

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**  
*Bethany Orange Woodbridge*  
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge Connecticut 06525  
(203) 397-4811

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*Charles Dumais*  
**Superintendent of Schools**

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**AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*January 12, 2015*

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 12, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Amity Regional High School.

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Regular BOE Meeting, December 8, 2014 (Enclosure)
4. Public Comment
5. Student Report
6. Correspondence
7. Presentation and Discussion of Superintendent's Proposed 2015-2016 Budget
8. Superintendent's Report
  - a. Personnel Report (Enclosure)
  - b. Other (Enclosure)
9. Chairman's Report
  - a. Committee Reports
    1. ACES
    2. CABA
    3. Curriculum
    4. Facilities
      - a. Facilities Dept. – Monthly Report (December) (Enclosure)
      - b. Presentation of CABA Award for Facilities Annual Report

- 5. Finance
- 6. Policy
  - a. Second Reading & Possible Vote – Policy 6146.1 (Enclosure)
  - b. Second Reading & Possible Vote – Policy 5131.911
  - c. First Reading – Policy 0521 (Enclosure)
  - d. First Reading – Policy 3541 (Enclosure)
- 7. Personnel
  - a. Discussion of Tentative Agreement with Teachers' Bargaining Unit (Executive Session)
  - b. Possible Vote on Tentative Agreement with Teachers' Bargaining Unit
  
- 10. Items for the Next Agenda
  
- 11. Adjournment



Charles Dunais  
Superintendent of Schools

CD/kfw  
pc: Town Clerks: Bethany  
Orange  
Woodbridge

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**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 397-4811.

MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. William Blake, Mr. Christopher Browe, , Ms. Sue Cohen, Ms. Diane Crocco, Mr. Steven DeMaio. Ms. Rita Gedansky, Mr. John Grasso, Jr., Mr. Thomas Hurley, Ms. Sheila McCreven, and Mr. James Stirling.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Mr. James Horwitz and Ms. Tracy Lane Russo

**Staff members present:** Mr. Charles Dumais, Mr. Jack Levine, Dr. Marie McPadden, Ms. Terry Lumas, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Ms. Sara Frank, Ms. Raola, Ms. Edwards and Ms. Filash.

**Also present:** Mrs. Ruth Natzel, Mr. George Grotheer and other members of the public.

A regular meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, December 08, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria at Amity Regional High School.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman William Blake called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by those present.
3. **Recognition of Ms. Sara Frank , recipient of Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Recognition of Excellence**  
Mr. Dumais read the nomination of Sara Frank for the CAS award who teaches art at Amity Middle School Bethany. Dr. Dellinger presented Ms. Frank with the plaque commemorating her award.
4. **Recognition of and presentation by Summer Sidekicks program** – Ms. Raola introduced Ms. Lynn Edwards and Ms. Vicki Filash who developed the Summer Sidekicks program to help students. A short video was presented about the program. The students listed below have all volunteered for 2 or more years in the Sidekicks program for a total of 1,200 hours. Nick Huntsingo, Abby Chamberlain, Catilin Perrone, Julia Wilde, Matthew Schmidt, Lauren, Calin and Emily Shea.

Chairman Blake commended the students for their achievements and thanked the family and friends in attendance for coming. Mr. Blake stated the Board would take a short break at 6:55 pm. The Board reconvened at 7:05 pm

5. **Approval of minutes.**
  - A. Regular BOE meeting, November 10, 2014

***A motion was made by Mr. Hurley, seconded by Ms. Crocco, to accept the minutes as submitted.***

Corrections needed to be made to the minutes as follows:

Sheila McCreven's name needs to be added to the attendance list.

Time of call to order for the meeting should be 6:34 p.m., not 5:34 p.m.

Executive session should note that Mr. Dumais was invited to stay for the session.

***Chairman Blake called the motion that the minutes be approved with corrections.***

**Vote unanimous with one abstention (Mr. DeMaio)**

**Motion carried**

{NOTE: Corrections were made and the minutes for November 10, 2014 were resubmitted}

6. **Possible action on acceptance of donations.** Mr. Dumais recommended that the Board accept two donations:
  1. A grant of \$1,000.00 from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation to Amity Middle School for the drama and arts.
  2. A gift of \$13,310.00 to the Amity Board of Education from Mr. and Mrs. Flamenhaft for the purchase of new sound equipment.

Mr. Levine and Mr. Dumais recommended that the Board accept both of these gifts and in the case of the second gift, waiving the bidding requirement. The Finance Committee recommends accepting this gift and waiving the bidding requirement.

***Motion made by Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Cohen to accept the gift of \$1,000 from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation and the gift of \$13,310.00 from Alan and Carol Flaumenhaft with deep gratitude and authorize the purchase of new sound equipment from Full Compass Systems. Further, the Amity Board of Education waives the bidding requirement for the purchase of the sound equipment.***

A question regarding the reason for waiving the bidding requirement was asked and satisfactorily answered.

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

Mr. Blake expressed thanks from the Board to the Flaumenhafts and Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.

**7. Public comment**

Ms. Cohen spoke about the production she attended "New York" and complimented Mr. Kennedy and the whole production. Amity can be proud of these students.

Mr. Browe spoke about the concert at Amity Middle School in Bethany. Concert brought to light the fact that there is only one string bass at the high school and one has just been purchased. More will be needed because there are more string players coming up. Support needed for orchestra and band programs.

- 8. Student Report** – Student report was given by George Grotheer. Fall play "New York" concluded this morning. Mr. Grotheer was in the cast and it has been judged an enormous success. The cast took a field trip to NYC, met the playwright and went to the 9-11 Memorial and the 9-11 Museum. Winter Concert will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. A mock car crash hosted on November 18<sup>th</sup> followed by a guest speaker sponsored by Students Against Destructive Decisions Club. Amity High School participated in the Real World Challenge. The annual Spirit week was held in November.

Chairman Blake requested that the Board to move to item #11, #5A., auditors report.

***Motion by Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Crocco to move to item #11, #5A.***

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

**11. 5. Finance**

**a. Discussion and Possible Action on Audited Financial Statements**

**1. Review of Audited Financial Statements by Auditors**

Ms. Hawkins, Ms. Backhaus and Ms. Thomas presented the report to the Board. The audit was clean, with no material deficiencies or weaknesses.

Mr. Blake directed that the Board return to the regular agenda, #9.

**9. Correspondence - None**

**10. Superintendent's report**

**A. Personnel Report** – (attached) new hire and 2 retirees.

**B. Other** – United Illuminating – report on 2 separate issues, advancing the fuel cell project as well as MicroGrid. A walk-through took place with three developers this week who will be submitting bids to provide the fuel cell. Updates will be forthcoming as we go into the budget season.

Monthly facilities update – (report attached) There was a recent water backup problem at the high school but damage was kept to a minimum with excellent management by Mr. Saisa and the facilities team.

Mr. Dumais requested a time to meet with the Board to discuss his own performance and he will be sending a form out to Board members to use in their evaluation of him. The form will contain goals and professional standards. He further suggestion that the Board consider a self-evaluation using CABE's tool for that at that time.

Budget update – The goal of the budget team is to be fiscally responsible and supportive of programs. Mr. Dumais spoke about the current process and how it differs from past years. A team process has been implemented that has shown good results in terms of teamwork and cost savings.

Assessment of students versus perception of students. Steps are being taken to develop a strategy for addressing the actual assessment of students rather than the perception.

Graduation rates recently released by the State of Connecticut. (see attached)

Update on goals:

Leadership - Seniors running their own planning and placement team (PPT) meetings. Assistant Director of Finance position provides additional leadership. Teachers doing in-services for their peers.

Personalization – information is being gathered and used to further personalize curriculum and grading. Instruction and curriculum – Recognition of teacher Sara Frank. English-language learners (ELL) program is growing. Universal assessments are being studied. Common Core training for adjunct staff is being studied.

Security – NIMS (National Incident Management System) training will take place. Custodians have been equipped with radios. Alert Solutions was successfully tested and then used.

