

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Board Presentation Room at 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Christopher Browe, Mr. John Belfonti, Ms. Robyn Berke (arrived 6:34 p.m.), Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Shannan Carlson, Ms. Paula Cofrancesco, Mr. Steven DeMaio, Ms. Carla Eichler, Ms. Amy Esposito, Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven, and Dr. Jennifer Turner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Diane Urbano

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Theresa Lumas, Ms. Amy Benton, Ms. Kathy Burke, Ms. Jackie Cappiello, Mr. Scott Cleary, Ms. Linda DeCesare, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Mr. Shaun DeRosa, Mr. Brian Dower, Mr. Peter Downhour, Mr. Thomas Foley, Mr. Ernest Goodwin, Ms. Elaine Hashemian, Mr. Neil Holt, Ms. Anna Mahon, Ms. Jennifer Marganski, Dr. Marie McPadden, Mr. Eric Mills, Mr. Gregory Murphy, Ms. Marissa Nall, Mr. Brennan Orié, Ms. Michelle Ortiz, Ms. Mary Raiola, Mr. Todd Rainey, Mr. Edward Rostowsky, Ms. Jennifer Schuchat, and Mr. Carl Teravainen

1. Call to Order

Chairman Browe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited by those present

3. Presentation of CABA Communications Award of Excellence – Robert Guthrie, CABA Board of Directors (Enclosure) Page 6

***MOTION** by Ms. McCreven, Second by Ms. Esposito to table this item until Mr. Guthrie arrived
VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Esposito, Mr. Hurley, Ms. Eichler, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Carlson, and Dr. Turner)*

MOTION CARRIED

4. Recognition of National Merit Scholarship Finalists (Enclosure) Page 7

5. Recognition of CAS Creativity and Innovation Certificate Recipients (Enclosure) Page 8

6. Recognition of National Hispanic Recognition Program Qualifier – Thomas Livesay

7. Student Report – Ananya Kachru

Chairman Browe called a break at 6:44 p.m.
Chairman Browe reconvened the meeting 6:45 p.m.

8. Public Comment

Mr. Christian Young, 790 Quarter Mile Road, Orange, spoke against allowing students to participate in student walk-outs for any reason at all. He suggested that Amity create a policy prohibiting this. Mr. Young stated that schools are for curriculum, not for politics, and that this will disrupt the educational environment and will allow students to go outside to a less safe environment. He pointed to school policies that prohibit political disruption in school and suggested that allowing the students to participate in planned walk-outs is in conflict with these policies.

9. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Board of Education Meeting, February 12, 2018

MOTION by Ms. Cardozo, Second by Ms. Cofrancesco to approve minutes as submitted.

MOTION by Ms. McCreven, Second by Ms. Carlson to approve minutes as amended, adding a unanimous vote for all policies except 1170 under Chairperson Browe's call to vote.

MOTION by Mr. Hurley, Second by Mr. DeMaio to table vote to approve minutes until Section 11.a.6 is double-checked against meeting video

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

10. Adult and Continuing Education

11. Correspondence

12. Superintendent's Report

a. Personnel Report

b. Superintendent Report

https://www.amityregion5.org/uploaded/District_information/Superintendent's_Reports/2017-2018_Superintendent's_Reports/SuperintendentReport_March2018.pdf

13. Chairman's Report

a. Committee Reports

1. ACES

2. CAFE

3. Curriculum

4. Facilities

MOTION by Mr. Hurley, Second by Ms. Carlson to direct the Superintendent to begin immediate implementation of an SRO (School Resource Officer) program for the middle schools and to direct the Policy Committee to address an SRO policy to include the middle schools using this year's surplus funds as the funding source through June 30, 2019

MOTION by Mr. DeMaio to call the vote

MOTION RETRACTED by Mr. DeMaio to call the vote

MOTION by Ms. McCreven, Second by Ms. Esposito, to table Mr. Hurley's motion until the Ad Hoc Security and Wellness Committee is formed

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by Mr. Browe, Second by Ms. Cardozo, to Ms. McCreven's motion to table Mr. Hurley's motion until Ad Hoc Security and Wellness committee's first meeting

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Eichler, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Carlson, and Dr. Turner)

VOTES OPPOSED, 2 (Mr. Hurley and Ms. Berke)

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Mr. Hurley, Second by Ms. Berke, to add \$200,000 to the Proposed 2018-2019 Budget to cover the cost of the SRO program, which is not in there right now

MOTION by Mr. Hurley, Second by Ms. Berke, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing security matters that must be heard in Executive Session

VOTES IN FAVOR, 5 (Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Mr. Hurley, and Ms. Berke)

