

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
6:30 P.M., 100 Ohman Avenue, Orange, CT

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Belfonti, Robyn Berke (remote), Patricia Cardozo, Shannan Carlson, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, George Howard, Andrea Hubbard, Sheila McCreven (remote), Patrick Reed, Dr. Jennifer Turner (remote)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christopher Browe, Steven DeMaio

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

Alison Bowler, Caroline Chen

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Thomas Brant, Kathy Burke, Shaun DeRosa, Brian Dower, Anna Mahon, Stephen Martoni, Dr. Marie McPadden, Dr. Jason Tracy

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Belfonti called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

*MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Patrick Reed, to recite the Pledge of Allegiance*  
*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Belfonti, Berke, Cardozo, Carlson, Davis, Eichler, Howard, Hubbard, Reed, Turner)*  
*ABSTAINED, 1 (McCreven)*  
*MOTION CARRIED*

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Regular Board of Education Meeting – August 17, 2020

*MOTION by George Howard, Second by Carla Eichler, to accept minutes as submitted*  
*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Belfonti, Berke, Cardozo, Carlson, Davis, Eichler, Howard, McCreven, Reed, Turner)*  
*ABSTAINED, 1 (Hubbard)*  
*MOTION CARRIED*

**3. STUDENT REPORT**

- a. Monthly Report

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**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Email from parent

**5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. Personnel Report

Dr. Byars publicly acknowledged and thanked James Saisa, who retired on September 11, 2020 as Director of the Facilities Department. Ms. Lumas praised Mr. Saisa's expertise and thanked him for his hard work and leadership. Chairperson Belfonti thanked Mr. Saisa and praised him for hiring skilled workers, resulting in saving the District money and adding a level of expertise to the Facilities Department.

Dr. Byars introduced Stephen Martoni, the new Director of the Facilities Department.

b. Superintendent Report

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

a. Committee Reports

1. ACES
2. Ad Hoc School Safety
3. CABB
4. Curriculum
5. District Health and Safety
6. District Technology

a. Monthly Report

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Patricia Cardozo publicly acknowledged Shaun DeRosa and the Technology Department for outstanding work over the summer and start of the school year.

- 7. Facilities
  - a. Monthly Report
- 8. Finance
  - a. Discussion and Possible Action on Capital Reserve 1% Appropriation

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven to delay vote to October meeting, no Second MOTION NOT CONSIDERED*

*MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Shannan Carlson to approve an appropriation and budget transfer of \$495,482 into Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenses from the fiscal year 2019-2020 surplus and designate these funds for a roof replacement at Amity Regional High School. The roof replacement/restoration is anticipated in fiscal year 2022 when the 10-year warranty expires.*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
05-15-2512-5255	Medical & Dental Account	\$495,482	
05-15-0000-5856	Transfer Account		\$495,482

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Belfonti, Berke, Cardozo, Carlson, Davis, Eichler, Howard, Hubbard, Reed, Turner)

VOTES OPPOSED, 1 (McCreven)

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements
- c. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000
- d. Other

Ms. Lumas informed the Board that the dishwasher at Amity Regional High School will need to be repaired or replaced.

- 9. Policy
  - a. Second Read
    - 1. P5145.5 Prohibition Against Sexual Harassment

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2. P5145.511 Exploitation: Sexual Harassment
3. P5145.4 Nondiscrimination - Transgender and Non-Conforming Students
4. P5145.42 Section 504 and Title II
5. P5145.45 Non-Discrimination
6. P6173 Homebound/Hospital Instruction

*MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Robin Berke, to vote on all the policies listed in this section at the same time*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

*MOTION by Carla Eichler, Second by Patrick Reed, to accept approve all the policies listed in this section at the same time*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

*MOTION by Patricia Cardozo to enter Executive Session and invite Dr. Byars, Ms. Lumas, and Mr. Brant to discuss Possible Litigation, Custodian Contract, Superintendent Evaluation, and Superintendent Contract*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

Entered Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

10. Discussion of Possible Litigation (Executive Session)
11. Personnel
  - a. Discussion of Custodian Contract (Executive Session)
  - b. Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session)
  - c. Discussion of Superintendent Contract (Executive Session)

Exited Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

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- d. Discussion and Possible Action on Board Approval of CSDE Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2020-2021 School Year

*MOTION by Patrick Reed, Second by Paul Davis, to approve CSDE Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2020-2021 School Year*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- e. Action on Custodian Contract

*MOTION by Carla Eichler, Second by Shannan Carlson, to approve Custodian Contract*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- f. Action on Superintendent Evaluation

Chairperson Belfonti postponed this item to a future Board of Education regular meeting

- g. Action on Superintendent Contract

Chairperson Belfonti postponed this item to a future Board of Education regular meeting

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

## **9. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by September 30, 2020**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION by Shannan Carlson, Second by Patrick Reed, to adjourn meeting*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

*Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela Pero*

Pamela Pero, Recording Secretary

**From:** [Stefanie Knight](#)  
**To:** [Pamela Pero](#)  
**Subject:** Question for BOE Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 8:40:55 AM

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Hi Pam

I would like to submit the following question for the BOE meeting:

I apologize if this has been answered before but I can't seem to find the answer anywhere. I also submitted this question to the 1 hour Q&A in August but don't remember getting an answer to it. Dr. Byars stated back in August that Amity would reopen on a hybrid model with the plan to transition to a full in-person model later in the 2020-2021 school year. Can you please tell parents what the plan is? Is there a target date in mind? Also, while the kids are on a hybrid schedule, why can't it be a full day of learning?

Thank You

Stefanie Knight, MA, CESP  
Sent from my iPhone