

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION
AUGUST 12, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., 25 NEWTON ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, CT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Robyn Berke, Patricia Cardozo, Shannan Carlson, George Howard, Andrea Hubbard, Sheila McCreven, Patrick Reed, Dr. Jennifer Turner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

John Belfonti, Christopher Browe, Steven DeMaio, Carla Eichler, Amy Esposito

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Kathleen Kovalik, Peter Downhour, Ernest Goodwin, Matthew Stanley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Patricia Cardozo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited by those present

3. SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS: Andrea Hubbard and Patrick Reed

Oath of Office administered by Vice Chairperson Patricia Cardozo

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Board of Education Meeting – June 10, 2019

MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Patricia Cardozo, to approved minutes as submitted
VOTES IN FAVOR, 4 (Cardozo, Howard, Hubbard, McCreven)
ABSTAINED, 4 (Berke, Carlson, Reed, Turner)
MOTION CARRIED

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5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen spoke and submitted a letter and petition to the Board of Education Secretary.

Student spoke.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Personnel Report
- b. Superintendent Report

8. 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
 - 7. Facilities

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8. Finance

- a. Discussion of Second Quarter 2019 Executive Summary Review of Amity Pension Fund, Sick and Severance Account, and OPEB Trust
- b. Presentation and Discussion of 2020-2021 Budget Calendar
- c. Presentation of Annual Report on Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures
- d. Discussion and Possible Action on Spend-Down of Remaining 2017 Bond Funds

MOTION by Shannan Carlson, Second by Robyn Berke to designate the remaining funds from the 2017 bond issue be utilize to replace an air handler unit in the custodial storage area and multiple VAV boxes

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

- e. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements
 1. Fiscal Year 2018-2019
 2. Fiscal Year 2019-2020
- f. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000
 1. Fiscal Year 2018-2019
- g. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More
 1. Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (information only –approved in June)
- h. Other
 1. Discussion of Capital Projects for Potential Bond Issue

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9. Policy

a. Second Read

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

MOTION BY Shannan Carlson, Second by George Howard, to approve policy numbers 5145.42, 3513.1, 3515, and 6163.32 as submitted
VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)
MOTION CARRIED

10. Personnel

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by August 28, 2019

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Sheila McCreven, Second by Shannan Carlson, to adjourn meeting
VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (unanimous)
MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pero

Pamela Pero

Recording Secretary

August 12, 2019

Amity Regional School District # 5
Board of Education
25 Newton Road
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Re.: Request of Armed Security Officer at Amity Middle School Bethany

Dear Board of Education Members,

We are concerned parents of children who are or will be attending Amity Middle School Bethany. The purpose of our letter is to respectfully request that the Board of Education approve an armed security officer for the middle school for the upcoming school year.

Beecher Road School and Amity Regional High School have school resource officers (SROs) assigned to them. Both Officer Lynch and Officer Sapione are an integral part of the overall safe-school culture and climate. They are safety experts and law enforcers, who serve as first responders in the event of critical incidents at the schools, they support advance planning for managing crisis, act as problem solvers and as a liaison to community resources. They foster mentoring relationships with students and are also educators.

Amity Middle School Bethany is lucky to have Michael Curley, a retired police officer, as its security officer. However, Mr. Curley does not carry a weapon. While building upgrades are important, they could never be a substitute for the presence of armed security personnel in the building. School safety is a complex issue with no simple, single solution. But trained, qualified, armed security is one key component among many that can provide the first line of deterrence as well as the last line of defense.

Sadly, we live in a world where horrific attacks on our children while at school have become a regular occurrence. Therefore, we invite the Board to take a look at what Newtown has done to enhance its school security. Newtown has created a 19-member civilian school security force that has become a model in Connecticut for districts that want more protection than what video cameras and locked entrances can provide. This security force is composed of experienced police officers who have retired in good standing. These officers carry concealed sidearms and receive ongoing training. Modeling after Newton, other school districts (like North Branford, Glastonbury, Derby, Burlington, Easton, Redding, Harwinton, among others) have launched armed school security officer programs as well.

Safety, along with excellence in education, is a priority in this community. In order to be prepared to deal with the current threats we face and give our children the protection they need and deserve, we respectfully ask the Board to allow Mr. Curley to carry a weapon at school and to offer him the additional education and training he needs to keep current and perform his duties as an armed security officer. Mr. Curley, as a retired police officer, already has the experience, training and skills necessary to use a weapon, if necessary, to protect the school.

