

WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, March 26, 2020

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The Board requested public comment for this video-conferenced meeting to be received via the Board's group listserv: board@woodscharter.org

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Principal's Report
- b. Contracts:
- c. Minutes from January 16th meeting

2. Reports

- a. Student Update – Patrick Deegan
- b. Faculty Update – Rachel Lawrence
- c. Finance Committee Report – Karen Trott
- d. Foundation Report – Jessica Oliver
- e. Communications Committee Report – Kala Bullett, Dave Lincoln
- f. Personnel Committee Report – Amy Ising
- g. Board Development Report – Missy O'Connor

3. Business

- a. Old Business

- b. New Business
 - Preliminary budget for 2020-21
 - Audit contract for FY 2020

4. Closed Session

- Principal's annual evaluation and contract

5. Adjournment Session

Action Taken/Voted
Adjournment

Principal's Report

March 26, 2020

Keeping Track of the Days

Here's a current accounting of school days and board meetings we've had to miss this school year . . .

School days:

Sept. 4 th	Early dismissal for Hurricane Dorian
Sept. 5 th	Delayed start for Hurricane Dorian
Feb. 6 th	After-school canceled, but full day of school
Feb. 7 th	Delayed start for high wind advisory and rain
Feb. 20 th	Early dismissal for wintry mix
Feb. 21 st	School closed for wintry mix
March 16 th -20 th	School closed for COVID-19. Teacher workdays.
March 23 rd	Distance learning begins

Prior to March 16th we still had just over fifteen "excess" "banked" hours (above the 1,025 hours required for public schools). The General Assembly started discussions yesterday about how to move forward with the instructional hour requirement for public schools. We will monitor their progress.

School Board Meetings:

We maintained all of our regularly scheduled meetings until February.

February 20 th	Regular meeting canceled for wintry mix
March 14 th	Emergency meeting canceled once Gov. Cooper announced mandatory school closures
March 19 th	Regular meeting canceled as we were in initial throes of COVID-19 announcements and unsure if we could secure a quorum.

We are required (as a public charter school in NC) to have at least eight board meetings each school year. This year we are on track to have eleven.

Missy and I reviewed a memo from the UNC School of Government that provided guidance for public entities on how to hold virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and still meet the requirements for NC open meetings law. We also video-conferenced with the school's attorney to make sure we were covering all of the details appropriately. The Board's current bylaws are mostly mute on the topic of

virtual meetings, so that could be an item for Board Development to take up in the near future.

School Budget for 2020-21

Board Treasurer, Karen Trott, Kim Rossi and I met for four meetings in January and February to work line-by-line through a preliminary budget for next school year. We presented that preliminary budget to the Board Finance Committee on February 18th and were planning to present to the full Board on February 20th, but that meeting was canceled owing to hazardous winter weather.

As a reminder on process: we normally approve a preliminary budget in February and then a final budget at the Board's June meeting.

Karen will review the full preliminary budget later in this meeting, but I hope we'll take pause to thank her for the many hours of careful thought and work she has put into the process!

Solar Roof Project

Eagle Solar and Light started installation of the solar roof on March 9th. They will be installing the racking, wiring, inverters, and panels . . . 824 panels to be exact! Once they're done, the power company comes in for the final connection to the grid. The hope is that by Earth Day (April 22) we will be making some of our own energy (and starting to save the school lots of money -- approximately \$600,000 over the 25-year life of the panels!).

As of today, the crew has installed the four large inverters (that connect the panels to the grid) and 390 of the 824 panels.

Woods COVID-19 F.A.Q.

These F.A.Q.s are updated regularly. They can be found on the front page of the Woods website. I'm going to walk through them tonight as a way to brief the board.

When does distance learning begin? When does it end? (updated 3/23/20)

Distance learning for Woods started Monday, March 23rd. On that day Governor Cooper also extended his order for school closure until May 15th (so we will not be back at school until after that date). Our hope is pinned to Monday, May 18th!

