

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 MINUTES

**Monday, April 8, 2024, 6:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cathy Bradley, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Sean Hartshorn, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Karunakaran, Christina Levere-D'Addio, Dana Lombardi, Michael McDonough, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Donna Schlank and Donna Schuster (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

NONE

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Bae

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Frank Purcaro, Jill LaPlante

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Board of Education Meeting – March 11, 2024

MOTION by Michael McDonough, *SECOND* by Donna Schlank to approve March 11, 2024 minutes with suggested edits.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Hartshorn, Dr. Karunakaran, Levere-D'Addio, Lombardi, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Schlank)

ABSTAIN, 1 (Hubbard)

MOTION CARRIES

4. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR FINALISTS

Presented by Amity Region 5 Principal Mr. Hauser

5. STUDENT REPORT

a. Monthly Report

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Presented by Student Representatives Sam Bae

PLEASE POST

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

- a. **Middle School Digital Media Class – Presented by Ms. Elizabeth Tremper and Ms. Amy Benton**
[Digital Media Communications BOE Presentation](#)

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Amity Student:

Student spoke on including the Islamic holidays in our scheduled school days off. Student stated that the towns of Stamford, Waterbury Bridgeport, West Haven and Norwalk have already recognized the holiness of the Islamic Holidays and the importance to have schools being closed. Student states that even if there is a small number of Muslim students in attendance, it sends a message of respect for religious diversity and that cultural and religious traditions are valued and respected, creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all students.

Orange Resident:

Resident spoke in honor of Dr. Reena Seltzer, focusing on her dedication to the issues of DEI and CRT and her untimely passing.

Orange Parent:

Resident spoke in honor of Dr. Reena Seltzer, focusing on her dedication to the issues of DEI and CRT and her untimely passing.

AEA President:

AEA President clarified his role as the AEA president. AEA president also addressed Senate Act concerning transparency in education. He elaborated that that bill is the reason why the agenda includes language for a plan addressing Recruitment and Retention of staff at Amity. AEA president provided data on teacher retention at Amity since 2020.

Amity Student:

Amity student stated that they wanted to speak on behalf of DEI from someone who is affected by DEI. Student questioned the community, asking what portion of DEI they find disagreeable. Student states that if we educate the children to be better than adults, we work towards a better more equitable and kind society.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

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

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mrs. Cathy Bradley

10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. **Committee Reports**
1. **ACES**

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- 2. **CABE**
- 3. **Communications**
- 4. **Curriculum**
 - a. Expanding Dual Enrollment Courses at ARHS – Presented by Mr. Frank Purcaro and Mrs. Jill LaPlante [Dual Credit Enrollment BOE Presentation](#)
- 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 Contracts over \$35,000**
 - i. **Electrical Contract**

MOTION BY Sean Hartshorn, SECOND BY Michale McDonough to authorize the Superintendent to sign a contract for electricity supply that extends the current contract with a provider offering the best rates for up to 48 months, on behalf of the District, provided the rates are in the best interest of Amity.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

b. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

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 Transfers over \$3,000

MOTION BY Sean Hartshorn, SECOND BY Patrick Reed to approve the following budget transfer to cover the cost of excavation and sump pump discharge line repair at Amity Middle School - Bethany.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
05-14-2600-5715	Contingency-Facilities	\$13,700	
01-14-2600-5420	Repair & Maintenance		\$13,700

the following budget transfer to cover the cost of a floor scrubber machine at the high school.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
03-14-2600-5613	Custodial Supplies	\$16,000	
03-14-2600-5731	Equipment-Replacement		\$16,000

the following budget transfer to cover the cost of a restroom cleaning machine for Amity Middle School – Orange.