Anti-Defamation League was at the high school for some assemblies and workshops for students.

Jack Levine and Jim Saisa arranged for a company called RoVic (Hillyard-RoVic) to evaluate custodial operations, etc.

## 11. Chairman's Report

### A. Committee Reports

1. **ACES** – none. Summer pilot program will take place, more information will be forthcoming.
2. **CABE** – Ms. McCreven reported on the recent conference. There was much discussion regarding a parent's right to opt students out of testing and the big changes in the Connecticut State Department of Education. Many of the presentation documents are available online. Jack Levine made an excellent presentation at the conference.
3. **Curriculum** – Did not meet. The Committee is awaiting the receipt of text books.
4. **Facilities** – Did not meet. Upcoming meeting on December 16, 2014. The agenda will include design issues at the two middle schools and looking at the 5-year capital plan and how to fit it into the budget process.

The 5-year technology plan is being developed and will come before a Board subcommittee.

### 5. Finance

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Annual Financial Statements

*Motion by Mr. Stirling, second by Ms. Crocco to accept the audit statements as presented.*

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Return Funds to Member Towns

*Motion made by Mr. Stirling, second by Ms. Gedansky to accept the Annual Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2014, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to return to the Member Towns a balance of \$62,660, as follows:*

<i>Town of Bethany</i>	<i>\$12,559</i>
<i>Town of Orange</i>	<i>\$31,290</i>
<i>Town of Woodbridge</i>	<i><u>\$18,811</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$62,660</i>

Discussion followed regarding funds being returned to the towns and where they came from.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Composite Investment Policy Statements for pension, Sick & Severance and OPEB Trust - This was acted on by the Finance Committee. Information is included in the packet. Mr. Levine explained that this was presented in November after a presentation by Mr. Goss.

Mr. Hurley recused himself from this discussion and vote.

*Motion made by Ms. Crocco, second by Ms. Gedansky to adopt the three composite investment strategies as in the accompanying finance packet.*

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

c. Presentation and Discussion of Superintendent's Update of 2015-2016 Budget  
This was covered by Mr. Dumais under 10.B

d. Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts of \$35,000 or More - Mr. Levine recommended that the Amity Finance Committee and Board of Education approve a budget transfer to pay special education expenditures.

*Motion by Ms. McCreven, second by Ms. Crocco to make a budget transfer of \$45,000 to pay special education expenses from account number 04-12-6130-5560 Tuition Expense to account number 04-12-6110-5560 Tuition Expense.*

Mr. Levine spoke about the project of getting all printers on the same program; the cost is higher but the savings are greater. The new two-year contract requires a monthly base charge of \$2,980.02. The total annual base amount is \$35,760.24, or \$71,520.48 over the 24-month period. This includes supplies and service for an additional 59 printers from the original contract. The total number of devices will be 136. Mr. Levine recommends that the contract be awarded to Xerox.

*Motion by Ms McCraven, second by Ms. Crocco to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Xerox contract for toner, maintenance kits and fusers, as well as service, for the District's printers, for the monthly charge of \$2,980.02 for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016, inclusive. The District will pay \$0.019 per black and white print and \$0.160 per color print over and above the base volume. The Board's bidding requirement is waived.*

Mr. Hurley questions the negotiation coming up for the copiers and questions bidding this as a package with the printers.

Vote unanimous

Motion carried

e. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements – no questions

f. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000 – none.

g. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More – This was already covered, item #11, #3d.

6. **Policy** – Mr. Hurley presented two policies for a first reading. (enclosure). Mr. Hurley Stated that the committee is working toward a goal of presenting two policies at a time to the Board for their consideration.

a. First Reading – Policy 5131.911 - bullying and teen dating violence

Discussion followed regarding what would be included or referenced in the student handbook and coordination of information dissemination electronically using InfoSnap. The handbook will contain a summary rather than the entire policy. Mr. Dumais has asked the principals of the two middle schools and the high school to coordinate student policies for the whole of grades 7 through 12 so there will be only one handbook. Any changes made to the handbook during the school year would be disseminated and need to be accepted by the student and/or parents.

b. First Reading – Policy 6146.1 - change in method of calculation of GPA.

Discussion and questions followed regarding the change and whether or not it is necessary or beneficial for the students at Amity. The use of a 4-point scale is beneficial for students and there was very uneven weighting of the grades previously and this now incorporates all credit-bearing courses. This new calculation also meshes with the new software in use. Discussion followed regarding what current students should be putting on their college applications now, particularly the "common application", a 4-point scale or 20-point scale. There will not be a negative impact for any student with this change. There was discussion of definitions of Advanced Placement (AP), level 1, level 2 and level 3 courses and the point decrement so that students are not punished or rewarded for taking more difficult or easier classes. Next Policy Committee meeting is on December 18, 2014.

Mr. Hurley requested that a public comment session added to the Policy Committee meeting agenda and the policies put on the website so that comments can be made and questions asked by parents and the public. Mr. Dumais noted that an email from the principal indicated that this policy change for GPA would be coming before the Board.

7. **Personnel** – negotiations continue with the teaching staff.

16. **Items for next agenda** – Please forward any items for the next agenda to Mr. Dumais or Mr. Blake.

Mr. DeMaio requested a copy of the second part of the study. Mr. Dumais stated he will have a summary of that.

17. **Adjournment**

*Motion was made by Mr. Hurley, second by Ms. Gedansky to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.*

**Vote unanimous**

**Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk

Thomas Hurley, Secretary



**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**  
**Bethany Orange Woodbridge**  
**25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525**



*Charles S. Dumais*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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January 12, 2015

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Charles Dumais, Superintendent of Schools

Re: Personnel Report

New Hire(s):

Amity Reg. District Offices – Woodbridge: NONE

Amity Reg. High School – Woodbridge:

Marian Boyns – Guidance Counselor – Ms. Boyns is a recent graduate from Fairfield University with her MA in School Counseling. She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Psychology from Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA.

Amity Reg. Middle School – Bethany:

Rose Liebnick – Paraprofessional

Amity Reg. Middle Schools – Orange: NONE

Coaches:

Amity Reg. High School – Woodbridge: NONE

Amity Reg. Middle Schools – Bethany / Orange: NONE

Leave(s) of Absence: NONE

Resignation(s): NONE

Retirement(s): NONE



# AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

BETHANY • ORANGE • WOODBRIDGE

25 NEWTON ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525 (203) 397-4830

December 18, 2014

Dear Chip:

The alumni survey confirms much of what we already know about the perceptions of Amity High School, and has raised other questions that need to be investigated. The best way to use the alumni survey data to improve the experience for current and future students is to supplement the alumni survey data with data from current and future cohorts of students. To that end, I recommend surveying current students in an effort to do develop an understanding of the realities associated with drug and alcohol use, and other at-risk behaviors among current students at Amity High School. I recommend gathering perceptions of current students through the following:

1. In consultation with the Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Network (VSAAC), the Amity Student Assistance Counselor, Gary Lindgren, has identified a school health survey. The school health survey has been shared with the Amity Wellness Committee. I recommend that the Wellness Committee vet and select a student health survey instrument. Once selected, I recommend administering the survey to all students in grades 7, 9 and 11 this winter/spring. The data from this survey will provide insight into the current status of student health, including drug and alcohol use, the effects of stress, perceptions of self and school, and other matters related to teen health issues. This data will be used to inform school practices. I recommend administering the survey annually. Over time, the data may be used to identify and respond to trends in student health.
2. I recommend administering a School Climate Survey to all students at the end of first semester. This mid-year school climate survey will be used to inform ongoing school improvement efforts.
3. Per new teacher and administrator evaluation guidelines, all Amity Regional High School students will be asked to take a School Climate Survey in May. This student feedback will be used to evaluate the success of ongoing school improvement initiatives.
4. Per new teacher and administrator evaluation guidelines, all Region 5 teachers will administer end-of-course surveys to students in May. Per the plan's guidelines, many Amity High School teachers have also elected to administer mid-course surveys. These surveys will provide teachers direct insight into student perceptions.

