

**COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015**

TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS OF:	\$139,721
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\$5,000: Curriculum and Staff Development eliminated the need for ProTrax (saving \$5,500 annually) by developing a seamless way to track Professional Development offerings on-line.

\$800: Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus reported a teacher shared Google docs and all TIP sheets rather than handing students paper copies of their task sheets.

\$1,500: Amity Middle School – Orange Campus reported the Media Center Administrative Assistant volunteered to check the large copier regularly for paper, cartridges and general checking of the room, supplies and machine. This has resulted in less ‘down-time’ for the copier and thereby, provides the teachers and staff greater efficiency in getting their needed copies.

\$2,500: We changed to automatic calendaring for the PPT meetings by the Guidance Administrative Secretary. This reduced the time it takes to create a list and continually update it. It has streamlined the process of scheduling meetings.

\$1,750: Amity Regional High School saved transportation money by not having a double bus run on the first day of school.

\$1,400: The Athletic Director is putting many of the department’s documents on-line rather than printing each one. This saves the cost of printing and makes it easy for parents and students to access the information.

\$13,000: Pupil Services Department reported a cooperative arrangement was made with Orange Elementary School District to share transportation costs to an out-of-district school.

\$8,000: We combined special education transportation runs.

\$9,000: The Finance Office is moving all the funds currently in Bank of America into People’s United Bank. This is being done to reduce fees, ease of transactions and security. In addition, we have been using a quasi-business-personal platform at Bank of America. Bank of America recommends we upgrade to their business platform. We would need to take these fees out of the student activity funds, which would be unfair to the students. By switching these funds to Peoples United, we do not need to pay the extra fees. Also, it would be more efficient to use one bank to collect funds using our online payment system.

\$5,050: We purchased a new online application called Applitrack, which will allow the District to receive and manage employment applications digitally. This recruiting tool allows us to post vacancies to social media sites, and job boards, including the #1 school job posting site. We expect this will cast a wider net in order to find the high-quality applicants we want at Amity. Applitrack helps us manage the entire application process in a much more efficient manner and will save on paper and copier costs.

\$2,000: The Technology Department reported Pilothouse Communications, LLC installed the District's new telephone system. We used them to remove, inventory and sell the old phones. This time-consuming process saved our busy Technology Department staff a lot of work.

\$950: The District negotiated to receive one-half of the sales price of the old phones.

\$5,000: We are implementing AlertSolutions into the PowerSchool deployment, which will allow us to contact students, teachers and parents via email, text messages or pre-recorded phone messages. It will also allow teachers to send mass e-mails to just their classes.

\$5,000: The network infrastructure upgrades have given us a true gigabit network which will allow teachers to fully utilize resources such as streaming video and digital media without bogging down or completely freezing the entire network.

\$10,000: We have purchased and installed print management software called PaperCut. This will allow us to manage and track printing activities across the District. The software will also allow us to provide quotas to staff and students that will help us control and reduce our paper and ink/toner consumption.

\$2,000: Facilities purchased and used new floor finish and gym finish techniques. We purchased new equipment, which allows the floor finish to be applied 37% faster than our previous methods. It also allows the gym finish to be applied up to 75% faster. This process and product has resulted in much smoother and shinier finish with no product waste.

\$1,000: Facilities implemented a team-cleaning concept to help us accommodate the Woodbridge Youth Summer Camps. Amity High School Custodians and equipment went to the Middle Schools, while the High School was occupied with summer camps. This allowed us to completely clean the Middle Schools by the end of July. Teams from the Middle Schools were then temporarily reassigned to the High School to fully implement our summer cleaning program. The school buildings are in pristine condition.

\$500: Automatic infrared flush valves were installed at the Stadium Field House. This will save on water and will ensure a much cleaner atmosphere in the public restrooms and locker rooms.

\$850: Electric hot air hand dryers were installed at the Stadium Field House. This will provide more sanitary conditions in the restrooms and save significant money on paper towel purchases. It should also cut down on vandalism and intentional clogging of fixtures, which will save money by not having the plumbing contractor frequently come to unclog drain lines.

\$750: One of our Custodians designed and implemented an inexpensive wood addition to some of our moving dollies. By spending a few dollars on lumber, we have converted our old dollies to functional moving dollies. This allows us to move desks, teacher desks, cabinets, etc., more safely and efficiently. This saved hundreds of dollars on purchasing new equipment from a vendor.

\$8,000: We have begun retrofitting drinking fountains by adding a water bottle filler kit to the existing drinking fountains to allow occupants to easily fill water bottles instead of having to buy them. This will cut down on the amount of recycling going into the recycling dumpster. It will also allow our staff and students to save money on purchasing water from a vending machine.

\$3,500: The SchoolDude work order system was revamped to streamline how work orders are disseminated and to improve communications with the work order originator. The previous approval process started with the Principal, then if approved was routed to Central Office for approval and scheduling with the appropriate technician or custodian. Now the general work orders are routed directly to the technician or custodian. The technician changes the status to “work in progress” and immediately knows of an issue. Once the work order is closed out as complete, the originator is immediately e-mailed the change in status. Large item requests are still routed through the Principal for consideration and approval. The new process has allowed quicker response time and better communication with the requesters.

\$6,720: Our new Health Benefits Consultant found out that Reliance commission payments of about \$560 per month were being paid to H.D. Segur. We took action to eliminate the payments and have the Amity premiums reduced accordingly.

