

PLEASE POST

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**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**  
*Bethany Orange Woodbridge*  
*25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525*

*Dr. Jennifer P. Byars*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**AMITY REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**  
*May 22, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.*  
*25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT*

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Policy Committee Meeting Minutes April 24, 2023
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion and Possible Action on Policies going forward to the Board of Education as a Second Read
  - a. Policy 5114.21 Conduct Code Participation in Extracurricular Activities
  - b. Policy 9311 Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies
5. Review of current 5000 Series progress and summer policy work
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy 5121 Student Examination/ Grading/ Rating
7. Discussion and Possible Action on Former Policy 5128.1 Current Policy 5121.3 Plagiarism/ Cheating
8. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy 5123 Promotion/ Acceleration/ Retention
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy 5123.3 Graduation Ceremonies (Participation)
10. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy 5141.24 Students/ Staff with HIV or AIDS
11. Adjournment



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Jennifer P. Byars, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

pc: Town Clerks: Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge

***Working to "enable every Amity student to become a lifelong learner  
and a literate, caring, creative and effective world citizen."***  
*District Mission Statement*

If you require accommodations to participate because of a disability,  
please contact the office of the Superintendent of Schools in advance at 203-397-4811.

***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 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

*April 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.*  
*25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Jennifer Turner (Acting Chair), Dr. Carol Oladele, Amy Tirollo

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christina Levere-D'Addio, Donna Schuster

**STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Byars

**1. Call to Order**

Acting Chairperson Turner called the meeting to order at **5:35 p.m.**

**2. Approval of Policy Committee Meeting Minutes March 27, 2023**

***MOTION by Dr. Oladele to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy 0300 Policies for Amity Regional Schools**

***MOTION by Ms. Tirollo to update the policy as reviewed with no changes***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**5. Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw 9132.2 Standing Committees: Policy Committee**

***MOTION by Dr. Oladele to update the bylaw as reviewed with no changes***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**6. Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw 9311 Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies**  
***MOTION by Ms. Tirollo to move Bylaw 9311 to BOE for first read with edits as agreed to***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*  
*MOTION CARRIES*

**7. Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw 9312 Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Bylaws**  
***MOTION by Dr. Oladele to update the policy with minor edits and update review date***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*  
*MOTION CARRIES*

**8. Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw 9313 Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Administrative Regulations**

***MOTION by Ms. Tirollo to update the policy with minor edits and update review date***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*  
*MOTION CARRIES*

**9. Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw 9314 Suspension of Policies, Bylaws, and Regulations**  
***MOTION by Ms. Tirollo to update the policy with minor edits and update review date***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*  
*MOTION CARRIES*

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Bylaw 5114.21 Conduct Code Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

***MOTION by Dr. Oladele to move to BOE for first read***

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 3 (Unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**11. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Acting Chair Turner with no objection at 6:17 p.m.

## **Students**

### **Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 (District) Board of Education (Board) believes that extracurricular activities are an essential component of a comprehensive middle and high school experience. The goal of extracurricular activities is to provide every participant with the opportunity to grow mentally, ethically, physically, and emotionally. Extracurricular activities, for purposes of this policy, includes all extracurricular activities, school athletics, and other school-sponsored activities other than regular classroom and laboratory classes.

Participation in extracurricular activities and athletics is not a right but a privilege that may be regulated. Students participating in extracurricular activities and athletic programs at District schools are therefore expected to adhere to high standards of behavior. Students participating in extracurricular activities are expected to abide by the expectations outlined in District policies pertaining to conduct, the rules established in the student handbooks, as well as all other standard school, classroom, and team/activity expectations.

The Superintendent of School and/or their designee shall develop a Code of Conduct for all participants in extracurricular activities consistent with Board policy, and the rules, policies, and regulations adopted by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Association (CIAC) in which the District maintains a membership. The conduct code shall:

1. require participants in extracurricular activities to conduct themselves as good citizens and exemplars of their school at all times, including after school and on days when school is not in session and whether on or off school property,
2. notify participants that failure to abide by it could result in removal from the activity, and
3. be reviewed by the Superintendent of School and/or their designee periodically at their discretion.