Feedback from current students will be compared to the alumni survey data, and used to inform ongoing school improvement initiatives, and strengthen ongoing programming, particularly related to drug and alcohol counseling, curriculum, and related supports.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Britton, Ed.D  
Principal, Amity Regional High School

	Connecticut				Overall			
	ARHS % Rating	Category Average % Rating	Difference % Rating	Rank Percentage	ARHS % Rating	Category Average % Rating	Difference % Rating	Rank Percentage
Employment Communication Skills	60.0	65.0	(5.0)	33.3%	60.0	87.6	(27.6)	4.4%
Employment Technical Skills	80.0	80.0	0.0	100.0%	80.0	70.5	9.5	62.9%
Employment Mathematics Skills	60.0	65.0	(5.0)	33.3%	60.0	77.4	(17.4)	21.8%
Employment Problem Solving/Thinking	80.0	93.6	(13.6)	0.0%	80.0	85.1	(5.1)	21.2%
Employment Interpersonal Skills	60.0	56.7	3.3	33.3%	60.0	79.3	(19.3)	9.3%
Employment Job Seeking Skills	60.0	65.0	(5.0)	33.3%	60.0	74.3	(14.3)	18.7%
Preparation as a College Freshman	43.9	33.3	10.6	100.0%	43.9	32.4	11.5	82.1%
College Reading Level	91.8	88.8	3.0	75.0%	91.8	88.5	3.3	66.6%
College Study Load/Time Management	78.7	70.4	8.3	100.0%	78.7	70.2	8.5	78.1%
College Written Assignments	87.5	78.2	9.3	100.0%	87.5	79.2	8.3	84.3%
College Mathematics Level	81.5	77.4	4.1	75.0%	81.5	74.9	6.6	77.6%
College Research Techniques/Skills	71.8	65.3	6.5	100.0%	71.8	70.4	1.4	55.8%
College Computer Usage	90.9	88.4	2.5	100.0%	90.9	89.0	1.9	58.6%
Placed at a Higher Level or Exempted	57.2	53.6	3.6	100.0%	57.2	49.1	8.1	78.6%
Remedial Coursework in English	15.0	23.4	(8.4)	0.0%	15.0	25.6	(10.6)	7.8%
Remedial Coursework in Mathematics	16.6	23.6	(7.0)	0.0%	16.6	25.0	(8.4)	11.1%
To accept employment responsibilities	3.75	3.60	0.15	50.0%	3.75	3.68	0.07	58.6%
To accept citizenship responsibilities	3.94	3.82	0.12	75.0%	3.94	3.75	0.19	79.8%
To make informed career choices	3.61	3.29	0.32	100.0%	3.61	3.52	0.09	58.9%
To make informed educational choices	4.03	3.72	0.32	100.0%	4.03	3.82	0.21	76.5%
To make informed healthy life style choices	3.44	3.48	(0.04)	50.0%	3.44	3.55	(0.11)	27.1%
Appreciation of the Arts	3.77	3.43	0.34	100.0%	3.77	3.66	0.11	65.1%
Computer/Technology Skills	3.83	3.59	0.24	100.0%	3.83	3.71	0.12	73.8%
Foreign/World Language Skills	3.72	3.34	0.38	100.0%	3.72	3.42	0.30	76.6%
Grammar Skills	4.10	3.68	0.42	100.0%	4.10	3.77	0.33	87.0%
Group Work/Teamwork Skills	4.07	3.94	0.14	66.6%	4.07	3.86	0.21	79.8%
Listening Skills	4.13	3.93	0.20	100.0%	4.13	3.97	0.16	78.0%
Mathematics Skills	3.89	3.85	0.04	50.0%	3.89	3.77	0.12	68.5%
Oral Presentation/Public Speaking Skills	3.73	3.41	0.32	100.0%	3.73	3.58	0.15	61.4%
Problem Solving/Thinking Skills	4.05	3.92	0.13	100.0%	4.05	3.92	0.13	71.1%
Reading Skills	4.20	4.01	0.19	100.0%	4.20	4.03	0.17	77.7%
Research Skills	3.71	3.54	0.17	50.0%	3.71	3.71	0.00	55.0%
Science Skills	3.73	3.62	0.11	50.0%	3.73	3.75	(0.02)	46.6%
Study Skills	3.79	3.48	0.31	100.0%	3.79	3.49	0.30	78.1%
Writing Skills	4.17	3.83	0.34	100.0%	4.17	3.89	0.28	85.3%
Art	4.30	3.87	0.43	100.0%	4.30	4.03	0.27	86.4%
Business Education	3.83	3.80	0.03	50.0%	3.83	3.82	0.01	48.2%
Computer Education	3.90	3.89	0.01	50.0%	3.90	3.81	0.09	58.3%
English	4.38	4.05	0.33	100.0%	4.38	4.06	0.32	91.8%
Family and Consumer Science	4.00	4.00	0.00	50.0%	4.00	3.96	0.04	50.0%
Foreign/World Languages	3.80	3.60	0.20	75.0%	3.80	3.64	0.16	71.6%
Health Education	3.67	3.66	0.02	66.6%	3.67	3.72	(0.05)	38.8%
Mathematics	3.89	3.84	0.05	50.0%	3.89	3.84	0.05	55.8%
Music	4.01	4.03	(0.02)	50.0%	4.01	4.14	(0.13)	36.4%
Physical Education	3.85	3.74	0.11	100.0%	3.85	3.84	0.01	51.8%
Resource Room/Learning Support	4.12	4.06	0.06	100.0%	4.12	3.75	0.37	81.6%
Science	3.81	3.84	(0.03)	25.0%	3.81	3.91	(0.10)	24.3%
Social Studies	4.08	3.91	0.17	100.0%	4.08	4.02	0.06	54.0%