Will we still have Spring Break? (updated 3/16/20)

Yes, Spring Break will remain the week of March 30th. Although we were not in school for the week of March 16, that was a time for teachers to prepare for distance learning.

Does my child need to be online at a certain time of day? (updated 3/23/20)

Recognizing that families often have multiple members needing devices and bandwidth at the same time, we have purposefully made our lesson plans to be asynchronous (not required to be accessed at a definite time). If a class does have a meeting at a certain time, these meetings will generally be recorded and made available.

Is it still possible to check out a chromebook device for my child to use at home? (updated 3/23/20)

Most of our chromebooks were issued out to families on March 19-20. If you still need to borrow a **chromebook device** to use at home because your child does not have access to a computer, then please contact your division director or the principal via email.

Is counselor support available for my child during this time away? (updated 3/16/20)

If your child would like to email, phone chat, or video chat with our school counselor, email joykrawczel@woodscharter.org.

What's happening with AP exams for high schoolers? (updated 3/25/20)

The College Board is entirely re-thinking how they will proceed with AP exams, and they are devising versions of the exams that students can take at home. They post current updates and information [here](#).

And what about State standardized testing? (updated 3/25/20)

It is likely that many, perhaps most, State tests will be waived for this year, but that matter has not been fully decided. On March 23rd our State Board of Education appealed to the U.S. Department of Education for permission to waive state testing requirements for this year.

Is Woods offering any food assistance during this time? (updated 3/23/20)

Yes. If you receive free or reduced lunch from school and need **food assistance** during this time away, please email foodassistance@woodscharter.org.

Have any COVID-19 cases been reported from within the Woods family? (updated 3/26/20)

That we are aware of, no one in the Woods family has been diagnosed with, or tested positive for, COVID-19.

Has Woods considered donating gloves (from science classrooms and the front office) to medical facilities? (updated 3/25/20)

Yes, we donated supplies to UNC Hospital on March 25th.

How can I find out about free or affordable high speed internet offerings for my specific location? (updated 3/26/20)

A good resource for free or affordable internet can be found [here](#).

Will Woods Summer Wonders still happen this June and July? (updated 3/26/20)

We aim to make a decision on Summer Wonders by April 13th.

Guiding Principles for Woods Faculty as We (Temporarily) Venture down the Path of Distance Learning

1. Take care of yourself.

You can't help and serve others if you're not looking after yourself in a real, concerted, deliberate way.

- Ruthlessly guard your **sleep**. Most people need more than they currently get to be their best selves. There are several prominent books on sleep that have come out in the past five years, and they all echo the same points.

Sleep hygiene:

Sleep in a dark, cool (<68°F) room.

Don't look at screens several hours before bed.

Avoid caffeine after noon.

Don't eat a lot, or drink alcohol, close to bedtime.

Try to keep bedtime and wake-up time consistent.

- **Move** and **exercise** in whatever form works for you.
- **Get outside**.
- **Connect** with your **Community/Tribe**.
- If you're a praying and/or meditating person, **pray and/or meditate**.
- If you're a tea drinking person, have a **cup of tea** . . . preferably with a loved one.

All of these things tend to bolster spirits -- and immune systems.

2. Rather than the perfect plan, seek the one that is "directionally correct." Then, revise, evolve.

Don't let perfect be the enemy of good.

We're all facing something we've never faced; it's natural that we're going to make some pretty good decisions, and along the way, of course, some pretty bad ones. Let's commit to learning-as-we-go, rather than perfection.

3. Less is more.

Many/most of our students are pretty stressed. Our job is to keep their learning alive and keep them challenged, but we don't need to stress them out any more than they are. As we begin this venture, let's hold to "less is more" and then calibrate as we go. Let's look at our subjects and our skills and focus on the **marrow** of what we teach.

