

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION
JUNE 10, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., 25 NEWTON ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, CT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Christopher Browe, John Belfonti, Patricia Cardozo, Paula Cofrancesco, Carla Eichler, Amy Esposito, George Howard, Sheila McCreven, Dr. Jennifer Turner (departed 7:15 p.m.), Diane Urbano (departed 7:45 p.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Robyn Berke, Shannan Carlson, Steven DeMaio

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Kathleen Kovalik, Kathy Burke, Julie Chevan, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Shaun DeRosa, Brian Dower, Peter Downhour, Anna Mahon, Dr. Marie McPadden, Mary Raiola, James Saisa,

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Browe called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited by those present

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board of Education Meeting – May 13, 2019

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Paula Cofrancesco, to approve as submitted

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

4. STUDENT REPORT – Olivia Gross and Ella Marin

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Appointing Student Representatives to the Board of Education

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Jennifer Turner, to approve the pilot program based on information submitted in the meeting packet

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (Cofrancesco, Turner, Eichler, Esposito, Howard, McCreven, Belfonti, Cardozo)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Urbano)

MOTION CARRIED

5. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

- a. Jack B. Levine Efficiency Awards

Presented by Theresa Lumas

Chairperson called a recess at 6:50 p.m.
Meeting resumed at 6:55 p.m.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

Chairperson Browe acknowledged Paula Cofrancesco for her work on Amity Board of Education and Policy Committee.

Paula Cofrancesco thanked the Amity Board of Education.

Chairperson Browe acknowledged Diane Urbano for her counsel, advice, and thoughtfulness.

Diane Urbano thanked administration for all that she learned and their time and consideration.

8. ONE BOOK ONE AMITY PRESENTATION

Dear Evan Hansen presented by Julie Chevan, Olivia Gross, and Ella Marin

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Personnel Report
- b. Superintendent Report

11. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Committee Reports

1. ACES
2. Ad Hoc School Safety
3. Ad Hoc Shared Services

Sheila McCreven explained that this committee will be disbanded. Two motions presenting two options from the last committee meeting will be forwarded to Board of Education.

Amy Esposito thanked Sheila McCreven for running the committee.

4. CABE
5. Curriculum
6. District Health and Safety
7. District Technology
8. Facilities
 - a. May 2019 Facilities Report
9. Finance
 - a. Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts of \$35,000 or More
 1. Food Service – Fourth Year of Contract

MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Diane Urbano to award a one-year contract extension for food service operations for 2019-2020 to Compass Group, USA, Inc. (Chartwells) per the proposed Amendment and the Director of Finance and Administration is authorized to sign the Amendment.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

2. Intercom Systems at Each Middle School
3. Window Protective Film
4. Teacher Mobile Devices – Middle Schools

5. Protective Covers for Mobile Devices

MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by John Belfonti to approve following contracts together as listed in agenda items 9a2 Intercom Systems at Each Middle School, 9a3 Window Protective Film, 9a4 Teacher Mobile Devices – Middle Schools, and 9a5 Protective Covers for Mobile Devices

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

6. Student Devices – Middle Schools (2019-2020 Budget)

MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Diane Urbano to approve a lease agreement with Lenovo Financial Services for a 3-year total of \$154,909.53 and \$51,636.51 annually for the lease of mobile devices for the incoming middle school students. The devices are covered by a 3-year warranty.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Standard Year-End Transfers

MOTION by John Belfonti, Second by Carla Eichler to authorize the Director of Finance and Administration to make the necessary budget transfers to salary and benefit accounts and to pay other standard charges. These budget transfers may exceed \$3,000. The Director of Finance and Administration will report all budget transfers made to the Amity Finance Committee and Amity Board of Education.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

c. Discussion and Possible Action on Special Education Tuition Rate

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Amy Esposito, to authorize the base tuition rate of \$18,682 for non-resident tuition students identified as special education. Additional services required by a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be added to the base tuition rate. These services will be billed based on the actual costs the District incurs.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

d. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

e. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000

f. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More

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MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Sheila McCreven to approve following contracts together as listed in agenda item 9f (Intercom Systems at Each Middle School, AiPhone: Video Intercom/Access Control, Window Film, Media Center Circulation Desk, Oil, Electrical Switch Gear, Teacher devices, Protective Covers, Library chairs)

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Cofrancesco, Eichler, Esposito, Howard, McCreven, Belfonti, Cardozo)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Urbano)

MOTION CARRIED

g. Other

1. Summary of End-of-Year Purchases

MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Diane Urbano, to approve the following budget transfer for professional services:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
05-14-2350-5550	Communications	\$15,480	
03-14-2400-5330	Professional Technical Services	\$ 2,680	
03-13-2220-5690	Other Supplies		\$18,160

