

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Amity Regional Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, September 17, 2018, 6:30 pm, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson Christopher Browe, John Belfonti, Robyn Berke, Patricia Cardozo, Paula Cofrancesco, Steven DeMaio, Carla Eichler, George Howard, Sheila McCreven, Jennifer Turner, Diane Urbano

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Shannan Carlson, Amy Esposito

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

James Connelly, Theresa Lumas, Kathy Burke, Scott Cleary, Richard Dellinger, Shaun DeRosa, Brian Dower, Peter Downhour, Anna Mahon, Marie McPadden, Mary Raiola

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Browe called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Recited by those present, followed by a dedication and moment of silence in honor of Logan Testa, deceased Amity Middle School Bethany 7th grade student

**3. Swearing in of new Board of Education member, George Howard**

Chairperson Browe administered the oath of office to George Howard and welcomed him to the Amity Board of Education.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Regular Board of Education Meeting, August 13, 2018

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Carla Eichler, to approve minutes as submitted.*  
*VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (DeMaio, Cofrancesco, Eichler, Howard, McCreven, Cardozo, Urbano)*  
*ABSTAINED, 3 (Berke, Belfonti, Turner)*  
*MOTION CARRIED*

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b. Special Board of Education Meeting July 9, 2018

No need to vote per Chairperson Browe because meeting notice was not posted.

**5. Student Report – Olivia Gross and Ella Marin**

*MOTION by Pat Cardozo, Second by Robyn Berke, to move Item #7 on the agenda (CAS Middle Level Exemplary Educator of the Year Award) to immediately after Item #6 on the agenda (Public Comment)  
VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*

**6. CAS Middle Level Exemplary Educator of the Year Award**

Donna Schilke, CAS Assistant Executive Director, presented the CAS Middle Level Exemplary Educator of the Year Award to Robert Fragione.

**7. Public Comment**

Beth Heller, First Selectman, Woodbridge, requested the Board to vote no to calling a District Meeting to appropriate funds to Capital and Non-Recurring Account. She pointed out that the previous superintendent is no longer with Amity, the interim superintendent is only in place for a limited time, and a new superintendent has not been appointed. She stated that it would be better to wait for the time when the new superintendent is in place and working closely with Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge and then present to the public. She requested that the entire fund balance be returned to Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge.

Derrilyn Gorski, First Selectman, Bethany, stated that the communities of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge have always supported Amity over the years. She said the target for this statute was under-funded schools and that Amity is not an under-funded district. Ms. Gorski stated that this statute has been in place since 2012 and no previous Amity Board of Education has used it. She stated her concern that citizens will lose trust.

James Zeoli, First Selectman, Orange, recommended that the entire fund balance be returned to Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. He stated that due to the fact that an interim superintendent is currently in place, it is appropriate to wait until a new superintendent is on board to see which direction he/she will be taking the District and then present as part of the budget. Mr. Zeoli stated that transparency is very important to prevent mistrust from the community and recommended that the Board of Education vote no to calling a District Meeting to appropriate funds to Capital and Non-Recurring Account.

Peter Downhour, Amity Teacher's Union, stated that this money was voted on by citizens to use toward the education of students. He recommended that the Board of Education fund all they can now because education is the most valuable asset. He stated that if Amity spends 1% the towns will still get more than they got back previously.

**8. Correspondence**

**9. Superintendent's Report**

**a. Personnel Report**

**b. Superintendent Report**

1. Report on Opening of 2018-2019 School Year
2. 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Results for Grades 7 and 8
3. 2018 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Results for Grade 11
4. Climate Study
  - a. Amity Middle School Bethany
  - b. Amity Middle School Orange
  - c. Amity Regional High School
5. 2017-2018 Educator Evaluation Data Collection

**10. Chairman's Report**

**a. Committee Reports**

1. ACES
2. Ad Hoc School Safety
3. Ad Hoc Shared Services
4. CAFE
5. Curriculum
6. District Health and Safety
7. District Technology
8. Facilities

