

Minutes of the Meeting
Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees
Academic Committee
February 22, 2010

PRESENT: P. Paquette, H. Singleton, B. Child, P. Green, S. Rosendahl, K. Riendeau, T. Stokes

ABSENT: S. Young, A. Spalding, P. Harrington, K. Caron, H. Barlow, L. Champany

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Chairperson Philippa Paquette

Citizen's Participation: None

Motion: (Child, Singleton) To accept the minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2010, as presented.

Abstained: Rosendahl, Riendeau

All others in favor

Data for advanced credit for ACP Algebra 1: Mrs. Singleton presented data on those freshman students who had taken Algebra 1 in eighth grade. The data was clearly displayed and the committee discussed those students who had needed a placement meeting and who subsequently had scored in the B range in Geometry. There was agreement that longitudinal data for the next four years should be collected on all these students and on future students before making any conclusions about the appropriateness of placements. This data will be shared with the relevant sending towns. It was noted that students from one sending town did not choose to take two math options in their freshman year so did not maximize the opportunities of receiving Algebra 1 credit in eighth grade while students from another town did take two math courses in freshman year. Mr. Green stated that he was not sure that students should take two math courses in freshman year as it limited their other course options and many students were not intellectually ready to take Algebra 2. Mr. Rosendahl asked if it was possible to advance math courses to earlier grades. He had been very impressed by the Sophomore AP Biology results last year where that class had exceeded the seniors. Mrs. Singleton reported that the State has approved awarding advanced credit for eighth grade math, world language and science but it has also disapproved of teaching Algebra in eighth grade—go figure!

Math collaboration WiKi: Mrs. Singleton has posted the Algebra 1 WiKi with the curriculum, unit tests, final exams, calculator policy and a dialogue site. Sending school principals, math teachers and math coordinators have access to this site. She and Ron Rhault will monitor the site and are hoping to have an open cyber discussion with the math teachers in the near future. Mrs. Singleton and Mr. Rosendahl noted that several teachers at WA have WiKis, blogs and Google groups set up to promote discussions, critiques and communication between teachers and students.

Advanced Credit proposal for ACP Spanish: One sending town has a daily Spanish class for seventh and eighth graders and they are following the same guidelines as WA established for Algebra 1 credit. The other sending towns do not have Spanish instruction that meets these standards. This year some students chose not to try and test out of Spanish 1 but the teacher noted their skills and promoted them to Spanish 2. They lacked experience in conversation but the Spanish 2 teacher has modified the curriculum to provide this practice. Mrs. Paquette suggested that there might be an opportunity to Skype with Academy students and teachers so that middle school students can practice their speaking skills. Mr. Rosendahl noted that UConn uses some technology that allows for a virtual classroom that would increase the interactive options. He also noted that the interactions with WA teachers might have a real benefit on the transition between middle school and high school.

VHS update: We currently have 25 seats in VHS classes and about half are filled the first semester and all are filled the second semester. Seniors appear to choose this option when they know they have met their requirements for graduation. Mr. Green noted that students who seek courses that are not offered at the Academy or who do not want to spend more time in a classroom chose this option. Next year WA will have a teacher offering AP statistics on line and this will also be available for students at the Academy. Mrs. Singleton noted that those students who fail to keep up with the assignments on line are in danger of repaying the course cost per contract with them and their parents.

Mr. Rosendahl shared that the Woodstock Board of Education is interested in promoting communication between the Board and the teachers and has established a technology committee and an academic committee. He would welcome any suggestions about how to make the academic committee function most effectively in reviewing programs in the public school. The members of this committee stressed that it was important to include teachers and administration on the committee. The WA Academic committee does not vote or veto but does provide a forum for open discussions and brain storming opportunities and then forwards information to the Board. Mrs. Singleton volunteered to attend any meeting to which she was invited. Mr. Rosendahl noted that he would like to see round table discussions that included parents, teachers and Board members from all the sending towns with opportunities for everyone to participate actively in the discussions.

Motion: (Paquette, Child) To adjourn the meeting at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Philippa Paquette
Academic Committee Chairperson