Amity Regional High School

	Connecticut				Overall			
	ARHS % Rating	Category Average % Rating	Difference % Rating	Rank Percentage	ARHS % Rating	Category Average % Rating	Difference % Rating	Rank Percentage
Technology Education	3.95	3.88	0.07	50.0%	3.95	3.82	0.13	60.1%
Availability to provide extra help	4.22	4.19	0.03	50.0%	4.22	4.31	(0.09)	11.3%
Used a variety of teaching techniques	3.80	3.75	0.05	100.0%	3.80	3.93	(0.13)	17.3%
Fairness in grading students	3.95	3.92	0.03	100.0%	3.95	4.07	(0.12)	18.7%
Held high expectations for students	4.21	4.07	0.14	100.0%	4.21	4.13	0.08	67.3%
Clearly communicated expectations to students	3.99	3.99	(0.00)	0.0%	3.99	4.05	(0.06)	25.0%
Fostered an environment which helped students	4.00	4.01	(0.01)	50.0%	4.00	4.09	(0.09)	4.1%
Course Planning Services	3.95	3.59	0.36	100.0%	3.95	3.75	0.20	74.2%
Schedule Adjustment Services	3.88	3.44	0.45	100.0%	3.88	3.73	0.15	60.2%
Help with Academic Problems	3.72	3.48	0.24	50.0%	3.72	3.65	0.07	50.0%
Help with Personal Problems	3.78	3.60	0.18	75.0%	3.78	3.62	0.16	66.0%
Career Exploration and Planning	3.26	3.37	(0.11)	33.3%	3.26	3.38	(0.12)	35.2%
College Planning Services	3.60	3.32	0.28	75.0%	3.60	3.52	0.08	62.8%
Career and Job Resources	2.97	2.78	0.20	100.0%	2.97	3.23	(0.26)	23.0%
Availability of Counselors	3.80	3.57	0.23	75.0%	3.80	3.72	0.08	65.5%
Availability of Resources	3.97	3.73	0.24	100.0%	3.97	3.92	0.05	61.2%
Helpfulness of Staff	3.58	3.30	0.28	50.0%	3.58	3.67	(0.09)	38.7%
Quality/Quantity of Print Materials	3.81	3.63	0.18	75.0%	3.81	3.83	(0.02)	44.2%
Study Climate	3.65	3.51	0.14	75.0%	3.65	3.68	(0.03)	38.7%
Athletics	4.38	4.32	0.06	33.3%	4.38	4.23	0.15	77.0%
Clubs	4.05	3.94	0.11	100.0%	4.05	4.02	0.03	56.7%
Drama/Theatre	4.42	4.28	0.14	66.6%	4.42	4.31	0.11	60.0%
Music	4.15	4.23	(0.08)	50.0%	4.15	4.32	(0.17)	20.5%
Publications	3.88	4.05	(0.17)	66.6%	3.88	3.97	(0.09)	38.8%
Student Government/Student Council	3.72	3.68	0.04	66.6%	3.72	3.80	(0.08)	39.5%
Alcohol	31.3	35.3	(4.0)	66.6%	31.3	33.8	(2.5)	47.7%
Bullying/Harassment	32.2	34.3	(2.1)	50.0%	32.2	26.7	5.5	70.4%
Cheating	44.9	37.8	7.1	66.6%	44.9	35.8	9.1	80.5%
Drugs	63.0	43.9	19.1	100.0%	63.0	40.4	22.6	98.9%
Lack of School Pride/Spirit	36.4	31.8	4.6	66.6%	36.4	25.5	10.9	87.9%
School Safety	5.7	8.7	(3.0)	33.3%	5.7	7.0	(1.3)	51.6%
Sexual Harassment	10.5	8.8	1.7	100.0%	10.5	9.6	0.9	57.6%
Smoking	55.1	42.0	13.1	100.0%	55.1	31.5	23.6	98.3%
Social Acceptance	36.7	33.0	3.7	66.6%	36.7	34.4	2.3	69.2%
Vandalism	19.0	16.5	2.5	100.0%	19.0	19.6	(0.6)	54.5%
Respect by Administration	82.9	85.2	(2.3)	50.0%	82.9	84.9	(2.0)	33.7%
Respect by Teachers	95.4	94.5	0.9	75.0%	95.4	93.5	1.9	70.1%
Respect by Other Students	86.4	84.9	1.5	75.0%	86.4	83.2	3.2	81.3%
Respect by Secretarial/Aide Staff	88.7	92.2	(3.5)	25.0%	88.7	91.4	(2.7)	22.4%
Present Feelings of Years at High School	3.95	3.91	0.04	50.0%	3.95	3.94	0.01	45.9%

NOTES:

1. Average is the average for this item for all research studies from 2008-2014
2. Rank Percentage is the rank for this item for all research studies from 2008-2014 (the higher the rank the more favorable except for percentage taking remedial coursework in college and perceived problems at high school)
3. For "Yes/No" Questions, the % indicating "Yes" is shown.

December, 2014

## Amity Regional School District No. 5

CLEAN

SAFE

HEALTHY

SCHOOLS

### Facilities Department Monthly Report

#### Completed Projects:

- The new sink was installed in the Art Room at Amity Regional High School.
- Peeling paint in the gym at Bethany Middle School was sanded and the walls were repainted
- There was a sewage backup at Amity Regional High School on December 3, 2014. All of the cleanup work was done expeditiously and the replacement materials were all ordered and installed except for the rubber tiles for the weight room. The manufacturer is trying to match the interlock pattern to the older existing flooring. We have put temporary mats in place so the weight room can be used. All repair and replacement invoices will be sent to the insurance company for reimbursement.
- All hard surface floors were burnished during the holiday break.
- All code-required semi-annual inspections were conducted over the Holiday break and came back satisfactory.

#### Projects in process:

- The tuckpointing repairs for Amity Regional High School are still in process.
- The work on the cooling tower will commence January 5, 2015.
- The parts for the Trane Chillers have arrived and will be installed the week of January 5, 2015. They will be calibrated upon spring startup.

#### Outstanding issues to be addressed:

- We are working on a lighting retrofit to change the house lights in the John J. Brady Center from 500 watt halogen lights to 18 watt LED'S, which will result in savings. The initial bulb we installed was found out not to be compatible with the dimming system for full dimming. SuperTech may have a solution and they are working on a sample so it can be tested. We are now looking to couple this project with changing the street lighting on the driveway to the field house to further enhance savings.
- Some rippling of a small section of gym floor at Orange Middle School was discovered right before the Holiday break. We had a vendor come and evaluate the situation. Since there were no water leaks and there is no piping under the floor, it is thought the cause may have been some foundation dampness during one of the heavy rains. He suggested trying to dry under the floor and monitor the status. It should lay back down by itself after several weeks. We are monitoring the status.

Amity Regional School  
District No. 5

25 Newton Road

Woodbridge, CT 06525

Phone: 203-397-4817

Fax: 203-397-4864





# AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

BETHANY • ORANGE • WOODBRIDGE

25 NEWTON ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525 (203) 397-4830

December 19, 2014

Dear Amity Parent/Student:

The Region 5 Board of Education Policy Committee is considering a change to the way Quality Point Average (QPA) is calculated. The change has been recommended by the high school administration. This letter and FAQ sheet provide an overview of the proposed change and an explanation for the need to change.

The high school administration conducted an analysis comparing the existing QPA formula to the proposed weighted GPA (Grade Point Average) formula. Using existing final course grades, distribution graphs were created using the QPA formula and the proposed weighted GPA formula. The distribution graphs were then compared. The two calculations produced similar distribution graphs.

Historically, Amity Regional High School reported an unweighted GPA and weighted QPA for all students annually and cumulatively. The unweighted GPA was calculated on a 4.0 scale. The QPA was calculated on a 20-point scale using Amity's 5-credit model for each full-year course, and a leveling system based on five course levels (see page 22 in the Amity Student Handbook). The unweighted GPA and QPA were used to create two distribution graphs. The unweighted GPA and QPA were reported on student transcripts. The unweighted GPA and QPA distribution graphs were provided to colleges/universities via the Amity Regional High School Profile.

The confluence of three factors has accelerated the need to change QPA reporting. First, Amity Regional High School transitioned from the 5-credit Amity model for each full-year course to the Carnegie Unit based on 1 credit for each full-year course. This change was made to bring Amity into alignment with credit reporting systems used by the vast majority of high schools in Connecticut and nationwide. Second, Amity Regional High School has reduced levels from 5 to 4. Level 4 courses were eliminated as part of the redesign of special education programming necessary to promote the least restrictive environment for Amity students. Third, Amity Regional High School transitioned from iPASS to PowerSchool. PowerSchool does not have the capacity to calculate a 20-point QPA. Therefore, we need to make a policy adjustment at the conclusion of first semester.

The proposed policy change involves reporting an unweighted GPA based on a 4.30 GPA scale, and a weighted GPA based on a 5.30 GPA scale. The weighted GPA formula supports the Carnegie Unit and considers weighting based on four levels of academic courses. In addition, it is aligned with best practices used in high schools across Connecticut, recognized by college/university admission offices, and supported by PowerSchool.



# AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

BETHANY • ORANGE • WOODBRIDGE

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Parents and students are welcome and encouraged to comment on this proposed policy change and all other proposed policy changes being considered by the Region 5 Board of Education. Click the following link to access all the proposed policy changes and an electronic bulletin board where comments will be accepted – [BOE Draft Policy Feedback](#). Parents are also welcome to communicate with counselors or members of the administration.

Sincerely,

Charles Britton, Ed.D  
Principal, Amity Regional High School

FAQ – Proposed Policy Change to GPA Reporting

Q: What is GPA?

A: A Grade Point Average (GPA) is an average of the grade points of the courses students have taken.

Q: What is an unweighted GPA?

A: An unweighted GPA is a straight average of the grade points of the courses students have taken.

Q: What is the proposed unweighted GPA scale?

