

PLEASE POST

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AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Dr. Jennifer P. Byars
Superintendent of Schools

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
Monday, April 28, 2025 6:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT
Lecture Hall

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Board of Education Public Hearing – April 07, 2025 [page 2](#)
 - b. Board of Education Regular Meeting – April 07, 2025 [page 4](#)
4. **RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS** [page 8](#)
5. **STUDENT REPORT**
 - a. Monthly Report
6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. Superintendent Report (Enclosure) [page 9](#)
7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
8. **BOARD WORK SESSION – Strategic Action Steps 2025-2028**
9. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by April 30, 2025**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**



Jennifer P. Byars, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

pc: Town Clerks Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge

***Working to "enable every Amity student to become a lifelong learner
and a literate, caring, creative and effective world citizen."***

District Mission Statement

<p>If you require accommodations to participate because of a disability, please contact the office of the Superintendent of Schools in advance at 203-397-4811.</p>

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, April 7, 2025, 6:00 pm 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cathy Bradley, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Karunakaran, Dana Lombardi, Patrick Reed, Donna Schlank

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Sean Hartshorn, Christine Levere-D’Addio, Michael McDonough, Dr. Carol Oladele, Donna Schuster

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Janet Fan

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas

1. Call of the Meeting

Motion to nominate Paul Davis chairman of Public Hearing.

Motion made by: Patrick Reed; second: Donna Schlank

Motion to close nominations for chairman of public hearing

Motion made by: Andrea Hubbard; second: Carla Eichler; vote tally: UNANIMOUS

Election of Paul Davis as chairman of Public Hearing, vote tally: UNANIMOUS

Motion to nominate Cathy Bradley secretary of public hearing.

Motion made by: Paul Davis; second: Dana Lombardi

Motion to close nominations for secretary of public hearing

Motion made by: Donna Schlank; second: Carla Eichler; vote tally: UNANIMOUS

Election of Cathy Bradley as secretary of Public Hearing, vote tally: UNANIMOUS

2. Call to order

Chairman Davis calls the meeting to order at 6:03.

3. Present and Conduct a Hearing on the 2025-2026 Amity Board of Education Proposed Operating Budget

[Presentation of the Amity budget by Dr. Jennifer Byars](#)

4. Chairman Davis calls for public comment.

None

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Setting Annual District Meeting and Referendum Dates

District Meeting is set for 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2025.

Motion made by: Patrick Reed; second: Dana Lombardi; vote tally: UNANIMOUS

6. Adjournment

Motion made by: Cathy Bradley; second: Dana Lombardi; vote tally: UNANIMOUS
Meeting adjourned at 6:07

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

Lisa Zaleski
BOE Recording Secretary

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 07, 2025 6:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT
Lecture Hall

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cathy Bradley, Paul Davis, Carla Eichler, Andrea Hubbard, Dr. Karunakaran, Christina Levere-D'Addio, Dana Lombardi, Michael McDonough, Dr. Carol Oladele, Patrick Reed, Donna Schlank and Donna Schuster* via telephone

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Sean Hartshorn

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Janet Fan

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Theresa Lumas, Tom 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 Regular Meeting – March 24, 2025

MOTION by Michael McDonough, SECOND by Christina Levere-D'Addio to approve March 10, 2025 minutes as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Dr. Karunakaran, Levere-D'Addio, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Schuster)

ABSTAIN, 3 (Hubbard, Lombardi, Schlank)

MOTION CARRIES

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mrs. Cathy Bradley

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Committee Reports

1. ACES

2. CABE

3. Communications

4. Curriculum

5. District Health and Safety

6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Executive Committee

7. **District Technology**
 - a. Monthly Report
8. **Facilities**
 - a. Monthly Report
9. **Finance**

- a. **Discussion and Possible Action on Increasing District's Credit Card Limit**

MOTION by Donna Schlank, SECOND by Cathy Bradley to Recommend the Amity Board of Education approve increasing the credit limit of the District credit card to \$25,000.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (Bradley, Davis, Eichler, Hubbard, Dr. Karunakaran, Lombardi, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Schlank, Schuster)

ABSTAIN, 1 (Levere-D'Addio)

MOTION CARRIES

- b. **Discussion and Possible Action on Healthy Food Certification**

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Amity Regional School District No. 5 certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or nonschool organizations and groups.