We have started an online petition to support our request to you and have attached a copy to this letter.

We very much appreciate your time and consideration of our request. We know that the safety of our children at school is of utmost importance for all of you and that you will take this request very seriously. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Alison Rivera
203-843-3283
arprivera@icloud.com



Michelle Wachsmann
203-213-9593
mwachsmann@gmail.com

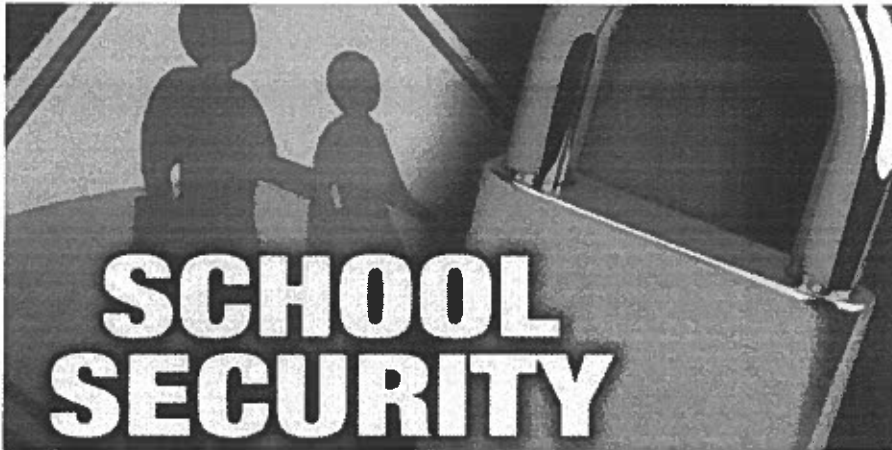
Like 1.7M

PETITIONS

START A PETITION

BROWSE

sign in



PLACE ARMED SECURITY PERSONNEL AT AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL BETHANY

by: [Michelle W](#)

93 SUPPORTERS

1,000 GOAL

We would like to petition the Board of Education to place armed security personnel at Amity Middle School in Bethany beginning in the 2019-2020 school year to ensure the safety of our children, faculty, staff and community members.

Sadly, we live in a world where horrific attacks in schools have become a regular occurrence. We have seen time and time again that locked doors and unarmed security guards are not working to protect our school community. Whoever thought Sandy Hook in quiet Newtown would ever happen? Please don't let Amity Middle School in Bethany be next.

Beecher Road School and Amity Regional High School have school resource officers (SROs) assigned to them. Both officers are an integral part of the overall safe-school culture and climate. They are safety experts and law enforcers, who serve as first responders in the event of critical incidents at the schools, they support advance planning for managing crisis, act as problem solvers and as a liaison to community resources. They foster mentoring relationships with students and are also educators.

While infrastructure upgrades and other security enhancements are

✓ You signed on April 10, 2019

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93 SUPPORTERS

1,000 GOAL



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site feedback

important, they could never be a substitute for the presence of armed security personnel in the building. School safety is a complex issue with no simple, single solution. But trained, qualified, armed security is one key component among many that can provide the first line of deterrence as well as the last line of defense.

Safety and security, along with excellence in education, are a priority in this community. If you believe that it is important to be ready to deal with the current threats we face and give our school community the protection it needs and deserves, PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITION AND SHARE WITH EVERYONE YOU KNOW.

 SHARE  TWEET  EMAIL  EMBED

93 SUPPORTERS

William Y.

Florida

3 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

My son is going to be there next year.

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

Trevor Y.

Connecticut

3 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

Because I want my child in middle school just as protected as my child in elementary school (Beecher).

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

Security is not only important for ensuring our children's safety but our kids need to feel safe in order to learn. Safety is one of the basic needs in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Keep an SRO at Amity Middle so kids can be on their way to achieving at their highest levels!

Lauren A.

Connecticut

3 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

Natasha H.

Connecticut

3 months ago

Joi P.

Connecticut

3 months ago

Our children deserve to feel safe at school period.