A: Proposed Unweighted GPA Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Scale
A+	97-100	4.30
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70
D+	67-69	1.30
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.70
F	0-59	0.00



Q: What is a weighted GPA?

A: A weighted GPA is a system through which added points are given based on course level.

Q: What is the proposed weighted GPA Scale?

A: Proposed weighted GPA Scale

Number Grade	Letter Grade	H/AP	L1	L2	L3
97-100	A+	5.30	4.80	4.30	3.80
93-96	A	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50
90-92	A-	4.70	4.20	3.70	3.20
87-89	B+	4.30	3.80	3.30	2.80
83-86	B	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.50
80-82	B-	3.70	3.20	2.70	2.20
77-79	C+	3.30	2.80	2.30	1.80
73-76	C	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.50
70-72	C-	2.70	2.20	1.70	1.20
67-69	D+	2.30	1.80	1.30	.80
63-66	D	2.00	1.50	1.00	.50
60-62	D-	1.70	1.20	0.70	0.20
0-59	F	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Q: What course levels are offered at Amity High School?

A: Level Description

1. Level Honors/Advanced Placement courses are those which are most rigorous and require superior scholarship.
2. Level 1 courses require demonstrated, sound scholarship and study skills. The curriculum is comprehensive, very challenging, and provides advanced college and career preparation.

3. Level 2 courses offer a challenging and comprehensive curriculum requiring above-average academic ability.
4. Level 3 courses provide a foundation for academic work in post-secondary schools and colleges.
5. Combined Level/Contract Level courses create a heterogeneous learning environment in which students contract, depending on the course, for Honors, Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 work. The contracted weight determines the value of the course for Weighted Grade Point Average calculation.
6. Level Elective courses are challenging and provide a comprehensive curriculum which requires above-average academic ability. Level Elective courses are calculated as L2 in Weighted Grade Point Average Calculation.

Q: What does weighted GPA accomplish?

A: Weighted GPA is used to establish a distribution graph based on student grades.

Q: Does Amity report the distribution graph?

A: Yes. An unweighted GPA distribution graph and a weighted GPA distribution graph will be included with the Amity High School Profile.

Q: Does Amity use weighted GPA to report class rank?

A: No.

Q: Are all courses included in weighted and unweighted GPA?

A: No. For the Class of 2015, Class of 2016, Class of 2017, and Class of 2018, Physical Education, Health, Special Education classes, non-elective reading courses, and pass/fail courses will not be included. However, for the Class of 2019 and all classes thereafter, credit-bearing courses will be included.

Q: Why do we need to change now? Why not continue reporting QPA as Amity has done for many years?

A: Amity is now using a student management software called PowerSchool. PowerSchool does not have the capabilities necessary to calculate QPA. Additionally, the change from the 5-credit model to the Carnegie Unit, and elimination of level 4 courses from the Program of Studies necessitates the change.

Q: Is weighted and unweighted GPA used in other Connecticut High Schools?

A: Yes. The administration researched GPA reporting in all Connecticut high schools with demographics similar to Amity High School. Every school similar to Amity uses weighted and unweighted GPA. The scales differ slightly, but the process is the same. Many schools use the exact same scales that we have proposed.

Q: What is the proposed policy the Region 5 Board of Education is considering?

A: Proposed Policy 6146.1(a)

**6146.1(a)**

## **Instruction Grading/Assessment Systems**

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

A Grade Point Average shall be implemented for the high school in accordance with the guidelines set forth and published annually in the high school parent/student handbook. Beginning with the Class of 2019, all credit-bearing courses\* will be included in weighted and unweighted Grade Point Average calculations. Parents and students shall be advised annually, via the school's parent/student handbook, of this position and the specifics of the weighted grading program.

**Unweighted Grade Point Average**

An Unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated for each student. The following scale will be used to calculate an Unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA).

**Unweighted GPA Scale**

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Scale
A+	97-100	4.30
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70
D+	67-69	1.30
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.70
F	0-59	0.00
N	0	0.00

Course credit value (i.e. full-credit, half-credit, quarter-credit, etc.) will be factored in Unweighted Grade Point Average calculations.

### Weighted Grade Point Average

A Weighted Grade Point Average will be calculated for each student. Course credit value (i.e. full-credit, half-credit, quarter-credit, etc.) and level will be factored in Weighted Grade Point Average calculations.

### Level Description

1. Level Honors/Advanced Placement courses are those which are most rigorous and require superior scholarship.
2. Level 1 courses require demonstrated, sound scholarship and study skills. The curriculum is comprehensive, very challenging, and provides advanced college and career preparation.
3. Level 2 courses offer a challenging and comprehensive curriculum requiring above-average academic ability.
4. Level 3 courses provide a foundation for academic work in post-secondary schools and colleges.
5. Combined Level/Contract Level courses create a heterogeneous learning environment in which students contract, depending on the course, for Honors, Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 work. The contracted weight determines the value of the course for Weighted Grade Point Average calculation.
6. Level Elective courses are challenging and provide a comprehensive curriculum which requires above-average academic ability. Level Elective courses are calculated as L2 in Weighted Grade Point Average Calculation.

The Weighted GPA and Grading System is applicable to grades 9-12 and is described as follows:

### Weighted Grade Point Average Scale

The following scale will be used to calculate a Weighted Grade Point Average:

Number Grade	Letter Grade	H/AP	L1	L2	L3
97-100	A+	5.30	4.80	4.30	3.80
93-96	A	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50
90-92	A-	4.70	4.20	3.70	3.20
87-89	B+	4.30	3.80	3.30	2.80
83-86	B	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.50

80-82	B-	3.70	3.20	2.70	2.20
77-79	C+	3.30	2.80	2.30	1.80
73-76	C	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.50
70-72	C-	2.70	2.20	1.70	1.20
67-69	D+	2.30	1.80	1.30	.80
63-66	D	2.00	1.50	1.00	.50
60-62	D-	1.70	1.20	0.70	0.20
0-59	F	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	N	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**\*Weighted and Unweighted Grade Point Average Modifications/Exclusions**

N Grades: N Grades will be counted as an F in all weighted and unweighted GPA calculations.

Summer School: Summer school grades will be excluded from all weighted and unweighted GPA calculations.

Pass/Fail: Pass/Fail grades will be excluded from all weighted and unweighted GPA calculations.

Transfer Courses: All transfer course grades will be excluded from all weighted and unweighted GPA calculations.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

Sec. 10-220g. Policy on weighted grading for honors and advanced placement classes

## Mission Goals Objectives

### Affirmative Action Plan/Nondiscrimination

The President and the Congress of the United States and the State of Connecticut have enacted laws and issued directives affirming their intent to protect and grant equal opportunity to all employees and students. Also, the Federal Government and the State of Connecticut have enacted and enforced laws regarding the equality of employment and equality of opportunity in education.

Therefore, the Amity Regional Board of Education reaffirms its policy to ensure equal educational opportunity for all students ~~and to prohibit discrimination because of race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability in its offerings.~~ The District shall promote nondiscrimination and an environment free of harassment based on an individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status or age or because of the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability, marital status or age of any other persons with whom the individual associates.

In keeping with requirements of federal and state law, the District strives to remove any vestige of discrimination in educational opportunities and services offered to students; in student assignment to schools and classes; in student discipline; in location and use of facilities; in educational offerings and materials; and in accommodating the public at public meetings.

The Board of Education also reaffirms its policy to ensure equal employment opportunity for persons and to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status, age ~~race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation,~~ past history of mental disorder (except when such condition may adversely affect the safety of students), mental retardation, pregnancy, or physical disability (including but not limited to blindness) except in the case of bona fide occupational qualification or need. Sexual harassment shall not be used to influence employment decisions, nor shall decisions be influenced, affected or determined on the basis of membership in or holding of office in an employee association or union. An intensive affirmative action program shall be an integral part of every aspect of employment, not limited to but including upgrading promotion, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay, or other forms of compensation including fringe benefits, employment selection or selection for training and apprenticeships, promotion, or tenure.