\$6,000: Amity Regional High School had implemented a successful program Intervention Specialists for Math and Science for those students who needed tutoring. We had been paying a substitute rate for part of the day and tutor rate for part of the day. This became expensive. We changed to a single daily rate of \$140.72, which will save the District money.

\$450: The Guidance Offices in the three schools will be combining their orders of permanent record folders to take advantage of volume pricing.

\$375: The Middle Schools order student handbooks for both schools. This has saved money.

\$220: Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus provided parents with a ‘generic’ pocket folder to keep all handouts from teachers. In previous years, we used a customized printed pocket folder with the name of the school and Amity logo printed on the front cover.

\$500: The exterior wall pack lights on the Amity Regional High School Field House were problematic. There are seven fixtures all together. Each fixture would burn out once per year. As we looked for a better alternative, we found that the cost of the existing 70 watt metal halide bulb and ballast were equal to a new technology LED fixture, which is only 20 watts. We replaced all seven fixtures. The light quality is better; we decreased electricity usage by 65%; and the life expectancy of the LED fixture is ten years, so we have cost avoidance of bulb/ballast purchases and our electrician's time.

\$938: The Finance Office has been actively pursuing vendors to switch to Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form of payment. Each mailed check costs 62.3 cents (i.e., 5.3 cents per check sheet; 8.0 cents per envelope; 49.0 cents for postage).

\$4,700: Amity Regional High School sends out documents by e-mail prior to a meeting and shows the documents on a screen at a meeting. This saves the paper and time to print the handouts.

\$300: Amity Middle School – Orange Campus will put all future editions of their new Students Newspaper online.

\$635: A few years ago, the Adult Education Program set up a merchant services account for patrons to pay for classes. We have closed this account and are now using the MyPaymentsPlus system.

\$1,250: The budget requests are being entered and verified by building staff. There is more detail being entered into the MUNIS budget module as backup information.

\$8,000: The Technology Department is moving as many printers as possible onto a Xerox print management contract, which will save on ink and paper.

\$600: The Athletic Department has added a section on PowerSchool to track athletes. This allows a direct uploading to the CIAC eligibility site, which saves about 4 hours of data input per season.

\$14,400: An office in the Guidance Department at Amity Regional High School has had the temperature approach 90 degrees when the afternoon sun came around in both winter and summer. The design of the HVAC system is not adequate to control such a large thermal load. We had obtained a quote of \$15,000 to re-engineer the systems in that area. Another option was to install a small supplementary air conditioning system in that small office at a cost of \$4,000. We decided to try a reflective window film as studies have shown the film will reflect the majority of the heat away instead of allowing it to magnify through the window glass. It was installed at a cost of \$600. The results have been better than we expected. We solved a comfort problem for an employee at a fraction of the anticipated cost.

\$375: The Athletic Director has been looking at the overtime related to holding winter athletic practices on weekends and holidays. Mr. Goodwin decided to save 11 hours of overtime by ending Saturday practices at 3:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. Although the savings are relatively small, the effort will continue to take a close hard look at scheduling. This will be done without adversely affecting the athletic program or the time necessary for teams to practice.

\$200: The toilet paper product was changed. We were finding the thin, single ply paper was shredding when being removed from the holder and those torn pieces were ending up on the floor. We need to be careful in the product we use, because we do not want students to clog the toilets with the paper. The Facilities Department believes we now have a better product. This suggestion came from an administrative assistant at Amity Middle School – Bethany campus.

\$500: We received a disposal of asset form for a computer cart that was no longer usable. High School Custodians Randy Joiner and Bob Carbone picked up the cart for disposal. They knew the art teacher was looking for a lockable, heavy duty cart to transport her ceramic and other art tools. They removed every other shelf in the cart making the size more appropriate to the teacher's needs and refastened a couple of other supports. The art teacher was ecstatic to get the cart for her use as a similar one would have cost over \$500 and it was not in the budget. Instead of throwing out an asset that was no longer usable to one department, we recycled it and put it into use in another department.

\$50: Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus teacher Helen Young noticed that the Xerox machine stapler automatically adjusts the amount of 'wire' it uses to staple documents and cuts off the excess, which is then deposited in a plastic waste container. The machine signals when the waste container should be replaced. An average used container has a mass of about 550 grams, which is approximately 1.21254 pounds. The teacher suggested bringing the 'waste' from all machine staplers to a recycling center.

\$250: Amity Middle School – Orange Campus administrative assistant Debbie Estok needed to find a way to create a large building plan image and our copiers are not capable to make large prints. Ms. Estok happened to speak to Tim Smith, Orange Deputy Fire Chief. He offered to make and deliver several large prints of our building plan. When Ms. Estok mentioned that we would laminate the prints, Mr. Smith was excited to learn that we have a laminator that will accommodate the 23 inch copies. We are going to laminate a few things for him. Thus, we saved money, gained goodwill, and solved a couple of needs.

\$3,108: Eversource (previously CL&P) recently performed a Most Beneficial Rate review for the purpose of determining whether our account is being billed on the most economical rate available to the school district. Based on our kilowatt (kW) demand and kilowatt hour (kWh) level, we can switch to a Time of Use rate. This will save approximately \$259 per month on the distribution portion of our electric bill at Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus.

\$2,600: Marie McPadden, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, negotiated the Gates retesting fee for all students in grades 7 through 10 for the spring and had the fee reduced.