

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 SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, December 16, 2024 6:30 pm

25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT

Lecture Hall

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Board of Education Regular Meeting – December 09, 2024 [page 3](#)
4. **STUDENT RECOGNITION – CAPSS Superintendent Student Award Recognition Program** [page 9](#)
5. **STUDENT REPORT**
 - a. Monthly Report
6. **3 A's (Academics, Arts, Athletics) AND POG (Portrait of the Graduate) FOCUS PRESENTATION**
 - a. Grade 11 POG Culminating Portfolio – Andrea Drewry and Vicki Hulse
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. Superintendent Report [page 10](#)
 - b. 2023-2024 Next Generation Accountability Data Presentation
8. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
 - a. Committee Reports
 1. Curriculum
 - a. Presentation of Curriculum Writing Process – Andrea Drewry, Vicki Hulse, Marissa Nall
 - b. Draft Curriculum for February 10, 2025 Approval
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public Comment will be limited to those items noticed in this agenda
10. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by December 31, 2024**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**



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
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bethany Orange Woodbridge



NORMS

BE RESPECTFUL

- Model civil discourse and discussion, respecting all viewpoints, welcoming ideas, and disagreeing with courtesy.
- Collaborate as a team.
- Listen actively and refrain from interruptions or side conversations.
- Respect each others' time by brevity of comment.
- Be fully present and mindful of the distractions caused by electronic devices.
- Grow and learn from each other.

HONOR THE POSITION

- Work within the Board's statutory and policy duties.
- Prepare for Board & Committee meetings by reading the packet prior to the meeting.
- Treat each student, parent, and stakeholder respectfully and assist them in following the designated chain of command.
- Be reflective, including conducting an annual Board self-evaluation.

REPRESENT THE BOARD WITH UNITY AND PRIDE

- Make decisions based on what is best for the collective student body of Amity Regional School District No. 5.
- Respect the professional expertise of the staff.
- Be flexible in response to challenges.
- Collaboratively engage in discussions and actions and once voted on, provide undivided support of Board decisions in both public and private.

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 09, 2024 6:30 pm

25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT

Lecture Hall

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Janet Fan

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Tom Brant

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Amity Board of Education Chair Paul Davis

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

MOTION by Michael McDonough, SECOND by Cathy Bradley to nominate Sean Hartshorn for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Chairperson.

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Carla Eichler to nominate Paul Davis for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Chairperson.

BOE Member	Nominee: Davis	Nominee: Hartshorn
Davis	✓	
Bradley		✓
Eichler	✓	
Hubbard	✓	
Hartshorn		✓
Levere-D'Addio		✓
Lombardi		✓
McDonough		✓
Dr. Oladele	✓	
Reed	✓	
Schlank	✓	

Schuster	✓	
Dr. Karunakaran	✓	

VOTE: Davis (8), Hartshorn (5)

RESULT: Paul Davis elected Amity Region 5 Board of Education Chairperson

Amity Region 5 Board of Education Chairperson Paul Davis facilitates the remaining election of officers

ELECTION OF VICE- CHAIRPERSON

MOTION by Carla Eichler, SECOND by Donna Schuster to nominate Patrick Reed for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Vice –Chairperson.

MOTION by Cathy Bradley, SECOND by Christina Levere-D’Addio to nominate Sean Hartshorn for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Vice- Chairperson.

BOE Member	Nominee: Hartshorn	Nominee: Reed
Davis		✓
Bradley	✓	
Eichler		✓
Hubbard	✓	
Hartshorn	✓	
Levere-D’Addio	✓	
Lombardi	✓	
McDonough	✓	
Dr. Oladele		✓
Reed		✓
Schlank		✓
Schuster		✓
Dr. Karunakaran		✓

VOTE: Hartshorn (6), Reed (7)

RESULT: Patrick Reed elected Amity Region 5 Board of Education Vice-Chairperson

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Dana Lombardi to nominate Cathy Bradley for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Secretary.

