

Amity Board of Education News – February 2025

By Paul Davis, Amity BOE Chair

Commitment, Stability, and Student Success: Navigating the Future Together

The Board's foremost responsibility is to ensure the safety, security, academic success, and overall well-being of every student in the Amity Regional District. However, as a public school district, we are legally bound to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

We understand that students thrive in environments where they feel safe, supported, and valued. In times of change and uncertainty, our commitment to stability remains unwavering. As such, we will continue to make decisions that prioritize their best interests within the law's framework. Our focus remains on fostering a positive and inclusive educational experience, maintaining a steady course for student achievement in academics, athletics, and the arts, and upholding our Board's core values and goals.

We recognize the importance of partnership with families, staff, and our community in navigating these times. By working together, we can ensure that every student receives the support and opportunities they need to succeed.

Our dedication to students and their futures will guide us as we move forward with a clear purpose: to provide a stable, high-quality education while adapting to an evolving landscape in a lawful and student-centered manner.

Amity Board of Education Approves Solar Canopy Project

The Amity Board of Education has given the green light for a solar canopy project at Amity Regional High School, a move aimed at increasing sustainability and reducing energy costs. Approved at the Board's February meeting, the project includes the installation of a solar canopy in the school's front parking lot and a smaller canopy behind the building.

Titan Energy and Greenskies Clean Energy will lead the project, securing grant funding for construction and overseeing maintenance of the solar array. Notably, the initiative comes at no cost to the district and will lock in fixed, reduced-cost energy rates for the next 20 years. Before construction begins, the project must receive approval from the Woodbridge Planning and Zoning Commission.

PACT Donation Supports Amity Creative Theater

At its February meeting, the Board of Education gratefully accepted a generous donation from the Parents of Amity Creative Theater (PACT), reinforcing the district's commitment to the arts. The Board extended its appreciation to PACT, as well as to the students, director, and staff of Amity Creative Theater (ACT).

ACT is currently preparing for its spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*, set to premiere this April. With limited tickets available, community members are encouraged to secure their seats before the show sells out.

April 3rd Designated as Professional Learning Day

In response to professional development sessions lost due to inclement weather, the Board of Education has modified the 2024-2025 school calendar. April 3, 2025, will now be an early release day for students, allowing Amity teachers, paraeducators, and staff to participate in a rescheduled professional learning day.

Board Approves Curriculum Revisions

As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance academic programming, the Board of Education has approved revisions to several curricula. Updates were made to English courses in grades 9, 10, and 11, as well as Advanced Placement U.S. History and the district's UCONN-affiliated Mandarin Chinese course. The revised curricula are available on the district website.

Superintendent Presents Proposed Budget

At the February 10th meeting, the Board of Education reviewed the Superintendent's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, reflecting a 3.16% increase over the current budget. The plan prioritizes maintaining Amity's comprehensive academic offerings and robust extracurricular programs. The Superintendent has already presented the budget to the Amity Finance Committee and the finance committees of the district's member towns. A joint meeting with the Board and Amity Finance Committee is scheduled for February 24th. By March 15th, the Board is required to adopt a finalized budget.