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Carla Eichler to Recommend the Amity Board of Education approve all sales of food items will comply with the C.G.S. Section 10-215f as stated above.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

MOTION by Cathy Bradley, SECOND by Donna Schlank Recommend the Amity Board of Education approve the exemption of food and beverage items sold at events as stated above.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Davis, Eichler, Hubbard, Dr. Karunakaran, Levere-D'Addio, Lombardi, McDonough, Reed, Schlank)

ABSTAIN, 3 (Bradley, Dr. Oladele, Schuster)

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 Budget Transfers over \$3,000

MOTION by Cathy Bradley SECOND by Dr. Oladele to Recommend the Amity Board of Education approve this transfer for utilities invoices.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
05-14-2600-5715	Facilities Contingency	\$80,715	
05-15-0000-5850	Contingency-District	\$60,000	
01-14-2600-5410	Utilities		\$20,000
02-14-2600-5410	Utilities		\$20,000
03-14-2600-5410	Utilities		\$100,715

VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

f. Other

- i. CNR Quarterly Report**
- ii. Educational Expenditure Reserve Quarterly Report**
- iii. Grants Quarterly Report**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

10. Policy

a. First Reads

- i. Policy 5131.911 - Connecticut School Climate Policy**
- ii. Policy 5131.81 Cell Phones and other Personal Electronic Devices**

11. Personnel

a. Personnel Report

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

7. NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presented by Amity Board of Education Chair Paul Davis

8. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by April 30, 2025

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting, without objection, at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

Lisa Zaleski

BOE Recording Secretary



2024-2025

NATIONAL MERIT

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

****Finalists****

👍 **ADVAITH NAIR**

👍 **IAN STOLTENBERG**

👍 **BENJAMIN WANG**



AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525



Dr. Jennifer P. Byars
Superintendent of Schools

jennifer.byars@amityregion5.org
203.392.2106

Superintendent's Report – April 2025

Continuously improve instruction, cultivate creativity, and enhance student engagement and performance.

Enhance the efficient and effective use of resources.

Foster a supportive climate for students and adults.

Congratulations is extended to Amity Regional High School teacher **Jeremy Iverson** who was nominated and selected as this year's **Amity Teacher of the Year**. Congratulations is also given to **Kelly Stoner** for her nomination and selection for the **Amity Award of Excellence**. Mr. Iverson and Mrs. Stoner will be honored at an upcoming Board of Education Recognition Event.

Instruction

Standardized Testing: May is a busy month for state assessments. We encourage students to rest well, eat a healthy breakfast, and come ready to show what they know!

- NGSS Assessment: All Juniors took the NGSS assessment on April 8, 2025. Students in grade 8 will take the NGSS on May 12 and 13, 2025.
- SBA: Students in Grades 7 and 8 will begin SBA on May 19, 2025 and continue testing throughout that week.
- Prior administration of STAR, SBA, PSAT, School Day SAT, and NGSS data is found in PowerSchool where students and families can access this information.
- The 2025 SAT, SBA, and NGSS will be in PowerSchool in the Fall.

Middle School PPS Transition: In collaboration with BOW districts, Amity PPS staff are attending transition meetings to support incoming students and their families.

April 24 Portrait of the Graduate Day!: The Amity community celebrated juniors from the Class of 2026 as they presented their Portrait of a Graduate (POG) reflections. The event focused on students sharing who they are at their best. They demonstrated how they exemplify the five POG characteristics through academics, extracurriculars, and activities outside of school. Staff from all three buildings and special guests from our BOW elementary districts observed the students' culminating presentations and provided meaningful feedback. Our first POG Day was a resounding success!

Seal of Biliteracy: Twenty-seven Amity students qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy awarded by the State of Connecticut. To achieve the Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy, students must complete all English language arts requirements for graduation and must demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English as demonstrated on the ACTFL assessment. We are thrilled to announce that we will have 17 students in Spanish, 7 in Chinese, and 3 in Latin earn this prestigious distinction this year.

Global Issues Symposium: On May 9, 2025, AMSB 7th grade students will present at the annual Global Issues Exposition. This event is held in the AMSB Gymnasium starting at 1:00 until 2:18 and the public is invited to attend. The students have been working for the past few weeks to research a topic of concern

and have created presentations describing their issue and potential solutions to the issue. They will present their findings to the public at the fair.