VOTES OPPOSED, 5 (Ms. Esposito, Ms. Eichler, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Belfonti, and Ms. Carlson)

ABSTAINED, 2 (Dr. Turner and Chairperson Browe)

MOTION FAILED

MOTION by Mr. Hurley, Second by Ms. Berke, to add \$200,000 to the Proposed 2018-2019 Budget for security purposes recalled by Chairperson Browe

VOTE IN FAVOR, 1 (Mr. Hurley)

VOTES OPPOSED, 8 (Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Eichler, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Belfonti, and Dr. Turner)

ABSTAINED, 2 (Ms. Carlson and Ms. Berke)

MOTION FAILED

5. Finance

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed 2018-2019 Budget

MOTION by Ms. Esposito, Second by Ms. Cofrancesco to approve the proposed 2018-2019 budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 in the gross amount of \$49,026,535 and the net amount of \$48,190,256 to be submitted to Referendum on Tuesday, May 8, 2018

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Eichler, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Carlson, Dr. Turner, and Ms. Berke)

VOTE OPPOSED, 1 (Mr. Hurley)

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Ms. Cofrancesco, Second by Mr. Belfonti to authorize Amity Regional School District No. 5 to prepare an Explanatory Text for the Budget Referendum Question: *BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Secretary of the Board of Education of Amity Regional School District No. 5 is authorized to prepare, print and distribute a concise explanatory text of the budget referendum question which, by vote of the Board of Education, has been submitted to a referendum vote on the voting machines of each of the member towns, which text shall not advocate either the approval or disapproval of the question and shall otherwise be prepared in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Eichler, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Carlson, Dr. Turner, and Ms. Berke)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Mr. Hurley)

MOTION CARRIED

b. Consideration of and Possible Action on a Funding the Cost of Issuance of the Pending Bonds Refunding (Enclosure)

MOTION by Ms. Cardozo, Second by Ms. Cofrancesco to approve that the cost of issuance for the refunding of the bonds for payment of the outstanding principal of and interest on all or a portion of the District's \$8,695,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Issue of 2010, and \$8,245,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Issue of 2010, Series B, will paid from the 2017-2018 operating budget from the contingency account.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Mr. DeMaio, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Eichler, Ms. Cardozo, Mr. Belfonti, Ms. Carlson, Dr. Turner, and Ms. Berke)

ABSTAINED, 1 (Mr. Hurley)

MOTION CARRIED

c. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements (Enclosure)

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

e. Discussion and Possible Action on Transfers over \$3,000 (Enclosure)

MOTION by Mr. Belfonti, Second by Ms. Carlson, to approve the following budget transfer to cover higher than anticipated natural gas costs:

<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
03-14-2600-5410	Utilities, excluding heat	\$15,000	
03-14-2600-5621	Natural Gas		\$15,000

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (unanimous)

MOTION CARRIED

6. Policy

7. Personnel

8. District Technology

9. District Health and Safety

10. Ad Hoc Shared Services Committee

11. Ad Hoc Security and Wellness Committee

14. Items for the Next Agenda

None

15. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. DeMaio, Second by Ms. Berke, to adjourn meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela Pero
Recording Secretary*

Good evening Superintendent Dumais and members of the Amity Regional Board of Education.
School District #5

My name is Bob Guthrie and I am here on behalf of CBE to recognize the efforts of the Amity Regional School District #5 and to present you with this award.

In order to receive a Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications, entries must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- First, is the general criteria which includes clarity of message, image and consistency.
- Second, the specific guidelines of readability/editing, graphics, type, format/presentation, design and value of expenditure.

I am very happy to present Amity Regional School District with the award for excellence for educational communication for

Amity Region 5 District calendar 2017-2018

This entry was available at both middle schools, high school and district office. All proceeds go to National Art Honor Society.

CBE has been honoring school districts with the Award of Excellence for Educational Communications since 1975. In 2016, the award was renamed in honor of longtime CBE staff member, Bonnie B. Carney, in recognition of her 47 years of dedication to education, focused on communications.

With this award, CBE's goal is to identify and honor the hard working people in school districts for their continuing effort to communicate effectively.

Congratulations!