The Superintendent shall appoint and make known the individuals to contact on issues concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX and other civil rights or discrimination issues.

Federal civil rights laws prohibit discrimination against an individual because he/she has opposed any discrimination act or practice or because that person has filed a charge, testified, assisted or participated in an investigation, proceeding or hearing. ADA further prohibits anyone

## Mission Goals Objectives

### Affirmative Action Plan/Nondiscrimination

from coercing, intimidating, threatening or interfering with an individual for exercising the rights guaranteed under the Act.

These statements shall be made available to all present and future employees and students.

### Cross References in Manual

Policies and regulations in this manual will reflect directly or indirectly equal opportunity for all employees and students, where applicable. Some specific cross references are as follows:

<del>2224</del>	<del>Affirmative Action Committee</del>
3324.1	Contracts
4111	Recruitment and Selection
4111.1/4211.1	Affirmative Action (Recruitment and Selection)
<del>5000</del>	<del>Students (Concept and Roles in Student Personnel)</del>
<del>5145</del>	<del>Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities (Students)</del>
5145.4	Nondiscrimination (Students)
5145.5	Student Grievance Procedures
6121	Nondiscrimination (Instruction)
6145.1	Intramural Competition
6145.2	Interscholastic Competition
6161	Equipment, Books and Materials: Provision/Selection
6180	Evaluation of the Instructional Program

### Affirmative Action Officer

The Board of Education designates the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee as the Affirmative Action Officer who shall be responsible for the implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan.

Legal Reference: Title VII, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq.  
29 CFR 1604.11, EEOC Guidelines on Sex Discrimination.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.  
34 CFR Section 106.8(b), OCR Guidelines for Title IX.

Definitions, OCR Guidelines on Sexual Harassment, Fed. Reg. Vol 62, #49, 29 CFR Sec. 1606.8 (a) 62 Fed Reg. 12033 (March 13, 1997) and 66 Fed. Reg. 5512 (January 19, 2001)

*Meritor Savings Bank. FSB v. Vinson*, 477 U.S. 57 (1986)

Policy adopted: XXXX xx, xxxx

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
Woodbridge, Connecticut

## Mission Goals Objectives

### Affirmative Action Plan/Nondiscrimination

*Faragher v. City of Boca Raton*, No. 97-282 (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

*Gebbs v. Lago Vista Indiana School District*, No. 99-1866, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

*Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*, No. 97-843, (U.S. Supreme Court, May 24, 1999.)

20 U.S.C. 7905 (Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

The Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C. §4212

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

The Americans with Disabilities Act as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008

Public Law 111-256

Meacham v. Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory 128 S.Ct. 2395, 76 U.S.L.W. 4488 (2008)

Federal Express Corporation v. Holowecki 128 S.Ct. 1147, 76 U.S.L.W. 4110 (2008)

Kentucky Retirement Systems v. EEOC 128 S.Ct. 2361, 76 U.S.L.W. 4503 (2008)

Sprint/United Management Co. v. Mendelsohn 128 S.Ct. 1140, 76 U.S.L.W. 4107 (2008)

Connecticut General Statutes

46a-60 Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.

10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year olds. (Amended by P.A. 97-247 to include "sexual orientation")



**Mission Goals Objectives**

**Affirmative Action Plan/Nondiscrimination**

10-153 Discrimination on account of marital status.

17a-101 Protection of children from abuse.

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
Woodbridge, Connecticut

REPORT FORM FOR COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION

Complainant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
School building: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Alleged Incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Alleged harassment was based on: (Check all that apply.)

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Marital Status
- Gender Identity
- Disability
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Ancestry
- Age

Name of person you believe violated the District's nondiscrimination policy:  
\_\_\_\_\_

If the alleged discrimination was directed against another person, identify the other person:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the incident as clearly as possible, including any verbal statements (i.e., threats, derogatory remarks, demands, etc.) and any actions or activities. Attach additional pages if necessary:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When and where incident occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

List any witnesses who were present: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This complaint is based on my honest belief that \_\_\_\_\_ has discriminated against me or another person. I certify that the information provided in this complaint is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complainant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Received By

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Business/Non-Instructional Operations

### Transportation

#### General

~~Transportation to and from school shall be made available to all students by the school district.~~

~~Late buses shall be provided on specific days of the week to enable students to participate in special classes and after school activities.~~

~~The Board of Education will contract with owner operators of school buses to provide transportation for students to and from school and to furnish transportation for school sponsored trips.~~

~~Terms of the contract shall be the same to the extent possible for each owner operator, or owner driver, as to requirements, responsibilities, rights, and compensation.~~

The Board of Education shall provide for the public schools an appropriate transportation system, within guidelines set forth in this policy, which will enable all qualified children of school age to be transported to schools as required. School bus transportation is for students only. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for the school transportation system and shall develop and administer it to:

1. Provide maximum safety of students.
2. Supplement and reinforce desirable student behavior patterns.
3. Assist handicapped students appropriately
4. Enrich the instructional program through carefully planned field trips recommended by staff.

The transportation system shall be planned and operated in compliance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and all regulations of the State Department of Education and the State Department of Motor vehicles regarding the operation of school buses and motor vehicles.

Transportation by private carrier or through district owned buses shall be provided at the discretion of the Board of Education. Parents may be reimbursed for transportation of eligible students whenever such practice is more economical or convenient.

#### Federal Compliance

Transportation will be provided for homeless students to and from the school of origin as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. These services shall be provided throughout the regularly scheduled school year and day as determined by the Board.

Transportation will be provided for an eligible student who attends a district school out of the student's attendance area because his/her home school has been identified as in need of

## Business/Non-Instructional Operations

### Transportation

improvement, or the student is a victim of a violent criminal offense occurring in or on the grounds of the school the student attends or the student attends a school identified as persistently dangerous.

Transportation may be provided to eligible students who transfer from a district school to an out-of-district school under a cooperative agreement because their home school has been identified as in need of improvement under the No Child Left Behind Act.

### Duties of the Superintendent

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or designee to manage and supervise the school transportation service and, in connection therewith, to do the following:

1. Determine eligibility for school transportation in accordance with these guidelines and Section 10-186 of the General Statutes and in compliance with applicable portions of the No Child Left Behind Act pertaining to homeless students and school choice.
2. Establish school transportation routes and designate locations for pick-up points (bus stops). The Superintendent shall direct the establishment of bus routes to provide the safest, shortest routes as economically as possible. Routes shall equalize, as nearly as possible, the length of routes and bus loads as close to bus capacity as possible and shall provide student transportation to and from schools within prescribed time limits. Generally, bus routes shall begin no earlier than 45 minutes before school opens and students shall not be in transit from school more than 45 minutes.
3. Develop, circulate and enforce codes of behavior for those children who are transported to and from school via school transportation.
4. Develop procedures for responding to requests pertaining to matters of school transportation or other school accommodations.
5. Give due consideration to requests for extension of school transportation service.
6. Perform all other duties and responsibilities related to the furnishing of school accommodations by school transportation or otherwise in a manner consistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes or these guidelines.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-76d Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services. State agency placements; apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.

10-97 Transportation to vocational schools.

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance.

## Business/Non-Instructional Operations

### Transportation

Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board.

10-187 Appeal from finding of hearing board.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-221 Development of policy for reporting complaints re school transportation safety. Reporting of accidents at school bus stops.

10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability.

10-273a et seq. Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools.

10-280a Transportation for students in non-profit private schools outside school district.

10-281 Transportation for students in non-profit private schools within school district.