Students must attend school on the day of an extracurricular activity/game unless special permission from the Principal or Athletic Director has been issued.

To retain eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities, students must conduct themselves as good citizens both in and out of school. Any student who is found to have violated the District's Code of Conduct may be deemed ineligible. The Principal and/or their designee or Athletic Director, in consultation with coaches and/or faculty advisors, may declare a student ineligible whose conduct is contrary to and in violation of the rules and regulations established and made known to students or whose conduct is contrary or in violation of Board of Education policy.

Students who engage in significant or recurring incidents of negative behavior are subject to escalating penalties and possible removal from an athletic team or extracurricular activity.

In addition to facing sanctions at the team/activity level, students who violate Board policies will also be subject to disciplinary consequences, up to and including suspension and expulsion from school, in accordance with the Board's student discipline policy.

All athletic coaches and faculty advisors of extracurricular activities shall annually review the

## Students

### Participation in Extracurricular Activities

rules of conduct with participants and provide participants with a copy.

Head coaches/faculty advisors may establish additional rules and expectations which apply only to their teams or activity. The additional rules may not violate or supersede any rules or procedures of this policy. Additional rules and regulations must be approved by the Building Principal/Athletic Director and distributed in writing to all participants prior to the beginning of the season or activity.

(cf. 5131 – Conduct and Discipline)  
(cf. 5131.6–Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol)  
(cf. 5131.8 –Off School Grounds Misconduct)  
(c.f. 6145 – Extra-Class Activities)  
(c.f. 6145.2 – Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics)  
(cf. 6164.11 –Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-21b Smoking prohibited in certain places.  
10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.  
10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student. Surrender or physical evidence obtained from students.  
10-220b Policy statement on drugs.  
10-221(d) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures re sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs.  
21a-240 Definitions dependency producing drugs.  
21a -240(8) Definitions "Controlled Drugs," dependency producing drugs. 21a-240(9) Definitions "controlled substance."  
21a-243 Regulation re schedules of controlled substances.  
53-198 Smoking in motor buses, railroad cars and school buses.  
Federal Regulation 34 CPR Part 85 Drug-free Schools & Communities Act. 20 U.S.C. Section 7181 et. seq., No Child Left Behind Act.  
*New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).  
*Veronia School District 47J v. Acton*, 515 U.S. 646 (1995) *Board of Education of Independent School District No 92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls* 01-332 U.S. (2002).

## Bylaws of the Board

### Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies

The development of sound educational policies is one of the primary duties of the Board of Education (Board). Policies serve to promote democratic and responsive school governance and constitute a major method by which the Board exercises its leadership. Policies are guides for discretionary administrative action by the Superintendent of Schools and their staff. The Amity Regional School District No. 5 (District) shall be guided by Board-adopted written policies that are given appropriate distribution and are accessible to staff members, parents, students, and community residents through the District website.

Policies and policy amendments may be initiated by the Superintendent, Board members, school personnel, or community citizens. Although the Board encourages and welcomes community, staff and student involvement, only the Board may establish policy. The Superintendent is encouraged to submit written recommendations for new policies and for revision of existing policies as necessary for the effective operation of the public schools. The Superintendent will prepare a draft policy statement for consideration and development by the Policy Committee; subsequently the Board of Education shall act upon the recommended policy.

~~Local policies may be adopted or amended by a majority of the Board at any regular or special meeting, provided that Board members have advance written notice of the proposed change and that it has been placed on the agenda for such meeting. Policies will be adopted or deleted only after consideration at two regular meetings of the Board. Local policies become effective upon Board adoption or at a future date designated by the Board at the time of adoption.~~

The procedure for the adoption of a new policy or the amendment of existing policy shall be:

1. Upon referral to the policy committee, the committee will develop a statement of policy or change of existing policy based on the following:
  - a. Suggestions and requests from Board members;
  - b. Recommendations from the Superintendent of Schools;
  - c. Statutory requirements.
2. The policy committee shall present a policy statement, or revised policy statement, with its recommendations to the Board. No action shall be taken at the meeting in which the first read is presented. Recommendations for changes to the proposed policy statement should be made to members of the Policy Committee.
3. The policy shall bring the proposed or revised policy statements back to the Board for a second read with a recommendation from the Board's policy committee. Proposed policy changes approved by majority vote of the Board shall take immediate effect.
4. For proposed policy statements, new or revised, because of changes or additions to Connecticut General Statutes or State Board of Education Regulations, approval may be given at the initial presentation.
5. Formal adoption of policies and/or amendments of policies shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting. Only those written statements so adopted and recorded shall be regarded as official policies.

