

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

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

*Dr. Jennifer P. Byars
Superintendent of Schools*

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Monday, April 03, 2023, 6:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Browe, Carla Eichler, Sean Hartshorn, Andrea Hubbard, Christina Levere-D’Addio, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Dr. K. Sudhir, Dr. Jennifer Turner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannan Carlson, Paul Davis, Donna Schuster, Amy Tirollo

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Bae

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars and Theresa Lumas

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited by those present

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Board of Education Special Meeting – March 09, 2023

MOTION by Christopher Browe, *SECOND* by Dr. Sudhir, *to approve minutes with suggested edits to Public Comment*

VOTES IN FAVOR, 6 (Browe, Eichler, Hartshorn, Hubbard, Dr. Oladele, Dr. K. Sudhir)

ABSTAINED, 3 (Levere-D’Addio, Reed, Dr. Turner)

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Board of Education Regular Meeting – March 13, 2023

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, *SECOND* by Carla Eichler *to approve minutes as submitted*

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (Browe, Eichler, Hartshorn, Hubbard, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Dr. K. Sudhir, Dr. Turner)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Levere-D’Addio)

MOTION CARRIED

4. STUDENT REPORT

- a. Monthly Report

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Woodbridge Resident expressed his belief that the state of the world today is not good and that threats from our enemies to topple the United States are significant. Resident suggested that current students are going to be responsible for protecting our country and questioned how the school district is preparing the students for that job. Resident compared education in America to that in China and questioned if we are preparing our students to compete globally. Resident expressed his belief that focusing on distracting issues is a waste of time that should be spent on traditional academics.

Woodbridge Resident addressed what she believes to be lack of transparency from the board regarding DEI and the budget, curriculum audits, enrollment and budget concerns, teacher retention and budget, surpluses and spending concerns. Woodbridge Resident goes on to address the issue of teachers allegedly urging their students to tell their parents to vote in favor of the budget which is a violation of federal policy. Resident indicated she does not support the proposed budget.

Orange parent expressed his belief that the mental health of kids is a priority for education and that coaches as responsible as teachers are in protecting the mental health of students. He then described several hypothetical situations and suggested that the same repercussions a teacher would face should equally be applied to coaches. Orange parent then urges decision makers within earshot to step up and protect the mental health of students.

Orange Parent thanked the board and teachers, expressed their support for teachers and librarians to choose age-appropriate materials. Parent expressed belief that books on topics like race, disability, and LGBTQ+ are essential for students to feel they matter and that it's important to have access to diverse books to expand students' worldview.

Woodbridge Parent addressed the importance of diversity and seeing people different than yourself; also stress how important it is for the mental health of students to see and hear success stories and achievements of people "like them". Parent urged Amity to include DEI as Fortune 500 companies do because to prepare students for the world beyond Amity.

Bethany Parent stated exhaustion by having to defend DEI and frustration by the need to lecture on the necessity of DEI. Bethany parent stated that data shows that inclusion is beneficial to special needs students and that equity and inclusion is what keeps special needs students in the classroom. Bethany parent counters previous comments comparing education in America to that in China.

Orange Parent stressed his confidence in the board and the Amity district and addressed the issue in Florida regarding the statue of David by Michelangelo.

Amity Student clarified his role as a student of Amity and not a representative of Student Government or the Board of Education. Student asserted that bullying has decreased at Amity with respect to Asian, Black, Gay students and the attention paid to mental health issues. Student asserted that there is a greater understanding for student athletes fasting, as well as the cultures of Korean Americans and Asian Americans. Student continued that saying "DEI doesn't matter and is not important" is essentially saying that those

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students do not matter and are not important. Student asserted that DEI and the work of the board does matter and so do the many students who have been impacted by the success of those programs.

6. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- a. Personnel Report
- b. Superintendent Report

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mr. Sean Hartshorn

8. 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 of Monthly Financial Statements

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

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

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

- c. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers over \$3,000

MOTION by Carla Eichler, *SECOND* by Dr. Turner, to

Approve the following budget transfer for special education professional development.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
04-13-2190-5330	Professional Tech Svcs	\$6,200	
04-13-2190-5581	Travel-Conferences		\$6,200

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Approve the following budget transfer for an auto lift replacement

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
01-14-2600-5613	Custodial Supplies	\$2,353	
02-14-2600-5613	Custodial Supplies	\$2,353	
03-14-2600-5613	Custodial Supplies	\$2,353	
03-14-2600-5731	Equipment – Replacement		\$7,059

Approve the following budget transfer for technology purchases

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
01-14-2350-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	2,714.62	
02-14-2350-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	2,765.73	
03-11-1005-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	31.43	
03-11-1006-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	1,272.90	
03-13-2130-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	142.00	
03-13-2400-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	270.01	
04-12-2350-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES	1,978.00	
05-14-2350-5695	TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES		9,174.69
01-14-2350-5732	EQUIPMENT-TECHNOLOGY-NEW	476.54	
02-14-2350-5732	EQUIPMENT-TECHNOLOGY-NEW	485.54	
03-11-1001-5732	EQUIPMENT-TECHNOLOGY-NEW	8,912.10	
03-11-1006-5732	EQUIPMENT-TECHNOLOGY-NEW	180.00	
03-11-1014-5732	EQUIPMENT-TECHNOLOGY-NEW	195.33	
05-14-2350-5732	EQUIPMENT-TECHNOLOGY-NEW		10,249.51

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

d. Discussion and Possible Action on Capital Projects Change Orders

MOTION by Dr. Sudhir, SECOND by Dr. Oladele, to approve \$25,000 for the additional cost applied to the jumping pits at the stadium.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

10. Policy

a. First Read

1. Policy 6144 Controversial Topics
2. Policy 0524 Bias Incidents in Schools

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Second Read Policies

1. Policy 6161 Materials Selection and Deselection Policy

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Dr. Oladele to accept Policy 6161 Materials Selection and Deselection Policy as submitted.

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VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

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11. Personnel

2. NEW BUSINESS

3. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by April 28, 2023

4. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. by Vice Chairman Reed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

BOE Recording Secretary