#### Chapter 248 Vehicle Highway Use

20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Section 1116

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, 42 U.S.C., Sections 11431-11435

Legal Reference: ~~Connecticut General Statutes~~

~~10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education~~

~~10-220 Duties of boards of education~~

~~14-275 Equipment and color of school buses~~

~~14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when.~~

~~14-275b Transportation of handicapped students.~~

~~14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special education students.~~

~~14-276a (e) Town/school district may require its school bus operators to have completed a safety training course.~~

~~14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting~~

Policy adopted: XXXXX xx, xxxx

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5  
Woodbridge, Connecticut

## Business/Non-Instructional Operations

### Transportation

~~children. Signs on other vehicles.~~

~~20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Section 1116~~

~~McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of  
2001, P.L. 107-110, 42 U.S.C., Sections 11431-11435~~

## Business/Non-Instructional Operations

### Transportation

The Board of Education will, in a manner not inconsistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes, furnish by transportation or otherwise, school accommodations so that each child over twelve and under twenty-one years of age who resides within the jurisdiction of the Board and is not a graduate of high school or vocational school (or who is not otherwise legally excluded from school) may attend the public schools maintained by the Board pursuant to Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

#### 1. Definitions

- a. **"School transportation"** means the procedure, program or fully effective and implemented plan by which a student is conveyed, at public expense, whether by use of publicly owned equipment or by contract to or from his/her residence to or from the school in which he/she is enrolled by the Board.
- b. **"Walking distance"** means the linear measure of a prescribed or authorized pedestrian route between the student's residence and his/her school from a point at the curb or edge of a public road or highway nearest the student's residence to the nearest allowable access of the school, or the bus pickup area; or the route from the point on the public thoroughfare nearest the residence to the school bus (or vehicle) embarkation point (bus stop) established by the Board.
- c. **"One mile walking distance"** means a reasonable measurement of a route to be traversed extending from the point of measurement at least 5,280 feet.
- d. **"Raised walk area"** means (1) a sidewalk or (2) a portion of the right of way at least three feet wide, usually parallel to the traffic lanes, which may be paved or unpaved, distinguished by some elevation above the street pavement level and marked by curbing, drainage ditch, grass area, and fencing, apart from and independent of any white line safety markings along the street pavement.
- e. **"Walking route"** means the most direct route which the child would normally be expected to travel between his/her residence and the school to which he/she is assigned by the Board.
- f. **"Hazard"** means (1) exposure to molestation considered morally degrading or physically harmful, or (2) an unsafe thing or condition or a possible source of peril, danger, duress, or difficulty presenting a problem, the solution of which is beyond the ordinary capability of a child of a given age or attainment or including specifically the following:
  - i. A walking route along a street or road having an adjacent or paralleled raised walk area is a hazard where any of the following conditions exist along said walking route:

- 1. Speed limits for motor vehicles are in excess of forty miles per hour

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and there are no pedestrian crossing lights or crossing guards or other safety provisions at points where students must cross said street or road in going to and from school;

2. The usual or frequent presence of any nuisance, such as open manholes or construction; snow plowed or piled on the raised walk area making such areas unusable; loading zones where delivery trucks are permitted to park in alleys; commercial entrances and exits where cars are crossing raised walk areas at speeds in excess of five (5) miles per hour, and the like, including such nuisance which is dangerous or attractive to normal children;
  3. For students over age 12, or enrolled in grades 7 through 12, absence of a traffic light, or stop sign, or crossing guard at street crossings where three or more streets intersect, and have an average traffic count which exceeds 120 vehicles per hour during the time that children are walking to and from school.
- ii. Any street, road, or highway which has no sidewalks or raised walk areas shall be deemed unduly hazardous for students enrolled in grades 7 and 8, unless all of the following conditions are met:
1. There exists no line-of-site obstruction caused by a hill, curve, structure, out-cropping, land form, planting, snowbank, or other obscuring object or structure which may be safely negotiated by vehicles only at speeds under fifteen miles per hour.
  2. The line-of-sight visibility together with posted speed limits permit vehicular braking/stopping distances in accordance with the Connecticut Drivers Manual.
  3. Man-made hazards including attractive nuisances are absent.
  4. The roadway available to vehicles, when plowed free of snow accumulation, has a minimum width of twenty (20) feet.
- iii. Any walkway or path in an area adjacent to, and paralleled to railroad tracks shall be considered a hazard, unless suitable physical barriers along the walking routes are present and fixed between the tracks and the walking route (such as guard railings). Tracks that carry moving trains during hours that students are walking to or from school will be deemed hazardous.
- iv. A lake, stream, culvert or waterway will be deemed a hazard in the absence of a fence or other suitable barrier fixed between the walking route and the water.



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- v. Any street, road, walkway or path designed as a walking route for school students which passes through an area which has a history of aggressive acts or molestation resulting in actual or threatened physical harm, or moral degradation, during the hours when students ordinarily walk to and from school.

### 2. Duties of the Superintendent

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools or designee to manage and supervise the school transportation service and, in connection therewith, to do the following:

- a. Determine eligibility for school transportation in accordance with these guidelines and Section 10-186 of the General Statutes and in compliance with applicable portions of the No Child Left Behind Act pertaining to homeless students and school choice.
- b. Establish school transportation routes and designate locations for pick-up points (bus stops).
- c. Develop, circulate and enforce codes of behavior for those children who are transported to and from school via school transportation.
- d. Develop procedures for responding to requests pertaining to matters of school transportation or other school accommodations.
- e. Give due consideration to requests for extension of school transportation service.
- f. Perform all other duties and responsibilities related to the furnishing of school accommodations by school transportation or otherwise in a manner not inconsistent with Section 10-186 of the Connecticut General Statutes or these guidelines.

### 3. Eligibility for School Transportation

Students will be eligible for school transportation if one or more of the following criteria is present:

- a. The walking distance for the student, either to school or to the nearest bus stop, is in excess of the guidelines established by the Board which shall not exceed the following maximum distances:
  - i. For students enrolled in the equivalent of grades 7 and 8 at middle school, up to ~~one-half~~ one and one-half (1 ½) miles; and

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- ii. For students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, up to ~~one (1)~~ two (2) miles.
- b. The walking route does not exceed the limits set forth in paragraph 3.a.i. above, but presents a hazard; and the hazard which the Board cannot reasonably eliminate or adequately abate.
- c. The student is physically handicapped, or mentally challenged.
- d. The student, per the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, is classified as a homeless student, attends a school identified as in need of improvement, is a victim of a violent criminal offense, or attends a school identified as persistently dangerous.

Reasonable transportation or prescribed walking routes or the sum of both shall not exceed one hour each way from home to school or returning.

#### 4. Eligibility for Out-of-Town Transportation

- a. Any resident of the school district under twenty-one years of age who is not a high school or vocational school graduate and who is attending a state vocational school shall be eligible for transportation.
- b. A student who is placed by a Planning and Placement Team for special education reasons in either a public or private educational institution out-of-town shall be provided the necessary transportation.
- ~~c. A student attends the Regional Vocational Agricultural Schools at Wallingford or the Sound School in New Haven will be provided transportation.~~

#### 5. Appeals

Any parent, guardian, student at majority, or any agent or officer whose duty it is to compel the observance of the laws concerning attendance at school may appeal any administrative decision concerning school transportation in the following manner.

- a. Discuss the matter with the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned.
- b. If no resolution is reached under ~~(1)~~ 5.a above, discuss the matter with the Director of Finance and Administration or designee.
- c. If no resolution is reached under ~~(2)~~ 5.b above, discuss the matter with the Superintendent of Schools.

Any parent, guardian, student at majority, or officer whose duty it is to compel the observance of the laws concerning attendance at school, who believes that the

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Superintendent, or his/her designee, is not furnishing school accommodations, by transportation or otherwise, to himself or herself or to his/her child in a manner consistent with the laws of the State of Connecticut or these regulations may, in writing, request a hearing before the Board to show the Board the manner in which the Superintendent has so failed to furnish such accommodations.

The Board (3 member subcommittee or hearing officer) shall hold a hearing within ten (10) days following receipt of such request.

The hearing before the Board will be in compliance with the provisions of Section 4-177 to 4-180 inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A stenographic record or tape recording shall be made of such hearing.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-76d re transportation for special education program services.

10-97 Transportation to vocational schools.

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board.

10-220 Duties of boards of education.

