

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION
OCTOBER 19, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., 100 Ohman Avenue, Orange, CT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Sheila McCreven

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Alison Bowler (remote), Caroline Chen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Thomas Brant, Kathy Burke, Shaun DeRosa, Kathy Kovalik, Jill LaPlante, Anna Mahon, Stephen Martoni, Dr. Marie McPadden, Joseph Robinson, Dr. Jason Tracy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Belfonti called 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 – September 14, 2020

MOTION by Shannan Carlson, Second by Patrick Reed, to approve minutes as submitted

VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

b. Special Board of Education Meeting -- September 29, 2020

MOTION by Carla Eichler, Second by Christopher Browe, to approve minutes as submitted

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Belfonti, Berke, Browe, Cardozo, Davis, DeMaio, Eichler, Howard, Hubbard, Turner)

ABSTAINED, 2 (Carlson, Reed)

MOTION CARRIED

4. RECOGNITION OF AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SEMI-FINALISTS AND COMMENDED SCHOLARS

Anna Mahon publicly congratulated and read aloud the names of the Amity Regional High School National Merit Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists

5. STUDENT REPORT

a. Monthly Report

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Carla Eichler summarized letters received from a parent and a staff member

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON 2021 BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

MOTION by Patricia Cardozo, Second by Shannan Carlson, to approve as submitted

VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SETTING 2021 GRADUATION DATE

MOTION by Patrick Reed, Second by George Howard, to approve setting June 8, 2021 as Graduation Date
VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (Belfonti, Berke, Cardozo, Carlson, Davis, DeMaio, Eichler, Howard, Hubbard, Reed, Turner)

OPPOSED, 1 (Browe)

MOTION CARRIED

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. COVID Status Update

POINT OF ORDER by Steven DeMaio that items presented during Public Comment should not be discussed during this section of the meeting

Chairperson Belfonti approved Point of Order that items presented during Public Comment should not be discussed during this section of meeting

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b. Personnel Report

c. Superintendent Report

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None

11. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Committee Reports

1. ACES

2. Ad Hoc School Safety

3. CABE

4. Curriculum

5. District Health and Safety

6. District Technology

a. Monthly Report

7. Facilities

a. Monthly Report

8. Finance

a. October 1 Enrollment Report

b. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

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

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

MOTION by Patrick Reed, Second by Patricia Cardozo, to approve the following budget transfer to cover the cost of a long-term substitute administrator for the Coordinator of Pupil Services:

<i>ACCOUNT NUMBER</i>	<i>ACCOUNT NAME</i>	<i>FROM</i>	<i>TO</i>
<i>04-12-1200-5330</i>	<i>Professional Technical Services</i>	<i>\$61,800</i>	
<i>05-15-1026-5111</i>	<i>Salaries</i>		<i>\$61,800</i>

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (Belfonti, Browe, Cardozo, Carlson, Davis, DeMaio, Eichler, Howard, Hubbard, Reed, Turner)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Berke)

MOTION CARRIED

9. Policy

a. First Read

- 1. Policy 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sexual Assault**
- 2. Policy 5122 Assigning Students to a Grade Level**
- 3. Policy 3516 Safety and Secure School Facilities, Equipment, and Grounds**
- 4. Policy 3516.3 Safety & Health Committee**
- 5. Policy 3517 Security of Buildings and Grounds**
- 6. Policy 3524.2 Hazardous Materials in Schools**
- 7. Policy 3533 Employee Bonds**
- 8. Policy 3541 Transportation**

b. Second Read

- 1. Policy 5142.41 Armed School Security Officers**

MOTION by Steven DeMaio, Second by Christopher Browe, to approve as submitted

VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

2. Policy 6114.81 Pandemic/Epidemic Emergencies

MOTION by Steven DeMaio, Second by Shannan Carlson, to approve as submitted
VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)
MOTION CARRIED

10. Personnel

Chairperson Belfonti called Executive Session for Discussion of Superintendent Contract and Superintendent Evaluation and invited Dr. Byars

MOTION by Steven DeMaio, Second by Shannan Carlson, to enter Executive Session for Discussion of Superintendent Contract and Superintendent Evaluation and invite Dr. Byars
VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)
MOTION CARRIED

Entered Executive Session at 8:21 p.m.