Discovery Museum: AMSB 7th graders recently took a class trip to the Discovery Museum. They were able to engage with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) learning. The museum provides many hands-on STEAM learning experiences that resonate with children's natural curiosity and love of learning. The students all had a great day and a little fun before beginning their transition to 8th grade!

Mandarin Trip: The 8th Grade Mandarin classes will take a trip to Aiping TaiChi and Wudaung Kungfu Academy, G-Mart Chinese Supermarket, Hibachi Lunch in early May. This cultural experience will expose students to topics they have been studying and give them a chance to practice their Mandarin skills in the real world.

AMSO Latin Percussion: Workshops: April 23, 2025 was an exciting day for seventh graders at AMSO. Social Studies students participated in workshops on contemporary Latin percussion. Students got to interact with the Latin culture through music and movement under the direction of local artist Melinda Marquez.

U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad: Congratulations to senior Benjamin Wang, who placed second in the Local Section Exam round of the 2025 National Exam of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. This qualified him to move on to the final round of the National Exam, which took place in April. Congratulations Ben!

HOSA Leadership Conference: Amity's chapter of the Healthcare Occupations Students of America Club (HOSA) attended our organization's State Leadership Conference on March 28, 2025 at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Congratulations to the following club members, who placed well in written competitions at the conference:

- World Health - Sarah Shaikh, 1st place
- World Health - Mila Mejnartowicz, 2nd place
- Human Growth - Scarlett Zhai, 2nd place
- Behavioral Health - Sarina Tian, 3rd place

SCC Scholar Leaders: Seniors Hannah Guo and Dariush Raissi, were honored on March 31, 2025 as Amity's 2024-2025 SCC Scholar Leaders. Each year the Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) honors two seniors from each conference high school who stand out for their mix of scholarship and leadership – congratulations to Hannah and Dariush!

CAS Outstanding Arts Award: On April 1, 2025 Emily Sun and Soma Kim were recognized as Amity's CAS Outstanding Arts Award winners at a statewide banquet. Each year the Connecticut Association of Schools honors two seniors from each member high school – one a studio artist and the other a performing artist – for their accomplishments – congratulations to Emily and Soma on this honor!

Bridgeport Rise Science Fair: Congratulations to Science Research students Anjali Prabhu and Kacee Tam for winning 1st and 3rd place respectively in the high school category of the University of Bridgeport Rise Science Fair.

Map Man Competition: AMSO student Nava Ismail-Beigi, won the Jr. Scholastic Map Man Competition. This is a national competition that challenges students to demonstrate a variety of geography and artistic skills. Please click the [link](#) below to view Nava's article in this month's scholastic magazine.

Vertical Math Articulation Meeting: A team of math teachers from the BOWA area came together to better understand the bridge between 6th grade to 7th grade math. The purpose of this meeting was to build greater coherence from our BOWA feeder schools to AMSO and AMSB, in addition to greater alignment to the Portrait of the Graduate. The discussion was helpful and all staff left feeling productive and are planning to continue these meetings.

Curriculum Articulation Meetings: Curriculum articulation meetings continue to occur. These included reading, math and world language. A range of topics were covered, such as curriculum alignment and pacing, current assessment status (if applicable), the integration of the Portrait of the Graduate into classroom lessons, and opportunities for targeted professional learning.

Curriculum Writing: World Language teachers, Financial Literacy teachers and Social Studies teachers met on various dates throughout March and April to continue curriculum writing. Various curricula are expected to be completed in the fall for BOE review.

PDEC: Our Professional Development Evaluation Committee (PDEC), comprised of teachers and administrators, came together to review the status of midyear goal meetings, plan for the end of year for both teachers and administrators, and provide an update and overview to the committee on our new evaluation platform, Frontline. We will roll this out to all staff in August/September.

Early Release Day: April 3 was an Early Release Day for Professional Development. The focus of this professional learning was on curriculum writing and vertical articulation. Teachers collaborated within their content areas, engaging in a variety of experiences designed to strengthen their instructional and planning practices.

Teacher Educator and Mentoring Program (TEAM): We are pleased to share that our new teachers who are participating in the TEAM program have successfully submitted and completed their required module reflection papers. Each submission was thoroughly reviewed by our District Reviewers and met the necessary requirements for completion. This milestone reflects their dedication to professional growth and ongoing development as educators. We commend these teachers for their commitment to ongoing reflection.