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

My child will be starting middle school this upcoming fall along with two more of my children in the near future . Having a SRO at Beecher has given parents a sense of security that protective measures are in place of needed. Our families and children that attend or plan to attend the middle school deserve the same intervention and security measures should they be needed !!!

name not displayed

Connecticut

3 months ago

All the shootings going on don't you think our children deserve security in school. It should not even be up for Discussion

Maria M.

Connecticut

3 months ago

Kristy L.

Connecticut

3 months ago

Nancee L.

Connecticut

3 months ago

My kids

Lauren M.

Connecticut

3 months ago

My kids will go there.

Arthur A.

Connecticut

3 months ago

Sharon S.

Connecticut

3 months ago

Lana A.

Connecticut

3 months ago

Cory S.

Connecticut

3 months ago

We love having the SRO at Beecher. He fills an important role esp in these times of school shootings. Clearly an SRO is needed in all the region's schools and we're happy to pay more for it.

Erik S.

Connecticut

4 months ago

This should be important to every member of our community. Our children are the most precious valuable that any of us has. They deserve to be safe when they are in school. We guard our banks, government buildings, airports, train stations. Guarding our schools from acts of ill will is a no brainer. I have had many conversations with the police officer at Beecher Road School where my daughter is in 1st grade. He is a great addition to the security measures placed there. All schools need on sight armed security professionals to not only handle things if god forbid they should happen. But also act as a huge deterrent for anyone who is a bad actor.

Martin E.

Connecticut

4 months ago

Matt F.

Connecticut

4 months ago

I believe that this will improve school safety

Jimmy L.

Connecticut

4 months ago

[site feedback](#)

School security is the most important. Having armed security guards will reduce the chance of a school tragedy greatly, whether the threat is a student with a weapon or an outside entity intending to do harm.

Remy S.

Connecticut

4 months ago

Jakob S.

Connecticut

4 months ago

So we can keep children safe while Democrats pretend we live in La La Land.

Sam S.

Connecticut

4 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

4 months ago

Parker F.

Connecticut

4 months ago

Ivette C.

Connecticut

4 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

4 months ago

Relatives attend, therefore Keeping our Children Safe at our schools is essential for a positive learning environment. Students of all ages require a safe learning environment to improve their education and development.

Janek O.

Connecticut

4 months ago

If we have armed security guards for our banks and other elite people, why should innocent kids not have that same right to protection?

name not displayed

Connecticut

4 months ago

Nick M.

Connecticut

4 months ago

Tony A.

Connecticut

4 months ago

We have SRO's at both the Grammer school (K- 6th grade) & High School (9th - 12th grade). So why do we think we need to provide armed protection for Children for the 7 years before they get to the middle school, and for the 4 years after but not for the 2 years they spend in middle school? Obviously if the residents, parents, board of educations, school administrators, & town elected officials deemed it safer and worthy of the expense to provude SRO's at the grammer & High School it surely goes without saying the middle school deserves the same protection!!

Brianna C.

Connecticut

4 months ago

Brittany P.

Connecticut

4 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

4 months ago

Who shoots up a school With an armed guard at the door?

Kathy T.

Connecticut

4 months ago

I have relatives in that school

Kristin S.

Connecticut

4 months ago

name not displayed

Connecticut

4 months ago

Safety of our children at school should be top priority.

Dawn L.

Connecticut

4 months ago

To ensure kids safety

Barbara F.

[site feedback](#)

Connecticut

4 months ago

Erin H.

Connecticut

4 months ago

The safety of our children is paramount to me.

Jenn R.

Connecticut

4 months ago

Lisa M.

Connecticut

4 months ago

Daniel L.

Connecticut

4 months ago

There has already been a threat this year and the school did an incredibly poor job of keeping parents informed of the status of the situation.

Joan G.

Connecticut

4 months ago

To keep my children alive. Though. I feel as if it should be a police officer.

Angela L.

Connecticut

4 months ago

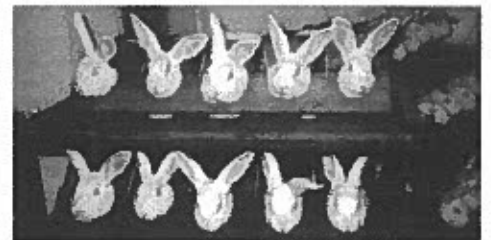
Deena P.

Connecticut

4 months ago

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On Animals
870,757 SUPPORTERS

[Sign Now](#)

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- Denis Gabor

[Start Petition](#)

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