4. Don't pretend that distance learning is the same as what we normally do.

Yes, there are many amazingly cool tech tools at our disposal (and let's leverage them!), but we're a school that believes in face-to-face fully humanized learning in community. We can do a whole lot with distance learning, but most of us will be dissatisfied if we try to make our distance learning match our actual classroom experience.

5. Be gentle with each other.

Understandably, we're all on edge, and anxiety is up. When people are on edge, they take offense easily and snap at each other easily. Let's **assume good intentions** and **be extra kind and compassionate with each other**. Tough times can bring out the best and the worst in folks. Let's let this miserable pandemic summon the **better angels of our nature**. (We might need to directly, consciously wake up those better angels and invite them to the party!)

And remember the old teacher adage: the students are watching! The students will take cues from us adults. We can give them calm -- or we can give them something else. Let's give them as much calm as we can muster.

6. Let's see what we can learn.

None of us chose to have a global pandemic brought to us. And besides exercising basic hygiene measures and social distancing, we don't have control over when it concludes. We *can* control *how* we see it and *how* we frame it. As teachers and students and learners, let's use this frame: **I wonder what we can learn from this experience**. As Victor Frankl is often quoted as saying, that's the last of the human freedoms, to choose our response and our attitude to any given circumstance.

We're in this together. Let's learn from it together.

So, it's true that we don't *really* know where we're going. My hope is that, given this high degree of uncertainty, we can hold these principles close to heart and keep them close in mind as we navigate this path together.

Athletics Update

Before the school closure, we were able to conclude all winter sports season, and we had just started practices and initial games for the spring. For now, all practices and games are canceled for all public school sports teams until May 18th.

MS Winter Sports Wrap-up as reported by Bryan Matthews

Our girls' basketball team this year had 14 players, including 7 eighth graders. The team went 13-2, winning the conference regular season title and finishing just 2 points shy of a tournament title. The team was coached by Carmen Wood (6th season) and Brittany Rountree (3rd season). The team showed remarkable growth throughout the season.

Our boys' basketball team this year had 16 players and 3 practice players, including 12 eighth graders. They went 12-3, finishing second in both the conference regular season and tournament. The teams 7 conference wins and 12 wins overall are the most ever. This was the program's first ever title game appearance. The team was coached by Bryan Matthews (4th season) and Bill Zamboni (2nd season).

Cheer squad this year had 9 members. Led by Cara Zamboni (2nd season), the girls performed at all home games, including a terrific performance during high school homecoming. The squad perfected their cheers and added a really fun dance complete with stunts. The girls also performed and led cheers at the semi-finals and championships.

Ultimate Frisbee concluded its inaugural season with 2 wins in the consolation round of a Triangle Area tournament. Coaches Klara Calderon-Guthe (1st season), alum Drew Hall (1st season), and alum Scott Barnes (1st season) built the program from the ground up, as most players had no experience. 19 boys and girls participated, including 3 eighth graders.

Varsity Winter Sports Wrap-up as reported by Dena Floyd

The girls' varsity basketball team has made tremendous strides since the beginning of the season. In the conference, we tied for 3rd in the regular season. Head Coach Princess Alston, and assistant coaches Sharon Bynum and Carmen Wood have done a tremendous job turning this program around. Currently, the team is ranked #36 in the state for 1A schools. The team made it to state playoffs, which is the first time in the history of the program! More importantly than their record, the team has united on and off the court this season.

In Coach Taij Cotten's (Jamie Cotten Assistant) 2nd year, growth transpired with the varsity boys basketball team. Our record improved along with our confidence, tactical and technical play as individuals and as a team. We are confident that the

program is headed in the right direction with high participation and individual growth. Additionally, the coaches have a vision of how to grow a winning culture for our team, not just in terms of advancing our record, but chiefly to advance the lives of student-athletes.

Woods Charter school
Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2020

Voting members present: Missy O'Connor, Kala Bullett, Amy Ising, Amy Perkins, Kristina Sparrow, Karen Trott, and David Lincoln.