2018

**NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

****Finalists****



WEIXIN DU



ULADA DUBOVIK



ELIZABETH FRIEDEN



VINCE LI



JUSTINE LUO



SALLY THACH



WEICHU YU





Connecticut Association of Schools



Teacher Recognition of

CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

Awarded to

AMITY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL-BETHANY

*Amy Benton
Kye Camera
Greg Murphy
Marissa Nall
Brennan Orié
Michelle Ortiz
Jennifer Schuchat*

AMITY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL-ORANGE

*Thomas Foley
Elaine Hashemian
Jennifer Marganski
Eric Mills*

AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

*Jackie Cappiello
Linda DeCesare
Sean Malloy
Todd Rainey
Ed Rostowsky
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Carl Teravainen*



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Amy Benton

After researching schools like High Tech High in California and learning of the myriad benefits flexible seating may provide her students, Ms. Benton re-designed her classroom this year with her students' needs and a tight budget in mind. Flexible seating, along with a more open classroom design, fosters student autonomy and empowerment as they are charged with deciding what set up works most effectively for their learning style as well as the task at hand. The main purchase she made was a set of yoga balls for which she traded out the standard, straight-backed classroom chairs. Students not only have the opportunity to bounce and move, but they must also engage their core, posture, and balance, naturally improving their awareness during activities. Ms. Benton also built a platform stage from which her students present, perform, and engage in Readers' Theater activities. Inexpensive padded ottomans and plastic stools have been incorporated into one end of the room as an ever-changing discussion and collaboration space for students. A borrowed set of clipboards help to facilitate written work in this section of the classroom which is affectionately referred to by Ms. Benton's students as "the lounge." Finally, in order to accommodate her students who wished to stand, Ms. Benton upcycled old audio/visual carts into standing desks. With a quick coat of paint and contact paper, these unused carts from the storeroom have found new life as standing desks that are both mobile and just the right height. Ms. Benton even did away with her own big teacher desk in an attempt to model for her students, opting instead for a small computer nook. This allows her more mobility in the classroom and removes the physical barrier between her and her students. Although she has needed to shift her perceptions of classroom management, Ms. Benton has seen increased engagement, smoother collaboration, and students who are naturally making the mind and body connection in a more flexible classroom.

Michelle Ortiz

Ms. Ortiz organized, and the PTSO sponsored, two special community fall events to improve communication and empathy. First, on November 14, Ms. Ortiz organized an incredible opportunity for AMSB students and families to meet Maroon 5 bassist, Mickey Madden, and world-renowned author Colum McCann as they introduced parents and students to the global, empathy organization Narrative 4. The AMSB House Band, our string students, and three brave teachers, who shared their stories using the Narrative4 (N4) model, helped make the night very successful. This was part one of a two-part event in which participants had an opportunity to experience a story exchange, the core methodology of N4. The second N4 event for the AMSB community was held on December 14 and was a Narrative 4 Family Story Exchange. For this event, parents and children came together to experience an inter-generational story exchange. Other staff members who volunteered to assist included: Elisa Laudati, school psychologist, Kara Lanziero, school counselor; and teachers Marissa Nall, Greg Murphy, and Kye Camera.



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Amy Benton

Kye Camera

Greg Murphy

Marissa Nall

Brennan Orie

Michelle Ortiz

Jennifer Schuchat

Kye Camera, Greg Murphy, Marissa Nall, Brennan Orie, Jen Schuchat

Four teachers, Kye Camera, Brennan Orie, Greg Murphy, and Marissa Nall all participated in a new Performance Based Assessment Design (PADI) program with teachers from Amity, Milford and Stratford school districts. They expanded upon an idea, conceived and created by Jen Schuchat, into a large interdisciplinary unit involving English, social studies and music. Students investigate a global issue or local perspective on issues like: access to water, healthcare, education, gender inequality, human rights, terrorism, famine, etc. Students research the issue, create a trifold poster board and free-choice activity to raise awareness of their topic, and write a formal argumentative essay advocating for a response to the issue. These are shared with parents and others at a Global Issues Evening in February. Later in the year, students synthesize social awareness with their knowledge of music by writing their own social protest songs, some of which may be shared at the Spring music concert. Teachers will present this unit at the New England League of Middle Schools Conference in April as an example of how to use learner-centered quality assessment practices and authentic, performance-based assessment tasks designed to produce and measure student learning.



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Awarded to

AMITY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL-ORANGE

Thomas Foley

Elaine Hashemian

Jennifer Marganski

Eric Mills

Thomas Foley

Mr. Foley makes science “come alive”. He has an extraordinary ability to take complex theoretical concepts and develop these concepts into hands-on activities that students can relate to and have fun with. One innovative example of this is the culminating activity that he uses when teaching about the physics of mechanical advantage and simple machines. Mr. Foley sets-up a block and tackle system attached to a bosun chair and suspends it from an I-beam in the Technology Education lab. Students experience real-life application of physics and simple machines when they hoist themselves up off the floor while using very minimal effort as a result of the mechanical advantage of the pulley and rigging. Students are always amazed at how little effort is necessary to lift heavy loads using the mechanical advantage afforded by simple machines. Real-world applications are discussed and students perform pulling force calculations based upon the number and size of the pulleys.