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

10. Policy

a. First Read

1. P5145.42
2. P3513.1
3. P3515
4. P6163.32

b. Second Read

1. P5126

MOTION by Amy Esposito, Second by Diane Urbano, to approve Policy 5126

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

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11. Personnel

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by John Belfonti, to enter Executive Session and invite Dr. Byars

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

- a. Discussion of Non-Union Salary/Benefits (Executive Session)
- b. Discussion of Superintendent Written Evaluation (Executive Session)
- c. Discussion of Superintendent Contract (Executive Session)

Entered Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

Exited Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

- d. Possible Action on Non-Union Salary/Benefits

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Patricia Cardozo, to approve Non-Union Salary/Benefits

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

- e. Possible Action on Superintendent Written Evaluation

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Carla Eichler, to postpone item 11a11e Possible Action on Superintendent Written Evaluation until a future Board of Education meeting

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

- f. Possible Action on Superintendent Contract

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Amy Esposito, to reset start date to begin July 1st each year and authorize the Board of Education Chairperson to authorize a 3-year contract

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

12. NEW BUSINESS

None

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13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Dates for Board of Education goal-setting

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Paula Cofrancesco, Second by Sheila McCreven, to adjourn the meeting

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pero

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Recording Secretary

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Dear Amity families,

The One Book/One Amity committee is pleased to tell you about our 2019 book, explain some changes to the way summer reading will be assessed this year, and invite you to a community event at the end of the summer. This year's book, selected as a finalist by the OBOA committee and chosen by an all school vote, is *Dear Evan Hansen, the Novel*. A novelization of the hit Broadway musical, this book, by Val Emmerich, along with the musical's creators, Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek, and Justin Paul is engaging, inspiring, and focused on many issues facing teenagers and their families right now: "the importance of honest communication, empathy, kindness, and finding meaningful relationships" (Common Sense Media).

Here's a plot summary from Common Sense Media:

"In DEAR EVAN HANSEN: THE NOVEL, high school senior Evan Hansen suffers from anxiety and knows what it's like to feel invisible and alone. But when a letter he wrote for his therapy session unexpectedly pulls him into the Murphy family's grief over the loss of their son, Connor, Evan finally gets the chance to know what it's like to belong. All he has to do is pretend that he and Connor were best friends. And while he knows that lying is wrong, can it be that bad if his lies go viral and start to help people beyond his community? As Evan spends more time with the Murphy family, who desperately want to know more about Connor from his "best friend," the more he realizes how painful it will be once the truth is out."

In lieu of a written assessment given in September, all students will participate in book discussions facilitated by faculty members. The questions that will frame these discussions are listed at the end of this letter and will be provided to students along with their books. They will also be available on the AHS website and on the OBOA Instagram Page (@onebookoneamity). We encourage you to use them as an opportunity for discussions with your children about this book as we hope you'll consider reading the novel as well.

Finally, on the evening of Monday, August 26th, from 6-7:30 PM, OBOA will be hosting "OBOA ala mode" – a chance to discuss the novel book group style while eating ice cream...what could be a better way to end the summer? Students, family members, and members of the community are invited to share multiple, inter-generational perspectives on the issues raised by this novel. We hope you will consider joining us in the AHS Media Center for this event.

Stay tuned for more information about programming that will take place in the fall, both during school hours and in the evening. We are planning some guest speakers, and a tie-in to the musical.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask either Julie Chevan, English department chair and Victoria Hulse, library media specialist, the faculty advisors to OBOA.

Sincerely,

Julie Chevan, Victoria Hulse, and the OBOA Committee

SUGGESTED READING & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (also available on the AHS website AND Instagram @onebookoneamity):

We will use these questions in our all-school book discussions in the fall. Think about them as you read *Dear Evan Hansen*. You might even talk about them with your friends or family as they read the book too.

1. How does each of the book's characters struggle to be true to himself or herself?
2. How did you feel about Evan's lying about the letter? Why do lies sometimes spin out of control? What kind of relief comes with telling the truth, even if the truth is painful?
3. Social media plays a major role in this story. Is social media really social, or does it further disconnect characters? How does it impact characters negatively and/or positively in the novel? IRL?
4. Why do people respond to The Connor Project when they don't know any of the people involved? Why does it become a phenomenon? Can you think of a real-life example of something similar?
5. Evan struggles with severe social anxiety. Many of the other characters struggle with other kinds of pressures. Why do teenagers feel so much pressure? Where does it come from? How can it be lessened or managed?
6. How does Evan change throughout the novel? What does he learn?
7. With which characters or parts of the book did you most identify? What did the book mean to you?
8. What kind of resolution is reached at the end? Why is it important that everything isn't neatly resolved?
9. Select some sections or passages of the book that you especially liked. Be ready to share them in your discussion groups and talk about why you found them important.
10. Evan writes to himself: "Today is going to be an amazing day and here's why..." Think about your own life. How can you adopt some of this positive thinking? What will make your day, week, year, life be amazing?