10-220c Transportation of children over private roads. Immunity from liability.

10-273a Reimbursement for transportation to and from elementary and secondary schools.

10-280a Transportation for students in non-profit private schools outside school district.

10-281 Transportation for students in non-profit private schools within school district.

14-275a Use of standard school bus required, when.

14-275b Transportation of handicapped students.

14-275c Regulations re school buses and motor vehicles used to transport special education students.

14-280 Letters and signals to be concealed when not used in transporting

Regulation adopted: XXXXX xx, xxxx

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Woodbridge, Connecticut

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children. Signs on other vehicles.

20 U.S.C. NCLB Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, Title I, Section 1116

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, 42 U.S.C., Sections 11431-11435

Attached are the minutes from the following Board of Education Sub-Committee meetings:

Finance Committee	12/8/14
Facilities Committee	12/16/14
Policy Committee	12/18/14

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Diane Crocco, Mr. Matthew Giglietti , Mr. John Grabowski, Mr. Joseph Nuzzo and Mr. James Stirling.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. James Horwitz and Mr. John Grasso, Jr.

**Staff members present:** Mr. Charles Dumais, Mr. Jack Levine, Dr. Marie McPadden and Ms. Terry Lumas..

**Also present:** Ms. Sheila McCreven, Mr. Tom Hurley, Ms. Jennifer Hawkins, Amanda Backhaus, Ms. Samantha Thomas (auditors) Mrs. Ruth Natzel, and other members of the public.

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Amity Regional Board of Education (BOE) was held on Monday, December 08, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the Presentation Room at the Amity District Offices.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Jim Stirling called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
2. **Discussion and possible action on minutes.**
  - A. Finance Committee meeting November 10, 2014

***Motion made by Ms. Crocco, second by Mr. Nuzzo to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.***

***Vote unanimous (one abstention by Mr. Giglietti)***

***Motion carried***

3. **Public comment:** None

Mr. Levine requested a motion to move to items #5 and following on the agenda until the auditors arrive (delayed arrival due to traffic).

***Motion made by Mr. Grabowski, second by Ms. Crocco to move to items #5 and following on the agenda.***

***Vote unanimous***

***Motion carried***

5. **Discussion and possible action on accepting donations to purchase new sound equipment and waive the Board's bidding requirement** – Mr. Dumais stated that Mr. and Mrs. Flamenhaft wish to generously donate a gift of \$13,310.00 to the Amity Board of Education and that the funds be used to purchase new sound equipment. Mr. Levine and Mr. Dumais recommended that the Board accept this gift and make the purchase, waiving the bidding requirement.

***Motion made by Mr. Giglietti, second by Mr. Grabowski to accept the gift of \$13,310.00 from Alan and Carol Flamenhaft with deep gratitude and authorize the purchase of new sound equipment from Full Compass Systems. Further, the Amity Board of Education waives the bidding requirement.***

Questions and discussion followed regarding waiving the bid requirement and the compatibility of new equipment with what is already in place.

***Vote unanimous***

***Motion carried***

6. **Discussion and Possible Action on Composite Investment Policy Statements for Pension, Sick & Severance and OPEB Trust** – Information is included in the packet. Mr. Levine explained that this was presented in November after a presentation by Mr. Goss.

Motion made by Mr. Nuzzo, second by Mr. Giglietti to adopt the three composite investment strategies as in the accompanying finance packet.

*Vote unanimous*

*Motion carried*

7. **Presentation and Discussion of Superintendent's Update of 2015-2016 Budget** – Mr. Dumais explained the changes in the budget and the process of meetings to develop this budget for 2015-2016. Changes and savings have been realized as a result of the collaboration. Mr. Dumais asked the Committee if there are any other individuals or groups that he should be meeting with to gather input and that he is very aware of the need to make some of the numbers public early. Mr. Dumais further explained details of the budget process that are ongoing.
8. **Discussion and possible action on contracts of \$35,000 or more** – Mr. Levine spoke about the project of getting all printers on the same program; the cost is higher but the savings are greater. The new two-year contract requires a monthly base charge of \$2,980.02. The total annual base amount is \$35,760.24, or \$71,520.48 over the 24-month period. This includes supplies and service for an additional 59 printers from the original contract. The total number of devices will be 136. Mr. Levine recommends that the contract be awarded to Xerox.

*Motion by Mr. Giglietti, second by Mr. Nuzzo to recommend the Amity Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Xerox contract for toner, maintenance kits and fusers, as well as service, for the District's printers, for the monthly charge of \$2,980.02 for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016, inclusive. The District will pay \$0.019 per black and white print and \$0.160 per color print over and above the base volume. The Board's bidding requirement is waived.*

*Vote unanimous*

*Motion carried*

At this point in the meeting the auditors arrived and Mr. Stirling called for the committee to go back to item #4 on the agenda.

4. **Discussion and possible action on audited financial statements**
- A. Review of audited financial statements by auditors

Ms. Jennifer Hawkins, Ms. Hawkins, Ms. Backhaus and Ms. Thomas presented the audit document to the Committee (see attached). The audit was clean, with no material deficiencies. After the presentation there were questions and discussion between Committee members, Mr. Levine and the auditors regarding details of the audit statement.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Annual Financial Statements and  
C. Discussion and Possible Action to Return Funds to Member Towns

*Motion by Mr. Giglietti, second by Ms. Crocco to accept the Annual Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2014, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to return to the Member Towns a balance of \$62,660, as follows:*

<i>Town of Bethany</i>	<i>\$12,559</i>
<i>Town of Orange</i>	<i>\$31,290</i>
<i>Town of Woodbridge</i>	<i><u>\$18,811</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$62,660</i>

*Vote unanimous*

*Motion carried*

9. Discussion of monthly financial statements – Mr. Levine pointed out the positive points of the financial statements.
10. Director of Finance and Administration approved transfers under \$3,000 – none.
11. Discussion and possible action on budget transfers of \$3,000 or more – Mr. Levine recommended that the Amity Finance Committee and Board of Education approve a budget transfer to pay special education expenditures.

*Motion by Mr. Giglietti, second by Mr. Grabrowski to make a budget transfer of \$45,000 to pay special education expenses from account number 04-12-6130-556- Tuition Expense to account number 04-12-6110-5560 Tuition Expense.*

*Vote unanimous*

*Motion carried*

**12. Other**

- A. Reminder: The next Committee meeting will be on January 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. and on February 2, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

**13. Adjourn**

Motion by Mr. Giglietti, second by Mr. Nuzzo to adjourn at 5:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Natzel, Recording Clerk



MINUTES

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia Cardozo, Tracey Lane Russo

**Also Present:** Charles Dumais, Jack Levine (Director of Finance and Administration), Jim Saisa (Director of Facilities), Faith Miller (AMSB Media Specialist), Patti McKeon (parent)

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A meeting of the Facilities Committees of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library Media Center of Amity Middle School Bethany.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Pat Cardozo at 5:45 p.m.
2. **Presentation by Mrs. McKeon on Library Media Center Configuration**
3. **Presentation by Jim Saisa of Proposed Capital Improvement Plan**
4. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Dumais

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sue Cohen, Tom Hurley, Rita Gedansky, Diane Crocco, Chris Browe

**Also Present:** Charles Dumais, Charles Britton, Jill LaPlante

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A meeting of the Facilities Committees of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the District Conference Room in the Amity Board of Education Central Office

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Tom Hurley at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Public comment:** None

3. **Continue Review of Recent Required Policy Updates**

- Draft Policy 0521

*Motion to move Amity Draft Policy 0521 (as amended) to first reading by Amity Board of Education*

Motion: Rita Gedansky, Second: Diane Crocco, Unanimous

- Draft Policy and Regulation 3541

*Motion to move Amity Draft Policy and Regulation 3541 (as amended) to first reading by Amity Board of Education*

Motion: Sue Cohen, Second: Diane Crocco, Unanimous

4. **Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn:* Motion: Sue Cohen, Second: Chris Browe, Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Dumais