## Bylaws of the Board

### Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies

The Board shall designate one copy of the policy manual as the official policy manual of the District. The official copy shall be kept in the Superintendent's office, and the Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for its accuracy and integrity and shall maintain a historical record of the District's policy manual. ~~After Board review of legally referenced policies and adoption of local policies the new material shall be incorporated into the official policy manual, made available through the website, and placed in other localized policy manuals maintained by the District.~~ If discrepancies occur between the policies on the website and the official policy manual, the version contained in the official policy manual shall be regarded as authoritative.

Legally referenced policies contain provisions from federal and state statutes and regulations, case law, and other legal authority that together form the framework for local decision-making and implementation. These policies are binding on the District until the cited provisions are repealed, revised, or superseded by legislative, regulatory, or judicial action.

No policy or regulation, or any portion thereof, shall be operative if it is found to be in conflict with applicable law. If any portion of a policy or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of policy that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application; and to this end the provisions of this policy manual are declared to be severable.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

## Students

### Examination/Grading/Rating

The Board of Education believes students will respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. It seeks, therefore, through performance objectives in its instructional program to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students.

The issuance of grades on a regular basis serves to promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance, to inform the student, the students' parents and counselor of his/her progress, and to provide a basis for bringing about change in student performance, if such change seems necessary.

Annually, students in grades 7, 8 and 11 will participate in statewide mastery examinations in language arts and mathematics during any month of the school year. Each student enrolled in grades 8 or 11 shall annually take a state-wide mastery examination in science. Aggregate student and district results will be shared with parents and the Board of Education. Individual student and group results will be analyzed for possible curriculum modification and development of support services. Individual student results will be shared with parents. Achievement of a satisfactory score on the mastery test shall not be required as the sole criterion for promotion or graduation. The State Board of Education shall approve the provision and administration of all mastery examinations.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3 through 8 and 11 shall be assessed with the Connecticut Alternate Assessment as determined by their Planning Placement Team and as indicated on their Individualize Education Plan.

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)  
 (cf. 6146.2 - Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations)  
 (cf. 6180 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n State-wide mastery examination (as amended by PA 13-207 and Section 115 of PA 14-217)

10-14q Exceptions. (Students to whom provisions do not apply.)

10-221a High school graduation requirements.



## Students

### Plagiarism/Cheating

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 (District) Board of Education (Board) supports an environment of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense, and plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.

Cheating, defined as copying another student's work and claiming it as your own, and plagiarism, defined as the use of another person's original ideas or writing without giving credit to the true author, are both prohibited practices. Materials taken from electronic sources are covered by this policy.

Amity students will be taught the standards of responsible and ethical scholarly investigation and writing. They should fully understand that the stealing and use of ideas and works of others of any kind and stating it as their own is plagiarism /cheating and that they have an ethical responsibility for properly acknowledging their indebtedness to those from whom they borrowed their information.

*All teachers are charged with the responsibility for teaching the knowledge and skills required for competence in ethical academic responsibility. To that end, teachers should ensure that students fully understand those acts which constitute plagiarism/cheating and are aware fully of the penalties involved when the rules which apply to these actions are violated.*

*A student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty may be subject to the loss of credit for the work in question, as well as other disciplinary measures.*

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Board of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures

## Students

### Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

It shall be the philosophy of the Amity Regional School District No. 5 (District) for students to be placed at the grade level with their age-appropriate peers taking into consideration the student's academic, social, and emotional growth and well-being.

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes that the placement of students in the appropriate grade level program is a key factor in the success of their total educational experience. The Board also recognizes that there are many variables to be taken into consideration in the educational planning for and placement of students.

The Board further recognizes the individual differences of each student with regard to personality, previous educational experiences, ability, interests, motivation, learning processes, etc. They encourage and support educational programs which provide for the continuous progress of all children from grade to grade and students spending one year at each grade level.

