academic recovery. Providing students with a pathway to recover academic credits creates an avenue where help can lead to hope. Several questions were asked and answered.

7. Other

Committee Chair McGinn shared a story about a conversation he had with a community member who described the wonderful experience their child was having as a STRIVE student at WA. This person had no idea Dr. McGinn was a Trustee.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: (Munroe/Saucier) To adjourn the meeting at 7:29 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.