- a. Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation (Executive Session)**
- b. Discussion of Superintendent Contract (Executive Session)**

Exited Executive Session at 9:47 p.m.

- c. Action on Superintendent Evaluation**

MOTION by Shannan Carlson, Second by Christopher Browe, for Chairperson Belfonti to meet individually with Dr. Byars regarding Superintendent Evaluation
VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)
MOTION CARRIED

- d. Action on Superintendent Contract**

MOTION by Christopher Browe, Second by Patricia Cardozo, for Chairperson Belfonti to meet individually with Dr. Byars regarding Superintendent Contract
VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)
MOTION CARRIED

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12. NEW BUSINESS

None

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by November 2, 2020

14. ADJOURNMENT

*MOTION by Christopher Browe, Second by George Howard, to adjourn meeting
VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)
MOTION CARRIED*

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Pero
Pamela Pero, Recording Secretary

October 13, 2020

Dear Amity Board of Education,

I am writing as concerned parent of a child at Bethany Middle School.

My daughter has been placed in a math class that is not appropriate for her math level. There are only two levels for math placement at Bethany. Pre Algebra is for students who placed in the 85th percentile and higher and Comp Math for all other students. The school has indicated they will differentiate instruction as long as her needs fit into the curriculum of the comp math class. Yet, much of the curriculum for comp math simply reteaches what was learned in 6th grade. Thus, she will fall behind.

My questions to the Board are the following:

1. Why are there only 2 levels of math? This seems unfair to have large a large spread among students in the comp class (0-84%). How is it that the class will not fall to the lowest common denominator?
2. Is decision to have only 2 math classes based on any data? If so, what are your data sources? What other criteria led to your decision to have 2 math cases?
3. What information have you solicited from parents as to their feelings concerning the math curriculum to date? Have you performed any surveys? If so, I would be interested in the results.

I appreciate your time and efforts regarding my concerns and have the best of hope that the board will work with the community in order to problem solve for a positive solution that serves the best interest of all students

Thank you
Sincerely
Karen Sklarz

From: [Keith Smolinski](#)
To: [Pamela Pero](#)
Cc: [Elizabeth Smolinski](#)
Subject: comment for the board of ed
Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 1:58:35 PM

To the board of education,

As a staff and community member, I often get asked questions about school both inside and outside the classroom. A few parents have now asked me about the issue of Covid notification and so I thought it would be wise to bring it to the board so that the issue could be addressed to the public for others who may have the same question. Some parents have expressed concerns that their students were in a class where they knew someone had been diagnosed with Covid-19 and they were not contacted by someone. They were worried that whether or not their student was masked, that if the virus was airborne, if it could have potentially exposed their son or daughter to the virus. They wanted to have that knowledge to make sure they could quarantine if necessary and to get tested to ensure that other compromised family members were safe. As a staff member with family members who are considered high risk (my in-laws, my parents, and my youngest son)

I also think this is important for staff members. For example, even though I am masked, students still pass by me frequently, or I pass them to try to check on work and 6 feet of distance is not always possible. I think its very important to know when a student in my room(not their name) is diagnosed with Covid-19 so I can go get tested to ensure that my family members are safe. (Especially now with some evidence that this virus may be airborne)

Some clarification on this policy to the community or perhaps and adjustment could be very helpful as virus cases seems to be on the rise and we enter cold and flu season. This also could be extremely important if we look at a full opening where students are closer to 3 feet apart in some classrooms.

Thank you,

Dr. Keith Smolinski

Dr. Keith Smolinski