In extraordinary circumstances, with administrative approval, students may be accelerated to a higher grade level, retained in the same grade level, or be provided with a modified grade sequence when factors indicate this is in the best interest of the student. Parents shall be informed of their child's progress throughout the school year and shall be advised of considerations for program modification or grade level adjustment. Opportunities for parent participation in the development of educational programming for the student shall be provided.

Prior to retention, acceleration, or grade level modifications, the school professional staff shall have provided appropriate alternative educational strategies, implemented curriculum modifications, utilized varied instructional techniques and supports, and will have reviewed the results of these interventions in the designated team format and with parents.

Students being recommended for grade level acceleration, retention, or other adjustment to regular yearly grade level promotion must be referred to the Principal by the appropriate professional team not later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year preceding the proposed change.

The final decision regarding acceleration, retention, promotion, or other grade level adjustment progressions shall be made by the Principal after consultation with parents and certified staff.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(b) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-265g Summer reading programs required for priority school districts. Evaluation of student reading level. Personal reading plans. (as amended by PA 01-173)

10-265l Requirements for additional instruction for poor performing students in priority school districts; exemption. Summer school required; exemption (as amended by PA 99-288, PA 01-173, and PA 03-174)

**Policy Reviewed:**

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
Woodbridge, Connecticut

## Students

### Graduation Ceremonies (Participation)

Graduation and related senior activities shall be established as opportunities to honor and to recognize those who have successfully completed the District's course of study and are qualified to receive a diploma. The Board believes that these students deserve a public celebration that recognizes the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

High school students must fulfill State and District graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies. A foreign exchange student may be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremonies at the discretion of the school administration, upon successful completion of the school year.

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the Principal may deny the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. School rules shall ensure that the student and parent/guardian receive written notice of the privilege(s) to be denied, the grounds for such denial and the means whereby a student may appeal this decision.

#### Limitations:

1. These activities shall be free from acts and interruptions which diminish the dignity of the activities for the other participants and their family.
2. Participation shall be a privilege, reserved for those who conduct themselves according to the established guidelines, rather than a right.
3. Participation privileges shall be withdrawn from any student whose conduct is not according to established guidelines.
4. Cooperation must be exhibited with school staff members and administration in senior activities, including the graduation ceremony.
5. In order to preserve the dignity of the graduation ceremony, students must conform to school-sanctioned standards and expectations for behavior and attire.
6. Prior to the graduation ceremony, school properties must be returned and all outstanding fees paid.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion; Student Due Process)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Retention)

(cf. 5131 – Conduct and Discipline)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

**Policy Reviewed:**

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
Woodbridge, Connecticut

## Students

### Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS

Because the diagnosis of HIV infection or AIDS is a confidential matter between the individual student or staff member and his or her physician, the District may be unaware of the diagnosis. Consequently, the Amity Regional School District No. 5 (District) Board of Education (Board) has adopted a policy of "universal precautions" which protects all students and staff from contact with blood and body fluids of others. These precautions are enumerated in the [Communicable and Infectious Diseases](#) policy.

Scientific studies show that the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus which causes the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is transmitted through sexual intercourse with an infected individual or through exposure to contaminated blood or needles. There is no evidence to support the notion that the HIV virus can be transmitted through ordinary school or household activities, e.g., coughing, sneezing, hugging, sharing of utensils or food, or shaking hands.

The anonymity of individuals with HIV infection or AIDS is protected by law. Moreover, individuals with HIV infection or AIDS are protected from discrimination by both federal and state laws. Neither attendance at school nor employment may be denied to an individual with HIV infection or AIDS. It is the policy of the District that no student or staff member with HIV infection or AIDS may be prohibited from attending school/employment unless there is an immediate risk of injury or harm to the individual or to others.

[\(c.f. 5141.22 - Communicable and Infectious Diseases\)](#)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-19b Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) education

10-76(d)(15) Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services

10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student

10-207 Duties of medical advisors

10-209 Records not to be public

10-210 Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian

19a-221 Quarantine of certain persons

19a-581-585 AIDS testing and medical information