

WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL  
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES  
Thursday, October 21, 2010

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Nachman, Mr. Galin, Ms. Perschy, Ms. Leinbach, Ms. Deegan, Ms. Hall, Mr. Carter

NON VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Rentz, Ms. Katie Sheer

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm in Multi-purpose room.

I. The Pledge of Allegiance

II. Public Comment

	<b>Comments:</b> No public comments
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III. Consent Agenda

<p><b>Principal's Report</b> Presented by: H. Rentz Written Report provided</p>	<p><b>Additional Discussion:</b> Because of safety concerns Mr. Rentz is sending out a notice asking parents to be patient during drop-offs and pick-ups. Current school enrollment sits at 500 students with an almost 50 percent male to 50% female ratio. There were over 180 applicants for school admission in the first three days of the application period. The application period runs from October 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011. Woods currently has 74 students with IEPs. Fall sports at Woods have gone well. These sports are volleyball, soccer and cross country. The Woods cross country team competed at Northwood High School a couple of weeks ago. The Booster Club has been reorganizing. It will remain under the PTSA as a committee. Student athletes raised over \$1000 at the carwash in early October. Mr. Rentz presented a transportation report that shows expenses. No bus capital expenses or driver costs are included in this report. Woods PTSA officers have been elected for 2010-11. The PTSA is still looking for people to manage grants, social and membership responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>Minutes for September 16, 2010</b></p>	<p><b>Additional Discussion:</b> No changes.</p>
<p><b>Contracts</b> Presented by: H. Rentz</p>	<p><b>Additional Discussion:</b> Watts School of Nursing Cooperative Agreement has been signed off on by Mr. Rentz. Mr. Rentz is submitting a NC DPI Statement of Intent that states that Woods is not requesting enrollment growth greater than 10%.</p>
<p><b>Action Taken:</b> Motion to approve consent agenda made by Ms. Perschy. Seconded by Ms. Leinbach. Passed unanimously.</p>	

IV. Reports

<p><b>Student Update</b> Presented by: Ms. Katie Sheer</p>	<p><b>Additional Discussion:</b> Several student groups are starting up, including the drama club, yearbook, astronomy club and the Gay-Straight Alliance. The volleyball and cross country seasons have ended. The soccer team is competing in their league tournament starting next Thursday. Several students are attempting to start up a baseball team this year. Students are excited about the music tech and marine biology classes. Students have been hearing about the year-round school system discussion. There has been negative and positive feedback. More feedback is needed about year-round schooling before any actions are taken.</p>
<p><b>Faculty Update</b> Presented by: H. Rentz for Mr. Trocki</p>	<p><b>Additional Discussion:</b> Back-to-School Night in the middle school was a success. The new Mac Media lab containing Apple computers is available for use by K-12 in addition to hosting the journalism and music technology classes. Senior College Night was successful with a majority of seniors and their parents attending. There has been a concern about 9<sup>th</sup> grade workload. Mr. Bryant discussed this with the students and the sentiments ranged from “it’s no problem” to “I have to work three to four hours each night.” Mr. Rentz pointed out that Woods plans to continue to have high expectations of our students. Woods teachers are not known to give “busy work.” Possibly looking at backing off a little bit at the start of the ninth grade. Mr. Rentz added that there are private schools in the DC area where students spend four to five hours a night studying. To be competitive Woods students need to compete against these students as well as those in North Carolina. Ms. Leinbach mentioned that there will be a student rep at the PTSA meeting. Jonathan Villanueva will be the student rep with Katie Scheer as the backup. 2/3 of the faculty are concerned about going to a year-round school schedule. Concerns include summer employment, child-care issues plus end of course and AP testing.</p>
<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b> Presented by: Janna Deegan</p>	<p><b>Additional Discussion:</b> Ms. Deegan has gone through the financials. The finance committee is starting to work on policies at the next meeting. She reports that the current year budget remains the same as it was on the last report. She was able to pick up where discretionary items have different costs through the year. She is considering setting up a revenue and an expense line for books. The difference between this month’s statement and last month’s statement is the US Bank account that includes debt service. The next building payment will be in February. The finance committee meeting schedule will be posted on the school web site.</p>
<p><b>Personnel Committee Report</b> Presented by: Teresa Perschy</p>	<p><b>Additional Discussion:</b> The committee will set up a schedule for the personnel committee meetings.</p>

