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***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 AGENDA**

**Monday, March 13, 2023, 6:30 pm  
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Christopher Browe, Shannan Carlson, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Sean Hartshorn, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Donna Schuster, Dr. K. Sudhir, Amy Tirollo, Dr. Jennifer Turner

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christina Levere-D'Addio

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marin Korenga

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Andre Hauser, Theresa Lumas and Frank Purcaro

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Recited by those present

**3. STUDENT REPORT**

- a. Monthly Report

Presented by Marin Korenga

**4. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS**

Presented by ARHS Principal Mr. Hauser

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

AEA President offered thanks to the Board and parent groups for support. Addressed proposed budget reductions and impact on teachers. Observed enrollment is increasing, yet the budget includes teacher reductions. Observed attrition does not lessen impact and stated that "do more with less" should not be the attitude of the board.

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Amity Parent expressed concerns regarding the Amity Varsity Soccer Coach. Chairman Davis ended the comment according to the Board policies and bylaws. The parent agreed to stand down and took a seat without further comment.

Bethany parent praised staff at Amity Bethany Middle School for handling an issue with her child. Parent addressed the library book selection policy and states her belief that the policy appears reasonable and agreeable. Parent comments that the form is challenging and offers suggestions. Parent stated her support for the libraries and encouraged everyone to read books prior to commenting on them.

Woodbridge resident addressed the role of DEI in the proposed budget, encouraged parents to opt out of the survey process, questioned the position of DEI in the current budget and the expectation that taxpayers pay to support the position and support DEI education.

Orange parent questioned the board on their due diligence to educate themselves on the ARHS curriculum and suggested that CRT and DEI are being taught at the high school. Parent reads a quote implying the Board and teachers are child abusers and predators due the topics taught.

Woodbridge resident referred to a newspaper article and thanked Dr. Sudhir for the pie chart in the paper. Parent suggested the district get out of the DEI business and get back to reading, writing, and arithmetic. Resident requested that the board add the agenda item of "response from the previous meeting's public comment".

Orange Resident made observations on portions of the BOE packet .... refers to page 18 and net balance, page 20 item 8 OPEB Trust, column 4, page 26 variance \$305,000, page 14 Budget 2.25 % increase line 16 column 5.

Orange parent states his commitment to support the staff, teachers, admin, members of the board, volunteers and continues to extend the invitation to meet to discuss these matters further with members of the community outside the confines of the BOE meeting.

**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

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- a. Discussion and Possible Action on approval of 8th grade Social Studies textbook, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's US History: Beginnings to 1877

Presented by Amity Region 5 Assistant Superintendent Frank Purcaro

*MOTION* by Shannon Carlson, *SECOND* by, Patrick Reed to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies textbook, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's US History: Beginnings to 1877

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

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 the Superintendent's Proposed 2023-24 Budget

*MOTION* by Donna Schuster, *SECOND* by Sean Hartshorn to remove the \$35,000 in funds, for the maintenance of the turf field, from the Superintendent's Proposed 2023-24

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Hartshorn, Oladele, Schuster)*

*VOTES OPPOSED, 9 (Christopher Browe, Shannan Carlson, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Andrea Hubbard, Patrick Reed, Dr. K. Sudhir, Amy Tirollo, Dr. Jennifer Turner)*

*MOTION FAILS*

*MOTION* by Amy Tirollo, *SECOND* by Christopher Browe to approve the Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 at 2.25%, in the gross amount of \$54,552,759 and the net amount of \$53,388,441.

And Move to authorize Amity Regional School District No. 5 to prepare an Explanatory Text for the Budget Referendum Question: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board of Education of Amity Regional School District No. 5 is authorized to prepare, print, and distribute a concise explanatory text of the budget referendum question which, by vote of the member towns, which text shall not advocate either the approval or disapproval of the question and shall otherwise be prepared in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b.

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (Christopher Browe, Shannan Carlson, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Donna Schuster, Dr. K. Sudhir, Amy Tirollo, Dr. Jennifer Turner)*

*VOTES OPPOSED, 1 (Sean Hartshorn)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

- b. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

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

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

- d. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers over \$3,000
  - 1. Textbook: World Language and Science
  - 2. ARHS Student Competition: Academic Decathlon Team
  - 3. Special Education: Contracted Services

*MOTION* by Christopher Browe, *SECOND* by Sean Hartshorn, to

*Approve the following budget transfer in the textbook accounts at the high school:*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
03-11-1009-5641	Textbooks-Math	\$16,100	
03-11-1010-5641	Textbooks-Music	\$ 1,293	
03-13-2400-5641	Textbooks-Principal	\$ 3,789	
03-11-1006-5641	Textbooks- World Language		\$14,017
03-11-1013-5641	Textbooks- Science		\$ 7,165

*Approve the following budget transfer in Academic Decathlon National Championship entry and travel at the high school:*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
03-13-2400-5330	Professional Tech Services	\$ 8,000	
03-13-2400-5590	Other Purchased Services		\$ 8,000

*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>
03-12-2150-5111	Certified Salaries	\$ 3,000	
04-12-6110-5560	Tuition Private Out	\$45,000	
04-12-6130-5560	Tuition Private Out	\$ 2,080	
04-12-1203-5330	Professional Technical Svcs	\$10,400	
04-12-2151-5330	Professional Technical Svcs	\$20,000	
04-13-2130-5330	Professional Technical Svcs		\$50,080
04-12-1208-5330	Professional Technical Svcs		\$30,400

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (Unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

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- e. Other
  - 1. Grant Report
  - 2. Capital Report

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

- 10. Policy
  - a. First Read
    - 1. Policy 6161 Materials Selection and Deselection Policy
  - b. Second Read – Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Policies
    - 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 Sean Hartshorn, *SECOND* by Shannon Carlson *to accept* Policy P5131 Students Conduct and Discipline with suggested edits and Policy P5131.7 Students Weapons and Dangerous Instruments and Policy P5131.8 Students Out of School Misconduct as submitted.

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- 11. Personnel

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by March 31, 2023**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. by Chairman Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Zaleski*

BOE Recording Secretary