

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**May 6, 2026**



These minutes are for informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Blackmer, Robert; Brown, Lauren; Ellsworth, Robert (E); Higgins, Edwin; Keser, Adam (W); Langevin, Leisl; McGinn, Walter; Munroe, Heather; Paquette, Philippa; Quinn, Eric; Rich, Matthew; Davidson, Eric; Filippelli, Lawrence; Harten, Michael; Rhynhart, Hans; Romero, Sam; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Lusa, Peter; Perkins-Banas, Melissa (B); Swenson, Christine; Sturdevant, Jon

**GUESTS**—The 2025-2026 CAPSS Scholars were accompanied by family members. In attendance was Rania Almashharawi, Noemia Amaral, Nathaniel Couture, Lillian Morgis, and Caleb Simoneau.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Ed Higgins at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Community Participation** – None.

**3. CAPSS Scholars Recognition**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten welcomed the 2026 CAPSS Scholars, along with their families and friends. Passages were read describing the academic achievements, community service efforts, and future plans for each student. Head of School Filippelli presented each student with an awards certificate and a personal cake. Honored students included Rania Almashharawi (Gaza, Palestine), Noemia Amaral (Canterbury), Nathaniel Couture (Woodstock), Lillian Morgis (Union), and Caleb Simoneau (Brooklyn). Natalie Borges (Eastford) and Ivan Lin (Pomfret) were unable to attend.

The CAPSS scholars and their family members exited the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

**4. ONWARD Campaign Kickoff**

Sam Romero, Director of Marketing & Advancement Team Lead, used slides to provide a broad overview of the upcoming ONWARD campaign. Phase I (2026-2027) will feature four new tennis courts at Bentley Field, expanded parking at the Loos Center for the Arts, new athletic turf on Kelly Field on South Campus, and a complete renovation of the South Campus track. Work on the Loos parking lot expansion is scheduled to begin on June 22. Phase II of the campaign will include new athletic turf for the main field at the Bentley complex and a new student commons for South Campus. More details will be shared at the ONWARD campaign kick off before the full BOT meeting on June 16.

Sam Romero exited the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

**5. Secretary's Report—Minutes of March 4, 2026**

**MOTION:** (Blackmer/McGinn) To approve the minutes of March 4, 2026, as presented.

Unanimous

**Secretary's Report—Minutes of April 8, 2026**

**MOTION:** (Blackmer/Quinn) To approve the minutes of April 8, 2026, as presented.

Unanimous

**6. Correspondence**

Head of School Filippelli reviewed the correspondence which was included in the packet. Highlights included a letter of condolence and two letters of resignation. Handouts regarding Staff Appreciation Week and an upcoming FBI training session about managing bomb threats and swatting hoaxes were included. Dr. Filippelli organized the training and invited our sending town partners to attend.

**7. Nominating Committee Update**

Nominating Committee Co-chair Matt Rich shared that BOT President Swenson and BOT Vice President Higgins plan to step back from their senior leadership roles next year. The Nominating Committee is recommending that current BOT Vice President Lauren Brown assume the role of Board President and current Vice President Heather Munroe serve as the sole VP. This news will be shared with the full Board at the June meeting. The group expressed their gratitude to President Swenson and Vice President Higgins.

### **8. Budget and Projects Update**

Chief Finance and Operating Officer Hans Rhynhart provided a broad financial update, saying significant progress has been made now that we are at the 10-month mark. Discussion and questions included costs and projections for healthcare, oil, and salaries. While not expected to be zero, the 2025-2026 budget deficit continues to shrink.

Current project work includes getting permissions and permitting for the BAC roof and tennis courts at Bentley. The solar field project previously discussed is not viable at this time. A more in-depth projects update is planned for the June Executive Committee and full Board meetings.

### **9. Nonprofit Theater Liquor Permit Discussion**

Executive Director of the Loos Center for the Arts Eric Davidson shared the advantages and process associated with The Loos Center acquiring a Nonprofit Theater Liquor Permit. Questions were asked and answered as discussion ensued. The group requested administration report back after legal and insurance review so the full Board could revisit the topic at its June 16 meeting.

### **10. End-of-the-Year Events**

For planning purposes, Head of School Filippelli urged Board members to respond to Julie's online survey about which year-end events they might be able to attend.

### **11. Other Items – None.**

Eric Davidson, Dr. Mike Harten, and Hans Rhynhart exited the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

### **12. Executive Session—Head of School Evaluation**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Rich) To enter into an Executive Session to discuss the Head of School's Evaluation, inviting Head of School Filippelli and Julie Woodland to attend at 7:44 p.m.

Unanimous

Dr. Filippelli exited the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:31 p.m.

### **13. Possible Action Based on Executive Session – None.**

### **14. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (McGinn/Brown) To adjourn the meeting at 8:28 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.*