Mr. Foley is able to integrate many creative, engaging and fun ways for students to “experience” science while still maintaining high academic rigor and standards in his class.

Elaine Hashemian

Elaine consistently brings creativity into her classroom. Over the years she has partnered with the Jamie Hulley Foundation and has been awarded grants which have been used for exciting activities for the students. For instance, she has had expert musicians come to our school. We have had two presenters who were fluent in the Art of Flamenco Dancing. They instructed the students as to the background of this art, taught them how to play many of the instruments and the different dances associated with this music. This innovative activities help bring the Spanish language and culture to life for her students.

Elaine is a highly collaborative member of the 7th grade team. She has worked to integrate Spanish culture across the disciplines. For example, students created and decorated authentic musical instruments and worked with the music teacher to instruct students on how to play them and thus they were exposed to authentic Spanish culture in a meaningful way. This year Elaine worked with the art and math teachers to have students create their own representation of the Spanish artist Miro.

Elaine has also coordinated talent shows within her Spanish classes, showing students that they can be creative on many levels with many languages. They have showcased their talents of dance, acting and other hobbies.

Elaine is also creative outside of the classroom. She is working on a book and has written and performed many of her poems. She is energetic and talented and brings this enthusiasm to her students.



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Jennifer Marganski

We are pleased to recommend Jennifer Marganski, for CAS recognition of Creativity and Innovation. As a social studies teacher, Jen is always looking for ways to engage students in meaningful work that allows them to explore and understand social studies concepts. Jen's commitment to innovation is evidenced by her participation in the Performance Assessment Design Initiative (PADI) training last summer. The performance assessments created through PADI must be relevant, meaningful and authentic. Exemplary PADI tasks allow for students to reach beyond the classroom to explore issues, ideas and problems in the real world.

Jen created a performance task for her 8th grade students that centers on the use of political cartoons as a means to express a personal bias and/or influence public opinion on an issue. Students have worked throughout the year examining political cartoons as a means to understand different perspectives of key issues throughout U.S. History. As a culmination of this work, students will work with a local cartoonist to research a current issue and draw their own cartoon. To further extend student learning, and provide students with an authentic audience for their work, Jen is working with the local papers to have the student work published.

Jen's creativity and dedication to her students is further evident in the variety of student work that is displayed throughout her room. Students are given a variety of materials and are encouraged to demonstrate their learning in novel ways.

Eric Mills

Mr. Mills' health classes have a high level of student engagement. Students are frequently seen participating in self-directed, creative activities that explore current social, emotional and health issues that middle school students face. In one such project, students, working in teams, choose a topic that has been discussed in class and create a "public service announcement video" on the topic. In this exemplar activity, students research the topic, develop the story line, assign students to perform as actors/actresses and record the video. Students work on editing and adding special effects to the videos. Some of the best videos are shown to the entire school via closed circuit television. The public service announcements are original creations of the students, and when broadcast, are of great value in reinforcing positive responses to issues facing young adolescents. When broadcast, they are always received favorably by faculty, staff and students.

Mr. Mills is also a passionate advocate for our quest to develop and implement an advisory program at AMSO. He continues to research and offer a number of creative and innovative activities for students and teachers regarding this endeavor. He also works with students to coordinate our unique "Spartan Songs" program on the morning news which the students love! Mr. Mills' mantra is "let's always do what's best for students".



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AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Jackie Cappiello

Linda DeCesare

Sean Malloy

Todd Rainey

Ed Rostowsky

Michelle Shoop

Carl Teravainen

Beginning in the spring of 2017, this group of teachers began planning and designing a sustainable, community-building project for the Amity High School Alternative (A-School) Program: a fully functioning aviary at Amity Regional High School. The objective of the project was to create a focal point for the A-School that could be used for interdisciplinary curricular purposes as well as have long-term program/community building possibilities. These teachers worked to secure funding, design field trips, oversee the construction and installation of the 2 hives and solidified a relationship with local beekeeping experts to create the A-School program “The Hive.”

The Hive was developed in a joint effort between students and teachers, including conceiving the project idea, planning it, securing the funding, building the actual hive boxes, installation, summer maintenance and long-term sustainable planning. The A-School keeps their actual bee hives on the roof of the high school building and is able to access the hives to check on the health of the bees, deliver sugar water and assure adequate structural maintenance. Students work with their teachers to keep up the hive, have completed interdisciplinary activities around with data and other information from the hives and have long-term goals of working with local farms to gather and distribute honey.

Each one of these educators has had an important role in this project and in the lives of students at Amity Regional High School by helping our students make relevant and meaningful connections between their school work and their outside experiences.