

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
October 12, 2021



These minutes are for
informational purposes only.

PRESENT: Castle, Leah; Harten, Michael; May, Val; Musko, Jason; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Len; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Swenson, Christine; Walley, David; Woodland, Julie
ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION: Favreau, Lennon; To, Thao (Stephanie)—alt.; Young, Scott
GUESTS: Annmarie Thibodeau, World Language Department Chair

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 September 13, 2021

MOTION: (Musko/Samborowski) To approve the minutes of September 13, 2021.
Unanimous

4. Seal of Biliteracy (Guest: Annmarie Thibodeau, WL Dept. Chair)

World Language Department Chair, Annmarie Thibodeau shared that the Seal of Biliteracy designation could be earned when students meet the English graduation requirement along with intermediate to mid-level proficiency in a second language or in multiple languages. Although many of our students currently meet this qualification due to their success in the AP Language and Culture exam each year, there is no way to include that second (or third) language on their transcript at this time. While no schools accept the Seal for college credit right now, that is expected to change. Interested students would cover the cost of the proficiency assessments, but this testing would be less expensive than the AP testing. The Seal of Biliteracy aligns with Connecticut’s upcoming World Language requirements and The Academy’s Theory of Action. Next steps would include reviewing the AP Language and Culture exam scores for our current seniors and analyzing this year’s testing data to develop a plan for other students.

The Committee unanimously supported this amazing opportunity for Academy students and thanked Ms. Thibodeau for her hard work and leadership to bring this program forward.

5. Academic Report

Dr. Harten presented his Fall 2021 Academic Report to the group. Highlights included a 97% graduation rate for the class of 2021, twelve new classes (six of which were funded by outside funding sources), an impressive list of the colleges and universities that the class of 2021 is now attending, and the fact that 52% of our students made the honor roll in the fourth quarter of last spring. Dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic skewed many data points in the standardized AP, SAT, ACT testing, as many students chose not to test, and many colleges waived or altered submission requirements. Counseling Department Head, Dave Walley was thanked for his leadership to arrange our school-wide testing day on Wednesday, October 13. It is hoped that 90% of the student population will be tested. Next Generation testing results also indicated the need for a “re-start” after COVID-19. Questions were asked and answered throughout Dr. Harten’s presentation. There was some interest in getting a sense of how many Academy alum went on to pursue advanced degrees, and what they might be.

6. Class Size Report

Associate Head of School Holly Singleton and Dr. Harten reviewed a handout comparing current class sizes with previous years and each other. Discussion included staffing levels, classroom capacity, and expected vs. actual enrollment levels. Although some class rosters seem large, levels are mostly in line with past years. Staffing adjustments and faculty hiring is planned ahead of the spring semester.

7. Supporting Students with Social Emotional Learning: Discussion

Committee Chair Paquette lead discussion about how best to support students with social emotional learning, which included the self-care needed by faculty and staff. Examples were provided as each committee member shared their own experiences and ideas about taking care of students and themselves. A variety of challenges and problem-solving strategies were explored.

8. Other – None.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: (May/Musko) To adjourn the meeting at 6:52 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.