VOTE/ RESULT: Cathy Bradley unanimously elected

ELECTION OF TREASURER

MOTION by Dana Lombardi, SECOND by Sean Hartshorn to nominate Michael McDonough for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Treasurer.

VOTE/ RESULT: Michael McDonough unanimously elected

ELECTION OF DEPUTY- TREASURER

MOTION by Paul Davis, SECOND by Donna Schuster to nominate Donna Schlank for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Deputy Treasurer.

MOTION by Dr. Carol Oladele, SECOND by Dana Lombardi to nominate Sean Hartshorn for Amity Region 5 Board of Education Deputy Treasurer.

BOE Member	Nominee: Hartshorn	Nominee: Schlank
Davis		✓
Bradley	✓	
Eichler		✓
Hubbard		✓
Hartshorn	✓	
Levere-D’Addio	✓	
Lombardi	✓	
McDonough	✓	
Dr. Oladele	✓	
Reed		✓
Schlank		✓
Schuster		✓
Dr. Karunakaran		✓

VOTE: Hartshorn (6), Schlank (7)

RESULT: Donna Schlank elected Amity Region 5 Board of Education Deputy Treasurer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Board of Education Special Meeting – Personnel - November 25, 2024

MOTION by Carla Eichler, SECOND by Michael McDonough to approve Board of Education Special Meeting- Personnel- Minutes November 25, 2024 as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Hubbard, McDonough, Reed, Schlank)

ABSTAIN, 6 (Hartshorn, Dr. Karunakaran, Levere-D’Addio, Lombardi, Dr. Oladele, Schuster)

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Board of Education Special Meeting – Budget - November 25, 2024

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Patrick Reed to approve Board of Education Special Meeting- Budget Presentation- Minutes November 25, 2024 as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Hartshorn, Hubbard, Lombardi, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Schlank, Schuster)

ABSTAIN, 2 (Dr. Karunakaran, Levere-D’Addio)

MOTION CARRIES

5. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AUDITED 2023-2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Presented by Michael J. VanDeventer, CPA, Partner from Mahoney Sabol CPAs and Advisors

MOTION by Cathy Bradley, SECOND by Michael McDonough to approve the Annual Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2024.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Orange Parent

ARHS Senior

ARHS Senior

Amity Middle School Orange student

Amity Middle School Orange student

Amity Middle School Orange student

ARHS Freshman

Amity Middle School Orange student

ARHS Student

Peck Place student

ARHS Senior

ARHS student

ARHS Junior

Speakers each expressed strong support for *Eid al-Fitr* as an official school holiday. Speakers each elaborated on how *Eid al-Fitr*, which marks the end of Ramadan for Muslims, holds profound significance for many students and families within our community.

Orange, Parent

The speaker thanked the Board for the work they do serving in a voluntary capacity. The speaker addressed the results of the recent presidential election and her thoughts on the impact the election may have on local school districts.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mrs. Cathy Bradley

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SETTING 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Dr. Karunakaran to approve the 2025-2026 Amity Region 5 School Calendar.

MOTION by Dr. Oladele, SECOND by Carla Eichler to add Diwali to the 2025-2026 Amity Region 5 School Calendar.

MOTION by Christina Levere-D'Addio, SECOND by Donna Schuster to table to motion to approve the 2025-2026 Amity Region 5 School Calendar.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Bradley, Hartshorn, Hubbard, Levere-D'Addio, Lombardi, McDonough, Schuster)

VOTES AGAINST, 5 (Eichler, Dr. Karunakaran, Davis, Reed, Schlank)

ABSTAIN, 1 (Dr. Oladele)

MOTION CARRIES

9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Andrea Hubbard to move Finance up in the agenda.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

1. Finance

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Reducing Member Towns' Payments

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Dr. Karunakaran to approve the Superintendent of Schools to reduce the March Allocation payment of the member towns by a total of \$1,050,680, as follows:

