

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
November 9, 2020



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Child, Barbara; Paquette, Philippa; Young, Scott; Harten, Michael; Musko, Jason; Walley, David; Castle, Leah;; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Woodland, Julie

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: May, Val; Ignacio, Joey; Michalski, Alina (alternate)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:32 p.m.

2. Community Participation – None.

3. Secretary’s Report—Minutes of October 13, 2020

MOTION: (Musko/Child) To approve the minutes of October 13, 2020. All voted Yes except Leah Castle, who abstained. Motion passes.

4. AIM—Hybrid Learning Update

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton described her impression of how the first day of in-person classes went earlier in the day. She said the day was fantastic; students wore masks, followed modified traffic flows, and used plenty of sanitizer. Lunch flow and seating in the cafeteria and fieldhouse worked well. Students were happy to receive free t-shirts printed with The Woodstock Academy logo and the definition of “resilience.” Faculty were delighted to see students in person and the reduced number of students on campus created a reassuring distance between people. The number of students expected to attend on a Monday or a Tuesday is expected to be about 475 each day; approximately 15% of the population has chosen to continue with online learning exclusively. Committee members shared their personal experiences, saying class participation/engagement was better in person and the overall experience was very positive. The committee thanked the administrative team for their extraordinary planning and organization.

5. Student Survey Report

Leah Castle was asked to expand upon her recent survey which asked students to describe their overall experiences with eLearning. Of the 538 students who responded, 50.4% were always able to follow online lessons to obtain needed information (48.1% could sometimes follow); 96.8% are able to connect with their teachers to ask questions/get feedback; 31.2% have taken advantage of before school/after school/Wednesdays for extra help (52% haven’t needed the extra help and 12.3% planned to ask for help); and 40.3% participate in clubs (19.7% plan to join). Other questions were open ended (how students keep in touch with each other, ways to avoid distractions, struggles with eLearning, homework, technical issues) and the top five answers were shared with the group. Leah thanked the student council for their help with the survey. Further discussion centered on student participation in clubs and activities.

6. Fall Testing Update

Academic Dean Dr. Harten began by saying The Academy has already had three student test days (SAT, ACT, etc.) and is planning more. Many other high schools in the area have stopped offering student testing due to COVID-19 which has increased demand for our location. Rather than the 25 students per classroom, we have placed approximately nine students in each testing room. Some colleges have gone “testing optional.” Director of Counseling Dave Walley reviewed a handout describing the process The Academy is using to safely manage student testing on Saturdays. He also provided lists documenting the number of tests for our students in various grades along with additional Saturday testing opportunities for our students and the greater community. Twelve students took the ASVAB on October 21, 2020. Academy students’ scores have been on track with previous years. Associate

Head of School Singleton attributed the solid student scores to the hard work of teachers who kept up with rigorous academic offerings along with The Academy's seamless transition to eLearning last spring.

7. **Other** – None.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: (Child/Singleton) To adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Harten

Dr. Michael Harten

Dean of Academics

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.