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9. Finance

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Calling a District Meeting to Appropriate funds to Capital and Non-Recurring Account

*MOTION by Diane Urbano, Second by Robyn Berke, to pass a resolution to call a Special District Meeting to Appropriate 1% (\$484,391) of the 2017-2018 operating funds to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account.  
VOTES IN FAVOR, 4 (DeMaio, Cardozo, Berke, Urbano)  
VOTES OPPOSED, 5 (Cofrancesco, Howard, Eichler, Turner, McCreven)  
ABSTAINED, 1 (Belfonti)  
MOTION FAILED*

*The full resolution is as follows:*

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION TO CALL A SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND TO CONSIDER AND VOTE ON A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$484,391 TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND NONRECURRING EXPENDITURES RESOLVED:**

Section 1. The Board of Education hereby calls a Special District Meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Amity Regional High School to conduct a public hearing and to consider and vote on the following:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$484,391  
TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND NONRECURRING EXPENDITURES

Section 2. The following place shall be utilized for purpose of convening the Special District Meeting:

Amity Regional High School  
25 Newton Road  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Section 3. Warning shall be posted upon a signpost or other exterior place near the office of Town Clerk in the Towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge and shall be published in newspapers having a general circulation within the Towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge, respectively, at least five (5) days before the date of said Special District Meeting, which warning shall be in substantially the following form:

**WARNING OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING  
Amity Regional School District No. 5  
of the State of Connecticut  
Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge  
October 1, 2018**

Notice is hereby given to all those eligible to vote in town meetings in the member towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge that a Special District Meeting of Amity Regional School District No. 5 of the

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State of Connecticut will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road, in Woodbridge, Connecticut for the following purposes:

To conduct a public hearing on a resolution entitled  
**“RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$484,391 TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND NONRECURRING EXPENDITURES”.**

To consider and vote on a resolution entitled  
**“RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$484,391 TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND NONRECURRING EXPENDITURES”.**

A copy of the full text of the resolution is on file  
and available for public inspection at the District’s Office.  
Dated at Woodbridge, Connecticut this 1st day of October, 2018.  
Christopher Browe, Chairperson  
Board of Education  
Amity Regional School District 5 of the State of Connecticut

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE DISTRICT MEETING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF  
\$484,391 TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND NONRECURRING EXPENDITURES**

**WHEREAS**, the District has a surplus in its operating funds from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018;  
**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Education has established a Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures to provide funding for capital and nonrecurring expenditures, however, such use shall be restricted to the funding of all or part of the planning, construction, reconstruction or acquisition of any specific capital improvement or the acquisition of any specific item of equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education desires to have a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$484,391 from this surplus in operating funds from the 2017-2018 fiscal year to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures be approved by a vote to be held at a Special District Meeting.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Education recommends a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$484,391 from this surplus in operating funds from the 2017-2018 fiscal year to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures be approved by a vote to be held at a Special District Meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$484,391 from this surplus in operating funds from the 2017-2018 fiscal year to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures is hereby approved.

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING  
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF  
\$484,391 TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND  
NONRECURRING EXPENDITURES**

**WHEREAS**, the District has a surplus in its operating funds from the fiscal year ending

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June 30, 2018;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Education has established a Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures to provide funding for capital and nonrecurring expenditures, however, such use shall be restricted to the funding of all or part of the planning, construction, reconstruction or acquisition of any specific capital improvement or the acquisition of any specific item of equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has recommended a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$484,391 from the surplus in operating funds from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures be approved by a vote to be held at a Special District Meeting.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$484,391 from the estimated surplus in operating funds from this surplus in operating funds from the 2017-2018 fiscal year to the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures is hereby approved.

b. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

1. Fiscal Year 2018-2019

c. Other

1. Audit update

2. Revised 2019-2020 Budget Calendar

10. Personnel

11. Policy

a. Second Read

1. Adopt

- Bylaw 9120 (Existing)

