MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 30, 2026

These minutes are for informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Blackmer, Robert; Brown, Lauren; Ellsworth, Robert (E); Keser, Adam (W); Low, Julia; Marquis, Laurie (C); McGinn, Walter; Munroe, Heather; Paquette, Philippa (7:03); Quinn, Eric; Filippelli, Larry; Harten, Michael; Lachina, Jennifer; Rhynhart, Hans; Soave-Curi, Amanda; Woodland, Julie
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Langevin, Leisl; Lusa, Peter (P); Perkins-Banas, Melissa (B); Rich, Matthew; Sturdevant, Jon

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by President Lauren Brown at 7:00 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary's Report—Minutes of June 3, 2026
MOTION: (Low/McGinn) To approve the minutes of June 3, 2026, as presented.
Unanimous

4. Correspondence
Head of School Filippelli reviewed the correspondence which was included in the packet. He highlighted a CIAC letter that appointed Athletic Director Sean Saucier as a 2026-2027 representative to the CT Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD) Board of Control, two notes thanking Christopher Green and Phil Gaudette for their hard work over the summer beautifying the school grounds, and a no-trespass letter to Mr. Tiequiang Ding.

5. September's Governance/Nominating Committee Meeting Recap
President Lauren Brown provided an overview of the recent combined meeting of the Governance and Nominating Committees on September 15, explaining that it was a broad discussion meant to elicit feedback, rather than make any firm decisions. Guidance was offered to the Nominating Committee to use in future meetings. Important topics included considering term limits for trustees and officers. Meeting slides provided additional information.

6. Head of School Review Process—Next Steps
President Lauren Brown and Vice President Heather Munroe led discussion surrounding the instrument, context, and criteria related to the annual Head of School review. It was agreed to form an ad hoc committee to entertain changes and report back to the Executive Committee. Heather Munroe, Julia Low, Walter McGinn, and Adam Keser volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

7. Facilities and Budget Update—H. Rhynhart
Chief Finance and Operating Officer Hans Rhynhart's facilities update included goal posts being installed on Kelly Field, light posts planned for the Loos Center parking lot, and future fencing installation at the Bentley tennis courts. During the financial update, he shared that the auditing documents have all been submitted, we are awaiting the final October 1 sending town enrollment numbers, a new human resource director has been hired, and that we are still tracking high healthcare and fuel costs.

8. Return to School—M. Harten
Principal Dr. Michael Harten shared highlights from his comprehensive "Return to School" report, followed by a review of his Academic Report that was recently presented to the Academic Committee.

9. Enrollment and Advancement Update—J. Sturdevant
On behalf of Associate Head of School for External Affairs Jon Sturdevant, Head of School Filippelli shared several updates from the Advancement and Development departments. Recent travel has included a NYC Alumni event to support the ONWARD Campaign, a trip to Guadalajara, Mexico to meet prospective students and families, an upcoming alumni event in Atlanta, GA in December, and an exciting event in late October celebrating 20 years of Academy football. Student enrollment is still ongoing for the second semester and for next year.

Trustee Julia Low exited the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

10. Academic Update—J. Lachina
Associate Principal Jennifer Lachina described the types of work she has been doing to improve attendance rates. Approximately thirty students and twelve families are receiving greater levels of focus and support, which has included offers of counseling and other methods of engagement. Discussion ensued briefly about the variety of reason students may struggle with attending school.

11. Student Life Update—A. Soave-Curi
Assistant Head of School for Strategic Academics Amanda Soave-Curi shared some of her current initiatives.
Academic Concentrations:

- Small group meetings have been scheduled to answer student questions.
- Future concentrations may include education, journalism, business, culinary, and more.
- Students will create a portfolio to be used for college and/or job interviews.
- Trustees were asked to be guest speakers, panelists, and/or "interviewers" in this program.

MLL (Multi Language Learners)

- Reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- MLL Mentors—friendly native speakers to engage as language role models for their peers

Future events will include the Homecoming Dance on October 17, Trick or Treat Street on October 30, Family Open House on November 5, and a variety of residential life trips for students.

12. Special Education Update—S. VanderSwaagh
On behalf of Director of Student Support Shannon VanderSwaagh, Head of School Filippelli shared that the student servies department is now fully staffed and has had a slight increase in enrollment. The newly created "transitional apartment," where students practice a multitude of independent living/adulting skills has been a very well received. Students and staff love it.

13. Other Items – None.

14. Executive Session—Legal
MOTION: (Paquette/McGinn) To enter into an Executive Session to discuss Legal matters, inviting Head of School Filippelli, Hans Rhynhart, and Julie Woodland to attend at 7:51 p.m.
Unanimous

Michael Harten, Jennifer Lachina, and Amanda Soave-Curi exited the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Trustee Philippa Paquette exited the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:01 p.m.

15. Possible Action Based on Executive Session – None

16. Adjournment
MOTION: (Blackmer/McGinn) To adjourn the meeting at 8:01 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.