<b>WCS Foundation Report</b>	<b>Additional Discussion:</b> No Foundation report. Mr. Rentz reported that the Foundation was busy today from 8:30am to 1:30 pm at a Foundation Board Retreat.
<b>Facilities &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Additional Discussion:</b> No update.
<b>Chair's update</b> Presented by: Dee Nachman	<b>Additional Discussion:</b> Ms. Nachman mentioned that some items may need to be tweaked in the Woods Charter School bylaws. It may be a good idea to tackle the bylaw changes all at once. There are questions about whether we need to add a community member to the board. Should the term of a board member go from two to three years with a possible cap on the number of consecutive terms a member can serve? Should we make an official change of having board meetings on another week, rather than the first week of each month.  Ms. Nachman asked board members to bring their ideas to the next meeting.  Each school board member will need to sign a conflict of interest statement.

V. Business

<b>A. Facilities Use Policy</b> Presented by Harrell Rentz	<b>Additional Discussion:</b> Mr. Rentz pointed out that we have been using these guidelines and are now considering making these official policies. Ms. Scholle asked about tolerance – Can Woods say whether people can or cannot use the facility? Ms. Nachman mentioned that the policy says that groups must abide by school non-discriminatory rules. Ms. Scholle asked if there are ways to monitor or gauge enforcement of these policies. Mr. Rentz has discussed the policy with four attorneys. Woods discrimination and bullying policies are fairly broad. In most cases there will be a Woods community member present on site.
<b>Action Taken:</b> Ms. Hall proposed a motion to adopt the building use guidelines. Ms. Deegan seconded the motion. The policy was accepted by the school board.	
<b>B. Year-Round School</b> Presented by Deede Nachman	<b>Additional Discussion:</b> Ms. Nachman showed the survey results from the SurveyMonkey website.  The subject of year-round school came up about 18 months ago. There was discussion about including the item in the strategic plan. However, the decision was made to gauge the level of interest in the community first. 289 people took the survey out of a potential pool of 890 people. This is a 32% response rate.  Most people choose summer break as 10 weeks (33.7%) 38% believe 10 weeks is too long, while 55% believe six weeks is too short.  Comments broke into three main categories – high school concerns, intersession camps, and status quo.  Overall there was nothing overwhelming that said let's go ahead with year-round schooling.  Mr. Rentz and Mr. Carter felt that the survey response rate was pretty standard.  Mr. Rentz felt that the trimester schedule should be at least a two year

	<p>project before a proper evaluation could be done.</p> <p>Ms. Nachman said that we could continue with the community conversation, close the conversation or put this back on the agenda for the strategic plan, which could be coming out in a couple of years.</p> <p>Ms. Perschy proposed putting the year-round school conversation on the strategic plan agenda. Ms. Deegan seconded the motion.</p> <p>Kim Sutton noted that the difference between the pro and the anti-year-round schooling could be attributed to the lack of knowledge about the whole session calendar. She suggested that even if year-round schooling is considered in the strategic plan there should be more education about the differences between year-round versus standard school year.</p> <p>Patricia Hume mentioned that there are concerns about high school students going year-round. It could be more difficult for high school students. She said it would be interesting to break down responses between the lower grades and the high school grades. Ms. Nachman said that there was less support for year-round schooling among high school respondents.</p> <p>Ms. Deegan noted that there was a mix of knowledge among respondents about year round school.</p> <p>Kim Sutton appreciated the school board tackling this issue.</p> <p>Ms. Hall noted that as the school board moves more to the role of being a facilitator, we need to evaluate where we are as a school. We need to start with baby steps and look at and evaluate the trimester system first. We might also need to look at the length of the school day. We might need to bring in people with a wealth of knowledge about the available choices.</p> <p>Ms. Perschy did not see a problem with parents bringing in knowledgeable people.</p> <p>Ms. Nachman felt that the strategic plan can still happen at a faster rate than completing the evaluation of the trimester system.</p> <p>Katie Sheer felt that there was not enough involvement of the high school students in discussing the plan.</p>
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**Action Taken:** Ms. Perschy proposed putting the year-round school conversation on the strategic plan agenda. Ms. Deegan seconded the motion. The motion passed with five yeses and one no vote.

VI. Closed Session

<b>Action Taken:</b> Motion to move into closed session made by Ms. Perschy. Seconded by Ms. Hall. Motion passed unanimously.	
<b>a. Personnel</b>	No action.
<b>b. Contracts</b>	Discussion about contract which would be presented at the next meeting if ratified.
<b>Action Taken:</b> Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ms. Perschy. Seconded by Ms. Leinbach. Motion passed unanimously.	

Meeting adjourned.