

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 10, 2025 6:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT
Lecture Hall

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cathy Bradley, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Sean Hartshorn, Andrea Hubbard, Dana Lombardi, Michael McDonough* left at 7:18, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Donna Schlank and Donna Schuster

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Karunakaran, Christina Levere-D’Addio

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Janet Fan and Sophia Messina

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Dr. Shannan Carlson, Theresa Lumas, Thomas Brant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Amity Board of Education Chair Paul Davis

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Board of Education Special Meeting – January 27, 2025

MOTION by Cathy Bradley, SECOND by Sean Hartshorn to approve January 27, 2025 minutes as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 6 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Hartshorn, Reed, Schlank)

ABSTAIN, 5 (Hubbard, Lombardi, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Schuster)

MOTION CARRIES

4. PRESENTATION ON SOLAR CANOPY OPTION FOR AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – TITAN ENERGY

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval authorizing the Superintendent to enter into a solar power purchase agreement and the installation of a solar canopy at Amity Regional High School.

MOTION by Carla Eichler SECOND by Sean Hartshorn to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a solar power purchase agreement and the installation of a solar canopy with Titan Energy/Green Skies at Amity Regional High School.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Hartshorn, Hubbard, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Schlank)

VOTES OPPOSED, 2 (Lombardi, Schuster)

MOTION CARRIES

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Woodbridge Resident

Speaker thanked the Board and the District for their decision to support solar power and voiced that it's a great example to show students that that we care about climate change and that there is much we can do to counter the effects.

ARHS Student

A student read a statement from a peer. Speaker raised concerns over fears about the possibility of ICE agents entering ARHS, legislation or mandates that would limit student use of preferred pronouns and bathroom access. Speaker asked the administration to make an official statement making their stance on these important issues clear.

Bethany Resident

Speaker presented credentials and addressed challenges faced by the gender diverse community. Speaker applauded what he believed was an admirable and quite effective job of establishing an environment of “No Place for Hate” in the Amity district. Speaker urged the Board and District to stay the course and continue the work of supporting the social and emotional well-being of all students.

Bethany Resident

Speaker voiced his appreciation for the work the Board does and thanked the Board members. Speaker applauded the work Amity has done in the areas of anti- bullying and DEI. The speaker addressed the issue of defunding the Department of Education and his concerns over the potential privatization of education in Connecticut.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mrs. Cathy Bradley

7. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET

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

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CHANGES TO THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

MOTION by Patrick Reed SECOND by Carla Eichler to approve changes to the 2024-2025 School Calendar to include a Professional Development Day (minimum day for students) on April 03, 2025.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

9. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Davis presented a draft statement to the Board for their review as a response to concerns expressed about the District’s position on possible government actions which might impact our schools and students. After review this will be sent out to the Amity Community.

a. Committee Reports

1. **ACES**

2. **CABE**
3. **Communications**
4. **Curriculum**






- a. **Discussion and Possible Action on New High School Course Additions**

MOTION by Andrea Hubbard, SECOND by Donna Schlank to approve New High School Course Additions.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

- b. **Discussion and Possible Action on Adoption of Revised Curricula**

- i. **English Grade 9**  [English Grade 9.pdf](#)
 - ii. **English Grade 10**  [English Grade 10.pdf](#)
 - iii. **English Grade 11**  [English Grade 11.pdf](#)
 - iv. **AP US History**  [AP US History Curriculum.pdf](#)
 - v. **ECE Chinese**  [ECE Chinese.pdf](#)

MOTION by Andrea Hubbard, SECOND by Patrick Reed to adopt English Grade 9, English Grade 10, English Grade 11, AP US History and ECE Chinese Revised Curricula.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (Davis, Eichler, Hartshorn, Hubbard, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Schlank, Schuster)

ABSTAIN, 2 (Bradley, Lombardi)

MOTION CARRIES

2. **District Health and Safety**
3. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Executive Committee**
4. **District Technology**
 - a. Monthly Report
5. **Facilities**
 - a. Monthly Report
6. **Finance**

- a. Presentation and Discussion of Fourth Quarter 2024 Executive Summary Review of Amity Pension Fund, Sick and Severance Account, and OPEB Trust

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

- b. Discussion and Possible Action on Designating Final Reimbursement for HVAC Grant

MOTION by Sean Hartshorn, SECOND by Dr. Carol Oladele to approve the budget transfer for the designation of \$40,355 of HVAC grant funds for renovations to the library media centers at all three schools with the high school project slated first.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

- c. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

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

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

e. Discussion and Possible Action on Accepting a Gift

MOTION by Donna Schlank, SECOND by Sean Hartshorn to accept the cash donations from parents of Amity Creative Theatre in the amount of \$28,750 for the Amity Drama Club.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

7. **Policy**

a. **First Reads**

- i. Policy 5144.4 - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students
- ii. Policy 5145.111 - Students/Probation/Police/Courts

b. **Second Reads**

- i. Policy 5141.231 - Psychotropic Drugs
- ii. Policy 5142.4 - School Resource Officer

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Cathy Bradley to approve Policy 5141.231 - Psychotropic Drugs and Policy 5142.4 - School Resource Officer.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

8. **Personnel**

- a. Personnel Report

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

10. NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Special Joint AFC and Amity BOE Meeting February 24, 2025
- b. Executive Session February 24, 2025 – Superintendent’s Mid-Year Review

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by February 28, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned, without objection, at 8:39 p.m. by Chairperson Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

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BOE Recording Secretary