

***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, January 08 2024, 6:30 pm**

**25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cathy Bradley, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Sean Hartshorn, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Sudhir Karunakaran, Christina Levere-D'Addio, Dana Lombardi, Michael McDonough, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed,

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Donna Schlank and Donna Schuster

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sam Bae and Sophia Messina

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Frank Purcaro, Jill LaPlante, Tom Brant, Geoff Millenson, Rebecca Rivera, Claire McVey

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. Regular Board of Meeting – December 11, 2023**

*MOTION by Cathy Bradley, SECOND by Michael McDonough to approve December 11, 2023 minutes with suggested edits.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**4. STUDENT REPORT**

**a. Monthly Report**

Presented by Student Representatives Sam Bae and Sophia Messina

**5. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS**

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

Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jennifer Byars, AMSB Principal Dr. Tracy, AMSO Principal Mrs. Burke, ARHS Principal Mr. Hauser.

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7:04 p.m. Chairperson Davis calls a short intermission

7:09 p.m. Chairperson Davis calls the meeting back into session

**6. 3 A's (Academics, Arts, Athletics) AND POG (Portrait of the Graduate) FOCUS PRESENTATION**

- a. Mental Health Supports for Students – [BOE Presentation.pdf](#)

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Counseling Services Jill LaPlante and Director of Pupil Services Thomas Brant.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Woodbridge Resident**

Speaker listed names of companies that have allegedly backed off of DEI, referenced the resignation of Harvard University President, and the alleged backlash against DEI on college campuses across the country. Speaker states, "DEI must be dismantled". Speaker listed several articles that addressed the necessity to dismantle DEI.

**Orange Parent**

Speaker addressed parking spaces, permits, and lack of spots. Speaker suggested that the district should add approximately 30 new parking spots. Speaker voiced frustration over the alleged dozen or so parking spots that go unused. The Speaker asked that a Board member to bring this issue up for possible discussion tonight.

**Orange Resident**

Speaker stated that he planned on sharing a history lesson to remind the board about times when there were common goals for education and the connection between public schools and declining morality in America. Speaker elaborated on the Old Deluder Act, George Washington's Farewell address, a 1798 John Adams quote, and the elimination of Bible reading and prayer in public schools in 1962. Additionally, the speaker provided graphs of sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy, and SAT scores to showcase declining morality in America and its potential connection to student performance and the elimination of prayer in school.

**8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. **Personnel Report**  
b. **Superintendent Report**

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

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a. **Committee Reports**
1. **ACES**
  2. **CABE**
  3. **Communications**
  4. **Curriculum**

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- 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 Transfers over \$3,000**

*MOTION by Carla Eichler, SECOND by Patrick Reed to approve the following budget transfer for the cost of an outside service to provide paraeducator support.*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
04-12-1206-5112	Salaries – Certified	\$20,750	
04-12-1206-5330	Prof Technical Services		\$20,750

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

- d. **Other**
  - a. **CNR Report**
  - b. **Grant Report**

- 10. **Policy**
  - a. **First Read**
    - 1. **Policy 9132 Bylaws of the Board Committees**
    - 2. **Policy 5141.5 Suicide Prevention/ Suicide Attempts**
    - 3. **Policy 1180 Community Relations Memorials for Deceased Students or Staff**
- 11. **Personnel**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Amity emails should be restricted to Amity Board business
- b. Send Lecture Hall setup issues and concerns to Chairperson Davis
- c. Parking Lot issues and concerns

**12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by January 31, 2024**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned, without objection, at 8:38 p.m. by Chairperson Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

**PLEASE POST**

*Lisa Zaleski*

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BOE Recording Secretary

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