Town of Bethany \$ 183,117.52

Town of Orange \$ 514,595.81

Town of Woodbridge \$ 352,966.67

Total \$1,050,680.00

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 Dr. Karunakaran, SECOND by Dr. Oladele to approve the following budget transfers:

For staff travel:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
05-13-2212-5611	Instructional Supplies	\$2,500	
05-13-2213-5611	Instructional Supplies	\$2,500	
05-13-2213-5581	Staff Travel-Conferences		\$5,000

For increased transportation run:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
04-12-6117-5560	Tuition	\$15,000	
05-14-2700-5512	Transportation-Vocational		\$15,000

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

e. Update of 2025-26 Budget Process

- i. Preliminary 2025-2026 Budget Data**
- ii. Important Budget Meeting Dates**

MOTION by Andrea Hubbard, SECOND by Michael McDonough to move Policy up in the agenda.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

2. **Policy**

a. First Reads

- i. Policy 4118.11- Nondiscrimination/ Equal Employment Opportunity
- ii. Policy 5145.53 Transgender and Gender Non- Conforming Youth
- iii. Rescind Policies 2111- Equal Employment Opportunity, 4111.1- Equal Employment Opportunity and 5145.4 - Nondiscrimination- Transgender and Gender Non- Conforming Students

b. Second Reads

- i. Policy 0521- Nondiscrimination Notice and Policy
- ii. Policy 5131- Conduct and Discipline
- iii. Policy 4115- Educators Evaluation and Support Program
- iv. Bylaw 9120- Officers
- v. Bylaw 9325- Meeting Conduct

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Michael McDonough to approve Policy 0521 Nondiscrimination Notice and Policy, Policy 5131 Conduct and Discipline, Policy 4115 Educators Evaluation and Support Program, Bylaw 9120 Officers and Bylaw 9325 Meeting Conduct.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

Agenda resumes from Agenda item #9 Chairmans Report

b. Committee Reports

- 1. **ACES**
- 2. **CABE**
- 3. **Communications**
- 4. **District Health and Safety**
- 5. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Executive Committee**
- 6. **District Technology**
 - a. Monthly Report
- 7. **Facilities**
 - a. Monthly Report
- 8. **Personnel**
 - a. Personnel Report

Presented By Amity Region 5 Superintendent Dr. Byars

10. NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by December 31, 2024

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned, without objection, at 8:44 p.m. by Chairperson Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

Lisa Zaleski

BOE Recording Secretary



2024-2025

CAPSS

**Superintendent Student Award
Recognition Program**

Awards are based on: "Community service and service to others; Academic process (relative to ability); and Leadership service to the school community.

Amity Middle School~Bethany Award Recipients:

👍 **Xiaotang Huang**

👍 **Max Trachten**

Amity Middle School~Orange Award Recipients:

👍 **Sabrina Feliconio**

👍 **Isabella Gallipoli**

Amity Regional High School Award Recipients:

👍 **Taraji Carter-Gore**

👍 **Eleanor Cheng**

👍 **Aachal Gupta**

👍 **Shane Johnson**

👍 **Alexander Klee**

👍 **Nathan LaPlante**

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525



Dr. Jennifer P. Byars
Superintendent of Schools

jennifer.byars@amityregion5.org
203.392.2106

Superintendent's Report – December 2024

Continuously improve instruction, cultivate creativity, and enhance student engagement and performance.

Enhance the efficient and effective use of resources.

Foster a supportive climate for students and adults.

Instruction

ARHS Alumni Panel: On the day before Thanksgiving break, ARHS hosted its annual Alumni Panel for our students in Grades 11 and 12. This annual event hosted by our Counseling Department allows students to hear directly from recent graduates about how they prepared for life after high school, how their time at Amity helped prepare them for it, and what they wish they had known while they were still in high school.

PLCs Begin Learning Walks: ARHS has begun the process of having all our faculty members participate in classroom walkthrough observations, with training sessions for Inter-PLC groups starting the first week of December and observations beginning the second week of December. Over the course of the next three months, all 120+ members of the faculty will have an opportunity to observe multiple classes and to participate in small-group discussions about what they learned from them following the observations.

