

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 recommended by Amity Region 5 Superintendent Dr. Byars.

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 until the next regular Board of Education meeting.

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

