

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**  
May 6, 2024



These minutes are for  
informational purposes only.

**PRESENT:** Folkerts, Chandler; Gronski, Melany; Harten, Michael; Munroe, Heather; Paquette, Philippa; Rich, Matthew; Samborowski, Len; Sandford, Chris; Singleton, Holly; Walley, David; Woodland, Julie;  
**ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION:** Larrow, Jeff; Musko, Jason; Nguyen, Cang—alt.; Staples, Eli; Young, Scott  
**GUESTS:** Lysette Parmentier and her parents

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Paquette at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Community Participation – None.**

**3. Secretary's Report— Minutes of March 11, 2024**

**MOTION:** (Samborowski/Gronski) To approve the minutes of March 11, 2024.  
Unanimous

**4. Selection of New Student Members**

After considering the student applications (names and personal identifiers were removed), committee members added Avery Gregoire as an alternate member, and Mikayla Bessette as a full member of the Academic Committee. Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten agreed to inform the students and invite them to the last meeting in June.

**5. Teacher Conversations Program**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten and Associate Head of School Holly Singleton provided a handout listing the dates and topics being offered by teachers for teachers. These voluntary sessions will be offered from 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. Topics included mock trials, Classkick, Pixicade, integrating current affairs, climbing, engaging reluctant participants in discussion, and ASL. Funds from the wellness grant will be used to provide light snacks. A brief discussion ensued about teachers' use of their personal professional development funds.

**6. Apple Distinguished Schools Application**

Dr. Harten shared his hope that The Academy might be designated an Apple Distinguished School after our application is submitted on May 17. The application includes a three- to five-minute video. If awarded this distinction, The Academy would be the first school in Connecticut to receive this honor. Benefits include collaborating with other schools, and access to exciting educational resources that will enhance the student classroom experience.

**7. Evaluation Update**

Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten and Associate Head of School Holly Singleton provided a detailed update about the changes to this year's evaluation process. While previous years primarily focused on student achievement, this year's focus is on teacher growth. This plan is to create one evaluation document and meet the state's July 1 deadline. Committee feedback included praise for encouraging teachers to take risks as they continually learn and grow and an appreciation for seeing teachers as learners at a variety of different levels rather than "producers of something."

**8. PD Schedule for the End of the Year / PD Goals in 2024-2025**

Dr. Harten described the plans in place for June 11 and 12. Also shared were the Teaching and Learning Committee's Goals for 2024-2025, which included AI, DEI, Faculty/Staff Wellness, and use of performance data to improve instruction.

**9. Other** – None.

Student representative Chandler Folkerts exited the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

**10. Executive Session—Individual Student Request**

**MOTION:** (Gronski/Samborowski) To enter into Executive Session to discuss an Individual Student's Request, inviting all still present, in person and on Zoom, to attend, at 6:08 p.m.

Unanimous

Lysette Parmentier and her parents exited the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

The meeting returned to regular session at 6:30 p.m.

**11. Possible Action Based on Executive Session**

Dr. Harten was asked to communicate the Board's response to the student on the following day.

**12. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** (Gronski/Harten) To adjourn the meeting at 6:31 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.*