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Paula Cofrancesco, to approve Bylaw 9120 with edits  
FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Robyn Berke to move this item to the next regular Board of Education meeting*

*FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Steve DeMaio to refer this item back to the Policy Committee for further review before returning it to Board of Education*

*MOTION TO TABLE VOTE by Chairperson Browe*

*MOTION WITHDRAWN by Sheila McCreven to approve Bylaw 9120 with edits*

*VOTES IN FAVOR TO TABLE VOTE and refer this item back to the Policy Committee for further review before returning it to Board of Education, 9 (DeMaio, Cofrancesco, Belfonti, Eichler, Turner, McCreven, Cardozo, Berke, Urbano)*

*ABSTAINED, 1 (Howard)*

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- Policy 2131 (Existing)

*MOTION BY Sheila McCreven, Second by Carla Eichler, to approve Policy 2131 as submitted in pages 54-55 only of meeting packet*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Cofrancesco, Belfonti, Eichler, Turner, McCreven, Cardozo, Urbano)*

*ABSTAINED, 2 (Howard, Berke)*

*(Mr. DeMaio was not in the room during this vote)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Policy 2131.1 (New)

*MOTION BY Sheila McCreven, Second by Carla Eichler, to approve Policy 2131.1 as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (DeMaio, Cofrancesco, Belfonti, Eichler, Turner, McCreven, Cardozo, Berke, Urbano)*

*ABSTAINED, 1 (Howard)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Policy 2151 (Existing)

*MOTION BY Sheila McCreven, Second by Paula Cofrancesco, to approve Policy 2151 as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (DeMaio, Cofrancesco, Belfonti, Eichler, Turner, McCreven, Cardozo, Berke, Urbano)*

*ABSTAINED, 1 (Howard)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Policy 2200 (New)

*MOTION BY Sheila McCreven, Second by Steven DeMaio, to approve Policy 2200 as submitted*

*MOTION WITHDRAWN BY Sheila McCreven*

- Policy 2210 (Existing)

*MOTION BY Steven DeMaio, Second by Diane Urbano, to approve Policy 2210 as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Policy 2221 (Existing)

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Pat Cardozo, to approve Policy 2221 as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Policy 2230 (New)

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Paula Cofrancesco, to approve Policy 2230 as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

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- Policy 2240 (Existing)

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Paula Cofrancesco, to approve Policy 2240, changing “children” to “students” in item #1*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Policy 2250 (New)

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Paula Cofrancesco, to approve Policy 2250 as submitted*

*MOTION WITHDRAWN by Sheila McCreven*

- Policy 2300.1 (Existing)

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Steven DeMaio, to approve Policy 2300.1 as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

- Policy 2400 (Existing)

*MOTION by Sheila McCreven, Second by Pat Cardozo, to approve Policy 2221 as submitted*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*

*MOTION CARRIED*

2. Considered but not Added

- Policy 2132 (New)
- Policy 2133 (New)
- Policy 2133.12 (New)
- Policy 2134 (New)
- Policy 2135 (New)
- Policy 2136 (New)
- Policy 2137 (New)
- Policy 2140 (New)
- Policy 2141 (New)
- Policy 2152 (New)
- Policy 2153 (New)
- Policy 2154 (New)
- Policy 2224 (New)
- Policy 2231 (Existing)
- Policy 2232 (New)
- Policy 2232.1 (New)
- Policy 2234 (New)
- Policy 2300 (New)
- Policy 2300.2 (New)

**11. Items for the Next Agenda**



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**12. Security**

Entered Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. and invited Interim Superintendent  
Exited Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.

**13. Adjournment**

*MOTION by Mr. DeMaio, Second by Ms. Berke, to adjourn the meeting*  
*VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (unanimous)*  
*MOTION CARRIED*

Meeting Adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Pamela Pero*  
*Recording Secretary*