

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 09, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

6:30 P.M., 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Browe, Shannan Carlson, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler (break 8:46 pm- 8:48 p.m.), Sean Hartshorn (break 8:48 p.m.- 8:50 p.m.), Christina Levere-D’Addio, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Donna Schuster, Dr. K. Sudhir, Dr. Jennifer Turner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Andrea Hubbard, Amy Tirollo

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Marin Korenaga

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Mrs. Kathy Burke, Mr. Hauser, Theresa Lumas and Dr. Tracy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited by those present

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES page 4

- a. Regular Board of Meeting – December 12, 2022

*MOTION by Shannan Carlson, SECOND by Donna Schuster, to approve minutes as submitted
VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

MOTION CARRIED

4. STUDENT REPORT

- a. Monthly Report

Delivered by Marin Korenaga

5. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS page 10

- a. Distribution of CAPSS Awards: Superintendents Student Awards Recognition Program

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Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Byars, Amity Middle School Bethany Principal, Dr. Tracy, Amity Middle School Orange Principal, Mrs. Kathy Burke, and Amity High School Principal Mr. Andre Hauser.

Chairperson Davis calls a brief break from 7:08- 7:13

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Orange- Parent: Summarizes Orange Town Newspaper article by reading quotes regarding DEI at Amity and declining enrollment. Orange Parent continues to summarize a variety of issues that they believe are the source of declining enrollment.

Orange- Parent: addresses student enrollment, increasing budget, failing performance, community climate, communication issues, transparency of the board and questions the lack of detail on the BOE public comment record. Addressed the climate survey results that continues to raise issues of racism at Amity. Questions Amity stance on covid protocols and hosting of covid clinics and questions the level of free speech at Board Meetings.

Orange- Community member: Announced their resolution to attend every BOE meeting to show support for the work the BOE does. Invited the public in attendance to engage in conversation outside of the BOE public comment.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. **Personnel Report page 11**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Byars.

b. **Superintendent Report page 12**

1. Next Generation Accountability Report 2021-2022

Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Byars. Presentation linked here: [Next Generation Accountability Results \(1\).pdf](#)

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROCESS TO MEET C.G.S. 10-51(c) page 15

MOTION by Christopher Browe, *SECOND* by Donna Schuster, to direct the Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Finance to apply the audited surplus from the end of the prior fiscal year to reduce the expense of the District for the current fiscal year.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Browe, Carlson, Davis, Eichler, Hartshorn, Oladele, Reed, Schuster, Sudhir)
OPPOSED, 1 (Turner)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Levere-D'Addio)

MOTION CARRIED

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Davis addressed comments made in regards to the health class discussed at the December BOE Regular meeting held on 12/12/22. Chairman Davis acknowledged there is a procedure in place when there is a parent complaint regarding curriculum and instruction. The process allows administration to acquire and act on information. BOE member Sean Hartshorn adds that relying on the procedures in places allows for the most effective chain of command that naturally allows for a more receptive resolution. Chairman Davis continues, to be more proactive, perhaps teachers could provide department heads and/or building principals a heads up that they will be utilizing material that may be deemed controversial. There is conversation amongst the Board members about the logistics of how that would work. Chairman Davis concludes by urging the BOE members to make themselves available to attend the various finance meetings that Superintendent Byars and Director of Finance Lumas will be attending and discussing the Budget.

a. Committee Reports

- 1. ACES**
- 2. CABA**
- 3. Communications**
- 4. Curriculum**
- 5. District Health and Safety**
- 6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Executive Committee**
- 7. District Technology page 18**
 - a. Monthly Report**

8. **Facilities page 19**
 - a. **Monthly Report**
9. **Finance**
 - a. **Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts over \$35,000 page 20**
 1. **HVAC Inspection and Evaluation**

MOTION by Shannan Carlson, *SECOND* by, Patrick Reed to award the HVAC inspection and evaluation contract to vanZelm Engineers of Farmington, CT at a cost of \$113,000 and waive the bid process.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of a District Credit Card page 21

MOTION by Shannan Carlson, *SECOND* by, Christopher Browe to approve the use of a District credit card through the State of Connecticut P- Card program with a credit limit of \$15,000.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Browe, Carlson, Davis, Hartshorn, Levere-D'Addio, Oladele, Reed, Schuster, Sudhir, Turner)

NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE 1, (Eichler)

MOTION CARRIED

c. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements page 24

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance, Theresa Lumas

d. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000 page 56

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance, Theresa Lumas

e. Discussion and Possible Action on Transfers over \$3,000 page 57

MOTION by Carla Eichler, *SECOND* by, Donna Schuster to approve the following budget transfer to cover the cost of HVAC inspections and evaluations at all three schools:

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ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
05-14-2600-5715	Facilities Contingency	\$100,000	
05-15-0000-5850	Contingency	\$ 13,000	
05-14-2600-5330	Professional Technical Services		\$113,000

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Browe, Carlson, Davis, Eichler, Levere-D’Addio, Oladele, Reed, Schuster, Sudhir, Turner)

NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE 1, (Hartshorn)

MOTION CARRIED

10. Policy

a. Second Read

1. Policy 3240 Tuition Fee page 58

MOTION by Christina Levere-D’Addio, *SECOND* by, Christopher Browe to remove and return, Policy 3240 Tuition, to the Superintendent for clarification.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Browe, Carlson, Davis, Eichler, Levere-D’Addio, Oladele, Reed, Schuster, Sudhir, Turner)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Hartshorn)

MOTION CARRIED

2. Policy 6172 Alternative Education Program page 60

3. Policy 6200 Adult/Continuing Education page 61

4. Policy 5131.5 Vandalism page 64

5. Policy 5131.62 Steroid Use (recommendation to remove) page 65

Motion by Christopher Browe, *SECOND* by, Dr. Turner, with no objections, to wrap the remaining policies 6172, 6200, and 5131.5 into a single vote for approval and remove policy 5131.62.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

11. Personnel

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by January 31, 2023

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Sean Hartshorn at 8:56 p.m. with no objections

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