ARHS Class Meetings: ARHS held class meetings on Wednesday, December 11, with the following grades:

- The Senior class met to discuss options for the spring UELP internship program and what students can be doing now to ensure a positive and successful internship experience in May.
- The Junior class met to get updates on the POG Portfolio development process and to learn more about the presentation day scheduled for next April.

AMSB Whole School Trip/POG Day: On December 19, 2024, AMSB will take a full-school field trip to see *Moana 2* at the Cinemark Theaters in North Haven. The trip will support our efforts with the Amity POG and, upon their return, the students will participate in some reflection and other fun activities that were created by our Student Government and will focus on the characteristics of the POG.

AMSO Meets Author Lissette Norman: AMSO 7th Grade students participated in an online discussion with author Lissette Norman. Ms. Norman is a poet and author of children's books *My Feet Are Laughing* and *Plátanos Go with Everything*. Students read these texts in Spanish in preparation for this online discussion. This was an authentic learning experience for students as they learned about the writing process and how an author's personal life and culture are reflected in their writing.

AMSO Receives Project Teach: The Milford Rape Crisis Center presented to each of the four academic teams. The seventh-grade presentation focuses on sexual harassment and knowing the different forms of

sexual harassment. The 8th Grade students focused on the concept of consent as it relates to sexually based offensives. School counselors followed up with students as needed following the presentations.

AMSB Winter Concert: On December 12, 2024, AMSB held the annual Winter Concert. The students all sounded great and have definitely been putting in the work! It was nice to see our AMSB families and friends share in the Holiday spirit. If you missed it, please consider coming out to our Spring Concert on May 1, 2025.

AMSO Winter Concert: AMSO had their Winter Concert on December 11, 2024. Over 200 students participated. The choir, orchestra and band students performed a repertoire that highlighted the skills and various genres of music they have been exploring all year.

CMEA Auditions: Over 19 AMSO students participated in the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) auditions on December 14, 2024. Students in the band and orchestra who are selected will have the opportunity to perform alongside other talented musicians from around the state.

Teacher Observations: Administration across all three district schools have conducted first rounds of teacher classroom observations using the new Amity Educator Evaluation model. We have enjoyed seeing the wonderful work that is going on in our classrooms and have had great conversations with our teachers about instructional practices.

Spartan Academy Supports Food Pantry: Students and staff in Spartan Academy donated food to the Human Services Department for the Town of Woodbridge. Additionally, they volunteered time in the pantry to support the mission of the pantry.

Curriculum Articulation Meetings: Teachers representing the subject areas of Social Studies, Math, and World Language met this month to discuss a curriculum revision process, making up cancelled December 5th Professional Learning, and planned February content-based professional learning. English will meet prior to the Winter Break.

Curriculum Writing: Curriculum writing professional learning for English and Social Studies occurred this month with support from ACES. The Board Curriculum Committee received a presentation on 5 curricula recently rewritten; approval from the Board of Education is scheduled for February 2025.

Professional Development and Evaluation (PDEC): A committee of district and building based teachers and administrators met this month to discuss the presentation on a new teacher evaluation management system. The committee planned for a virtual January conference with school districts in Connecticut currently using the Frontline system. The PDEC also reviewed expectations for the mid-year meetings required as part of the new teacher evaluation plan.

Elementary Vertical Articulation: During the last week of December, Amity will be hosting vertical articulation meetings for social studies and science with teachers from all three elementary school districts. The purpose of the meetings will be alignment of curriculum and content from grades 5-8.

Resources

Amity Supports Holiday Bear: Forty-six children from Shepherd Glen School and Helen Street School in Hamden were sponsored by Amity teams through the CEA/CEF Holiday Bear Project. Teams ranged from high school departments, the Amity Advocates class, middle school teams, support services, the Cafeteria, Central Office, Administrative Offices, and the AMSB PTSO (along with 4 individuals who sponsored children on their own with their personal families). Packages will be delivered December 11th and 12th by Sean Malloy, Marian Boyns, Wendy Carrafiello, Brian Serapiglia (AEA President) and Chris

Borelli (AEA Vice President). A huge shout of appreciation is given to current Amity Teacher of the Year Wendy Carrafiello for spearheading this charitable community project.

