

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**

*Bethany Orange Woodbridge  
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525*

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*Dr. Jennifer P. Byars  
Superintendent of Schools*

**AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, February 13, 2022, 6:30 pm  
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christopher Browe, Paul Davis, Sean Hartshorn, Andrea Hubbard, Christina Levere-D’Addio, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Donna Schuster, Dr. K. Sudhir, Amy Tirollo, Dr. Jennifer Turner

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Shannan Carlson and Carla Eichler

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Samuel Bae

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Jennifer Byars and Theresa Lumas

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Recited by those present

**2b. MOTION by Dr. Turner, SECOND by Sean Hartshorn, to move Agenda item 9a Discussion and Possible Action on Audited 2021-2022 Financial Statements up in the agenda to follow Student Report.**

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Regular Board of Meeting – January 09, 2023

*MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Patrick Reed, to approve minutes as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Browe, Davis, Hartshorn, Levere-D’Addio, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Schuster, Dr. Sudhir, Dr. Turner)*

*ABSTAINED, 2 (Hubbard, Tirollo)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

**4. STUDENT REPORT**

- a. Monthly Report

Presented by Samuel Bae

**4b. Discussion and Possible Action on Audited 2021-2022 Financial Statements**

Presented by Mahoney Sabol representatives Samantha Thomas and Michael J. VanDeventer

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

AEA President addressed November CEA Survey Results, teacher shortage, lack of teacher morale, 10% of faculty resigned/retired at the end of last year, vacancies still not filled, increase in 6th classes, approved leaves, lack of support and time required for teachers to complete DEI FOIA request. AEA President stressed that teachers need to be valued as professionals and urged the board to make teachers a priority in the decision making process.

Resident identified as a member of Amity Advocates and addressed a professional training video that Faculty and Staff watched, questioned gender identity issues, questioned ARHS parent contact policy and notification regarding student gender identity, questioned ARHS policy regarding bathroom use and gender identity.

Parent established his professional expertise on gender identity, stated that all our students deserve respect, provided statistics on mental health issues that students with gender dysmorphia face, stated that the best thing we can do to combat mental health is to accept students for who they are.

Parent addressed an issue with a student internet search on Britannica where a link to freedom of speech was banned due to the words "child pornography" being flagged. Addressed the FOIA requests, the budget process, slipping Amity rating, and urged Woodbridge residents and board members to push back against the increasing mill rate.

Parent thanked teachers for all they do, addressed superintendent salary, blocked website and flagged language. Read federal law, described images that appear in books in the ARHS library, makes a claim that ARHS is in violation of federal law by allowing such text to remain in ARHS.

Parent voiced support for all that the Amity district does and wished all present a Happy Valentnes Day. Parent stated they looks forward to May and Asian American Pacific Islanders Heritage Month.

Parent thanked teachers, challenged board to reexamine why they are here and what they are doing here, urged the board to question what they real problem is in the Amity district.

**6. PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED 2023-2024 BUDGET**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of School Dr. Jennifer Byars

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- 7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
  - a. **Personnel Report**
  - b. **Superintendent Report**

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Sean Hartshorn

9. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a. Committee Reports
  - 1. ACES
  - 2. CABE
  - 3. Communications
  - 4. Curriculum
  - 5. District Health and Safety
  - 6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Executive Committee
  - 7. District Technology
    - a. Monthly Report
  - 8. Facilities
    - a. Monthly Report
  - 9. Finance
    - a. **Discussion and Possible Action on Audited 2021-2022 Financial Statements**

*MOTION* by Christopher Browe *SECOND* by, Dr. Turner to accept Audited 2021-2022 Financial Statements

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

**b. Discussion and Possible Action on Reducing Member Towns' Allocations**

*MOTION* by Christopher Browe, *SECOND* by Dr. Oladele, to accept the Annual Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2022, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to reduce the March Allocation payment of the member towns of \$711,936.66, as follows:

Town of Bethany	\$ 126,908.56
Town of Orange	\$ 356,030.79
Town of Woodbridge	\$ 228,997.31
Total	\$ 711,936.66

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

**c. Discussion and Possible Action on Award of Contracts over \$35,000**

- 1. **Lecture Hall Remodel**
- 2. **Chilled Water Pipe Replacement**
- 3. **High School Curtain Wall Replacement at Rear Entrance**

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*MOTION by Christopher Browe, SECOND by Sean Hartshorn, to Award the contract for remodeling the lecture hall at the high school to Pelletier Construction Management of Clinton, CT at a cost of \$336,297.*

*Award the contract for replacement of the chilled water pipes at the high school to Allstate Construction Inc. at a cost of \$62,800.*

*Award the contract for replacement of the wall curtain at the rear entrance of the high school to Cherry Hill Glass Co, Inc of Branford, CT at a cost of \$70,935.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

**d. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

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

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

**f. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers over \$3,000**

*MOTION by Christopher Browe, SECOND by Patrick Reed, to Approve the following budget transfer in the capital nonrecurring account for remodeling the lecture hall at the high school*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
00-15-0099-5899	Undesignated	\$234,764	
00-15-0055-5715	Lecture Hall Remodel		\$234,764

*Approve the following budget transfer in the bond project for chilled water piping at the high school*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
05-15-0052-5715	Acoustic Panels	\$62,800	
05-15-0048-5715	HVAC Projects		\$62,800

*Approve the following budget transfer for wall curtain at rear entrance of high school*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
05-15-0000-5850	Contingency	\$70,935	
05-14-2600-5715	Building Improvement		\$70,935

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*Approve the following budget transfer for door window covers for all three buildings*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
01-14-2600-5420	Repair & Maintenance	\$2,544	
02-14-2600-5420	Repair & Maintenance	\$2,544	
03-14-2600-5420	Repair & Maintenance	\$7,631	
05-14-2660-5690	Other Supplies		\$12,719

*Approve the following budget transfer for contracted services due to vacant positions*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
04-12-6130-5560	Tuition Private Out	\$74,891	
04-12-1200-5330	Professional Technical Svcs		\$37,260
04-13-2130-5330	Professional Technical Svcs		\$37,260
01-13-2140-5111	Certified Salaries	\$51,700	
04-13-2140-5330	Professional Technical Svcs		\$51,700

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

**10. Policy**

**a. First Read**

- 1. Policy P5131 Students Conduct and Discipline**
- 2. Policy P5131.7 Students Weapons and Dangerous Instruments**
- 3. Policy P5131.8 Students Out of School Misconduct**

*MOTION by Christopher Browe, SECOND by Sean Hartshorn, to return to agenda item 9.a.4 Curriuclum to add an action item on textbook adoption.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

*MOTION by Amy Tirollo, SECOND by Donna Schuster to adopt textbook “Cheng and Tsui Go Far with Chinese” first edition*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

**11. Personnel**

**a. Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation (Executive Session)**

*MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Andrea Hubbard, to go into executive session for the Superintendent Byars Mid- Year Evaluation.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

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*Board entered executive session at 9:13 p.m.*

*Board exited executive session at 10:03 p.m.*

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by February 28, 2023**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m by Chairman Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Zaleski*

BOE Recording Secretary