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02-14-2600-5613	Custodial Supplies
02-14-2600-5730	Equipment-New

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\$5,500	
	\$5,500

the following budget transfer to cover the cost of a gymnasium door for Amity Middle School – Bethany.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
03-14-2600-5613	Custodial Supplies	\$3,400	
03-14-2600-5731	Equipment-Replacement		\$3,400

the following budget transfer to cover the purchase of 2 backpack and 3 upright vacuum cleaners for Amity Middle School – Orange.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
02-14-2600-5420	Custodial Supplies	\$3,300	
02-14-2600-5731	Equipment-Replacement		\$3,300

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Andrea Hubbard, SECOND BY Dr. Karunakaran to approve this transfer for science tables at Amity Middle School – Orange

Accounts are listed below –

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
02-11-1001-5611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 37.18	
02-11-1005-5611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 13.82	
02-11-1006-5611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 45.05	
02-11-1006-5810	DUES & FEES	\$ 30.00	
02-11-1007-5611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 78.42	
02-11-1009-5810	DUES & FEES	\$ 29.08	
02-11-1010-5810	DUES & FEES	\$ 13.71	
02-11-1011-5611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 39.86	
02-11-1013-5611	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 382.59	
02-11-1014-5641	TEXTS & DIGITAL	\$ 3,638.23	
02-13-2120-5330	PROF TECH SERVICES	\$ 3,415.97	
02-13-2120-5581	STAFF TRAVEL	\$ 150.00	
02-13-2120-5590	OTHER PURCH SERVICES	\$ 650.00	
02-11-1008-5420	REPAIR & MAINT	\$ 500.00	
02-11-1008-5810	DUES & FEES	\$ 75.00	
02-13-2400-5730	EQUIPMENT		\$ 9,098.91

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VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION BY Sean Hartshorn, SECOND BY Michael McDonough to approve transfers into the district-wide technology accounts for final purchases.

Accounts are listed below -

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
1 -01-14-2350-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 26.36	
1 -02-14-2350-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 6,129.16	
1 -03-11-1001-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 1,259.87	
1 -03-11-1005-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 700.00	
1 -03-11-1006-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 153.84	
1 -03-11-1008-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 4,660.00	
1 -03-11-1009-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 4,372.69	
1 -03-11-1010-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 961.81	
1 -03-13-2400-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 321.00	
1 -04-12-2350-5695	TECH SUPPL	\$ 2,500.06	
1 -05-14-2350-5695	TECH SUPPL		\$ 21,084.79
1 -03-11-1005-5732	EQ-TECH-N	\$ 113.01	
1 -01-14-2350-5733	EQ-TECH-R	\$ 8,988.99	
1 -02-14-2350-5733	EQ-TECH-R	\$ 8,969.19	
1 -03-11-1001-5733	EQ-TECH-R	\$ 2,210.00	
1 -03-11-1006-5733	EQ-TECH-R	\$ 3,200.00	
1 -03-11-1014-5733	EQ-TECH-R	\$ 3,200.00	
1 -05-14-2350-5733	EQ-TECH-R		\$ 26,681.19

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

e. Other

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

- i. CNR Quarterly Report
- ii. Grants Quarterly Report

10. **Policy**

a. **First Read**

- 1. **Policy 4111.3 - Minority Recruitment Plan/Increasing Educator Diversity Plan**
- 2. **Bylaw 9132 - Committees**

b. **Second Read**

- 1. **Policy 5141.6 - Crisis Prevention/Response**

MOTION BY Sean Hartshorn, SECOND BY Andrea Hubbard to approve, with suggested edits, Policy 5141.6

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Crisis Prevention/ Response.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

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11. Personnel

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Increasing Educator Diversity Plan

MOTION BY Carla Eichler, SECOND BY Michael McDonough to approve the Educator Diversity Plan.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Hartshorn, Hubbard, Dr. Karunakaran, Levere-D'Addio, Lombardi, McDonough, Reed, Schlank)

VOTES OPPOSED, 2 (Dr. Oladele, Schuster)

MOTION CARRIES

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by April 30, 2024

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned, without objection, at 8:48 p.m. by Chairperson Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

Lisa Zaleski

BOE Recording Secretary