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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 AGENDA

**Monday, June 12, 2023, 6:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Browe, Paul Davis, Sean Hartshorn, Christina Levere-D'Addio, Donna Schuster, Amy Tirollo, Dr. Jennifer Turner and Dr. K. Sudhir

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannan Carlson, Carla Eichler, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Bae and Sophia Messina

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Stephen Martoni

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. Board of Education Regular Meeting - May 08, 2023

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, *SECOND* by Amy Tirollo, *to approve minutes as submitted*

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Christopher Browe, Paul Davis, Sean Hartshorn, Christina Levere-D'Addio, Donna Schuster, Amy Tirollo, Dr. Jennifer Turner)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Dr. Sudhir)

MOTION CARRIED

4. STUDENT REPORT

- a. Monthly Report

Presented by Sam Bae and Sophia Messina

- b. One Book One Amity Video

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Orange resident:

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Suggest that the system is broken when we only get 3 min to speak and no immediate answers provided. Compares this policy to the policies of other town boards. Addresses DEI and her thoughts on what DEI means and the danger of DEI. Resident addresses tax payers dollars should be returned to the towns, breaking the trust of taxpayers, and the board on matters of preparing a responsible budget, implementing policies and curriculum that indoctrinate the children with radical, divisive and racist ideology. Resident stated parents need to protect their right to raise their children according to their beliefs. Resident concluded by reiterating opening remarks that free speech is limited to three minutes with limited response by the board.

PLEASE POST**Orange Parent:**

Stated that all the Board of Education has done this year is divide the community. Suggested that the Board has only focused on the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and instead all kids deserve to feel safe. The focus on LGBTQ+ students means the other 1400 kids are lost. Parent stated over 20 teachers have left the district with more planning on leaving. Suggests that the board only listens when they like what they hear. Discusses ARHS school rankings. Reads comments left by students on Niche surveys. Urges the board to reflect on those comments over the summer.

Orange Parent (Parent did not state town):

Reminds the Board that they were put in these seats by the taxpayers. Revisits public comments that she has made at previous BOE meetings and reflects on the lack of follow up to those comments in the weeks and months following the original comments. Addresses Board policy and how the board has violated board policy with specific limits to free speech at BOE meetings.

Orange resident:

Shares views about American patriotism. Talks about his appearance at a Milford BOE meeting regarding banned books 12 years ago. Observes the standard of what is right and wrong seems broken and the need to come together as Americans to decide what is right and wrong. It can't be an arbitrary moving target.

Bethany parent:

Thanks Board for a good school year. Observes that public comments or instruction constantly bringing up God in a public school is a form of indoctrination. Pushing Judeo-Christian values in the public school is indoctrination. Congratulates and thanks administration, faculty and staff for working hard to respect all students and for a great school year.

Orange resident:

Observes that she does not see people teaching or pushing Judeo-Christian values. She sees the opposite happening. Questions why sex is being addressed in a school at all. Resident suggests that she is mortified by the sexual agenda that is being pushed. Shocked by the suggestions that Judeo-Christian values are being pushed on students. Addresses the history of Freedom of Religion in America.

Orange resident makes a comment regarding previous speaker.
Chairperson Davis interjects.

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Orange resident apologizes for comment directed at audience members

Orange resident wraps up by addressing freedom of speak and freedom of religion.

Student

Thank faculty, staff, and teachers for the work they do. Grateful for the creative liberties and access to quality education. States he never felt indoctrinated or sexulaized. Can't thank the district enough for the opportunities he has had over the years.

Chariman Davis

Addresses the audience in regards to the format of public policy. Mr. Davis states the Board's goal is to maintain an organized meeting while allowing the public to share their comments. The expectation is that public comment should not cast dispersion on other people; people should not be called out by name nor should accusations be leveled against individuals. Mr. Davis shares that responses to public comments have been addresses in the monthly Board Chair newsletters or as part of the Chair's report at the following meeting.

Audience member interrupts to suggest a round table discussion. Chairman Davis responds reminding the public about the BOE Forum that was recently held.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Personnel Report
- b. Superintendent Report

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mr. Sean Hartshorn

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Presented by Amity Board of Education Chair Paul Davis

a. Committee Reports

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

MOTION by Christopher Browe, *SECOND* by Christina Levere-D'Addio to amend the agenda to include agenda item 9a4. Food Service Management Contract.