On-Site Acceptance Days: ARHS has continued to host On-Site Acceptance Days for several area colleges and universities, and in addition to the 19 acceptances mentioned in last month's update. Since then, Amity seniors have been offered immediate acceptance to:

- Quinnipiac University: 15
- Western Connecticut State University: 11
- University of New Haven: 6

Amity Podcast Appearance: Amity's Director of Counseling Services, Jill LaPlante, was recently interviewed on Dartmouth College's podcast, *Admission Beat with Lee Coffin: An Ivy Dean Demystifies the College Search*. You can find her episode, "Life is a Suburban Town," at this link: [Dartmouth Admissions Beat](#).

Amity Welcomes Guest Alumnus: Amity Class of 1968 graduate Steve Alpert spoke to students in the ARHS library on December 12, 2024. For fifteen years, beginning in 1996, he was a senior executive at Studio Ghibli, a Japanese animation studio based in Tokyo. He was previously an executive at The Walt Disney Company, and at Citibank before that. Steve speaks Japanese and Chinese fluently, having lived in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Taipei for a combined total of over thirty-five years. He graduated from Colgate University with a BA in Fine Arts, and he has an MBA from Columbia. Steve has published two books about his experiences in Japan: *Sharing a House with the Never-Ending Man* and *Kyoto Stories*. He now lives in Connecticut.

Amity Voice Addressing Swatting: Pupil Services Director Mr. Tom Brant is part of the Swatting-Call Taker working group being facilitated by the Connecticut School Safety and Crisis Preparedness Center. This group is working to design a universal documentation process of telephonic and social media driven threats to school districts.

Climate

Football Makes Playoffs: The Spartan football team played in its first postseason tournament game in more than 20 years on December 3, 2024. Although that game was the end of their season, this year has been a tremendous journey for a team that consistently exceeded expectations, changed perspectives on what Amity football is capable of, and made Friday nights exciting for the whole community. Well done, and congratulations to the team and coaching staff!

ACT "The Minutes": Amity Creative Theater's fall production of the Broadway comedy "The Minutes" by Tracy Letts took place December 12-14, 2024. This scathing new comedy about small-town politics and real-world power, from the author of *August: Osage County*, exposes the ugliness behind some of our most closely held American narratives while asking each of us what we would do to keep from becoming history's losers. Thank you to the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation for your support of the production!

ATA Thanksgiving: Amity Transition Academy hosted their annual Thanksgiving gathering at the University of New Haven-Orange Campus. This annual gathering brings together staff and students from ATA and the University of New Haven. More than 50 attendees enjoyed a delightful spread of homemade Thanksgiving dishes and traditional family recipes lovingly prepared by students and their families.

AMSB Student of the Month: AMSB held the monthly Student of the Month breakfast this past November 30, 2024, and celebrated with close to 40 students. Teachers select one student a month to recognize their citizenship, behavior, or academic achievement, and the students are treated to breakfast in our cafeteria.

AMSO POG Recognition: Eight AMSO students received the POG Recognition of the Month for consistently demonstrating a high level of empathy both inside and outside of the classroom. These students serve as role models to their peers and help make AMSO a kinder place for all students.

District Middle School Spirit Day: On December 13, 2024, AMSB will again be supporting CT Children's Foundation with PJ Day for the Kids. Staff and students are encouraged to wear their most comfy PJs and consider making a donation to support the efforts of Team AMSB! AMSO is also participating in this day, and the team who raises the most money will win back the coveted Amity Spirit Shovel!!

December Recess: The December vacation starts early on December 20, 2024 with an AMSB School Spirit half day! Students are encouraged to wear their ugliest sweater and have a little pre-holiday fun.