Non-voting members present: Cotton Bryan & Rachel Lawrence

Absent voting members: none

Student Representative: Patrick Deegan

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the Glade.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comment: (written public comments may be added to the Public comment notebook)

Public comment	Beth Partington shared her concerns regarding social media and faculty who have accounts connected to Woods which may be "student-facing". A faculty member who encouraged parents and students to follow her student-facing social media account posted something that Ms. Partington had concerns about. She wondered if our school had a policy or acceptable use policy for any social media accounts which Woods students and families were encouraged to follow.
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III. Consent Agenda

Principal's report <i>Mr. Bryan</i>	<u>Additional discussion/key points:</u> Mr. Bryan shared several faculty updates details included in his report. WCS Observance of Dr. King's birthday plans were shared in his report. Information about the Middle and high school enrichments are starting Jan. 24 for the next 8 weeks was also a major highlight of the report.
Minutes from December 19, 2019 meeting	<u>Additional comment:</u> none

Action taken: a motion to approve the consent agenda was made, Ms. Ising, seconded by Ms.

Bullett, and passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

Student Update <i>Patrick Deegan</i>	Patrick shared an update. His full report can be found in the meeting packet. College acceptances, enrichment excitement, sports, and clubs, there is a lot going on in high school!
Faculty Update <i>Ms. Lawrence</i>	An update from teachers at every grade level was shared.
Finance committee <i>Ms. Trott</i>	December financials were shared with the board as well as the up to date cash and cash equivalents.
Foundation report <i>Ms. Jessica Oliver</i>	Ms. Oliver's report can be found in the meeting packet. Spring Forward Parents Welcome Reception is March 21, Benefit Auction is April 17. A list of grants awarded in 2019-2020 so far was in Ms. Oliver's report. Wanderlust Raffle trip options have been selected! The NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council awarded us a \$1,000 grant to go towards the UNCW Marine Quest field trip that 7th graders take each year.
Communications <i>Mr. Lincoln</i>	No written report at this time.
Personnel <i>Ms. Ising</i>	Nothing to report at this time. Ms. Ising shared that the survey is unchanged from last year except for slight wording changes. She passed around the list of questions for the board members to read over. The survey will be available from January 31-February 10th.
Board Development <i>Ms. O'Connor</i>	Ms. O'Connor shared in New Business that she would be presenting a draft for our revisions to our admissions lottery policy #26. The committee is hoping the board will vote on whether to submit this draft to DPI for their feedback.

DoT transportation subgroup committee Mr. Lincoln/Ms. Ising	No written report at this time. Both Mr. Lincoln and Ms. Ising reported they have continued to look into this issue in the past month.
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V. Business

a. Old Business

Calendar Draft 2020-2021	After receiving feedback from the faculty, Mr. Bryan shared that the majority of staff preferred Draft B vs. Draft A. Therefore, the school board was given Draft B tonight as a proposal for the 2020-2021 school year.
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Action Taken: A motion to approve the draft proposal for the 2020-2021 school year was made by Ms. Trott and seconded by Mr. Lincoln. The motion passed, but it did not pass unanimously.

a. New Business:

Woods Charter School Policy #26 Admissions Lottery draft <i>Board Development Committee</i>	The Board development committee presented their red-letter draft with revisions to our current admissions policy to include a policy to priority to prospective students who are economically disadvantaged. The committee proposed that we submit our revisions to the NC Department of Instruction (NC DPI) for their feedback. The committee realizes this is still a work in progress. Getting DPI's feedback will help us to fine-tune our policy.
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Action taken: A motion to approve sending a draft admissions policy to DPI for review and feedback was made by Mr. Lincoln, seconded by Ms. Ising, and passed unanimously.

VI. Closed Session:

Closed Session	No closed session needed
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VII. Adjournment Session

Action Taken: a motion to adjourn was made at 9:08 pm by Ms. Ising, seconded by Ms. Perkins, and passed unanimously.