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VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIED

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MOTION by Christopher Browe to take agenda items 9a2-9a4 together.

HEARING NO OBJECTION, Mr. Davis agrees to take items 9a2-9a4 together.

9. Finance

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts over \$35,000

- 1. Middle School Roof Projects**
- 2. Sidewalk Repairs**
- 3. Security Camera Video Monitoring System**
- 4. Food Service Management Contract**

MOTION by Christopher Browe, SECOND by Donna Schuster to Approve waiving the bid process and awarding the contract for the sidewalk repairs to Prindle Hill Construction of Orange, CT for \$41,086 to repair the sidewalks in front, side, and rear of Amity Regional High School and waive the bid process.

Approve the purchase of new security camera software from Whalley Computer Associates for \$44,185.00.

Award a one-year contract extension for 2023- 2024 to Compass Group, USA, Inc. (Chartwells) per the proposed Amendment and the Director of Finance and Administration is authorized to sign the Amendment.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Dr. Suhir approve the award of contracts for the middle school roof projects to Garland, AMSB- \$397,643 and AMSO \$490,748 and the designation of additional funds for roof repairs and gym wall systems and the transfer to cover the additional funds.

ARHS 5 Director of Facilities Stephen Martoni answers questions regarding the Middle School Roof Projects.

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Christopher Browe to amend the Middle School Roof Project to proceed with the Roof & Wall Repairs at Orange Middle School only and provide routine maintenance at Bethany Middle School.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 2 (Christopher Browe, Sean Hartshorn)

VOTES OPPOSED, 6 (Paul Davis, Christina Levere-D'Addio, Donna Schuster, Amy Tirollo, Dr. Jennifer Turner and Dr. K. Sudhir)

MOTION FAILED

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Dr. Suhir approve the award of contracts for the middle school roof projects to Garland, AMSB- \$397,643 and AMSO \$490,748 and the designation of additional funds for roof repairs and gym wall systems and the transfer to cover the additional funds.

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VOTES IN FAVOR, 6 (Paul Davis, Christina Levere-D’Addio, Donna Schuster, Amy Tirolo, Dr. Jennifer Turner and Dr. K. Sudhir)
VOTES OPPOSED, 2 (Christopher Browe, Sean Hartshorn)
MOTION CARRIES

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Tuition Rate for 2023-2024

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Christopher Browe approve the non-resident tuition rate for 2023-2024 school year at \$21,058; and the non-resident Special Education base tuition rate for 2023-2024 school year at \$21,817.00 plus any additional services.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

c. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

d. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

e. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More

MOTION by Christopher Browe, SECOND by Amy Tirolo to Approve the following budget transfer for a ride- on burnisher

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
03-14-2600-5410	Utilities	\$27,204	
03-14-2600-5730	Equipment- New		\$27,204

Approve the following budget transfer for a security camera software

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
04-12-6110-5560	Tuition – Public Out	\$18,896	
05-14-2660-5733	Equipment- New		\$18,896

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

10. Policy

a. First Read

- 1. Policy 5121 Students Examination/ Grading/ Rating**
- 2. Policy 5121.3 (Former Policy 5128.1) Plagiarism/ Cheating**

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Second Read Policies

- 1. Policy 5114.21 Conduct Code Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

MOTION by Amy Tirolo, SECOND by Donna Schuster to accept policy 5114.21 Conduct Code Participation in Extracurricular Activities as submitted.

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VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

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11. Personnel

- a. **Discussion on Non- Union Wages (anticipated Executive Session)**
- b. **Discussion on the Standard Benefits Package (anticipated Executive Session)**

MOTION by Christopher Browe, SECOND By Sean Hartshorn to enter Executive session and invite Dr. Byars.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

The Board enters Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

The Board exits Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

- c. **Possible Action on Non- Union Wages and the Standard Benefits Package**

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Dr. Sudhir to approve Non-Union Wages and the Standard Benefits Package as presented.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

9. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Christina Levere-D'Addio, SECOND by Donna Schuster to invite the Amity Region 5 AEA Union President Patrick Cumpston to the August meeting to discuss the faculty climate survey, and to add a teacher report to the Board of Education Agenda.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

10. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by July 31, 2023

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned, without objection, at 9:47 p.m. by Chairman Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

Lisa Zaleski

BOE Recording Secretary