BOWA Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Carlson recently invited curriculum and instructional leaders from each of the BOWA districts to Amity for a working lunch. This gathering created an opportunity to share insights and deepen our collaboration around instructional priorities. As we continue to prioritize student achievement and equity, our collaboration with BOWA is more important than ever. Given the structure of our regional district, this partnership is foundational. Through better aligned curriculum, talks of shared professional learning, and intentional articulation, we can ensure that students experience a seamless and supportive transition into the Amity system.

Resources

NASSP Advocacy Champion of the Year: Congratulations to Mr. Hauser, who was one of three finalists for the NASSP Advocacy Champion of the Year for 2025. The award recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to advancing education policy and advocating on behalf of all school leaders to ensure student success. Mr. Hauser is the current NASSP State Coordinator for Connecticut, a former CAS President, and the only CT leader named a finalist. [MORE](#)

NHS Blood Drive a Success: The Amity chapter of the National Honor Society partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive for students and staff on April 1, 2025.

10th Grade Career Fair: Our annual Career Fair for Sophomores took place on April 4, 2025. All of our 10th grade students attended three information sessions with representatives from a wide variety of

professions. We hosted 24 guest speakers representing 19 different career fields – thanks to all of them for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend the morning with our students.

Parent Workshop - Cyberbullying: Helping Children Navigate Digital Technology and Social

Media: In alignment with May is Mental Health Awareness Month, The Pupil Services Department will be hosting their second webinar for the BOWA community on May 28th from 6:45-8:00 pm. Drs. Amanda Nickerson and Stephanie Fredrick from the University of Buffalo, will be presenting on *Cyberbullying: Helping Children Navigate Digital Technology and Social Media*. Additional information will be shared soon.

Council of Administrators of Special Education Law and Leadership Conference: Four administrators from across the district attended the annual Council of Administrators of Special Education Law and Leadership Conference in St. Louis. This three-day conference brings school attorneys and school administrators together to learn from each other on topics related to Special Education, Section 504, Title IX, and various other school law focuses.

Climate

Climate Surveys: The recent climate surveys gathering feedback from parents, students, and staff are currently being reviewed. The preliminary findings are being prepared for presentation to the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and building principals. In addition, we are evaluating the pending new climate policy and its various areas for implementation as part of our summer work. The School Climate Coordinator is identifying the various responsibilities of the three schools under the new policy. Additionally, the School Climate Coordinator and Central Office are reviewing School Climate Improvement Plan templates and structural information in preparation for summer work. Finally, the School Information System Coordinator and the School Climate Coordinator are analyzing discipline and student support systems to improve documentation, tracking, support, and data reporting of student discipline.

Sold-Out Run for *Little Mermaid*: For the two weeks leading up to spring break, Amity Creative Theater performed its sold-out two-weekend run of *The Little Mermaid*. Everything about this show – not just the acting, dancing, and singing on stage, but also the pit band, stage construction, and costume design – is a collaboration between our staff and well over 100 talented Amity students. We hope you were able to join us and enjoy the show!

SADD Mock Car Crash: On April 9, 2025 our Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club hosted a mock car crash and guest speaker for students in grades 11 & 12. During the mock crash students watched an auto accident dramatization featuring members of the SADD club and several local emergency services personnel. Afterward they heard a powerful message about overcoming adversity delivered by author, two-time Paralympian, and Connecticut native Steve Emt. This powerful day, focusing on the importance of good decision-making, was only possible thanks to the efforts of many in the school and community. Thank you to: club co-advisors Gary Lindgren and Greg Twohill, SADD members Jillian Lydon, Sofia Fattal, Alyssa Fuchs, Maggie Gravitt, Kaitlyn Courtney, Noah Bayer, and Mia Martire, School Counselor Karen Waterman, School Resource Officer Frank Sapione, Master of Ceremonies Anthony Cusio, the members of the Woodbridge and Orange Police Departments, Woodbridge Fire Department, and ambulance service for all you did to make the day possible.

ARHS Students Talk High School: Several ARHS students spent time with AMSO 8th grade students to discuss their transition to high school. The high school volunteers shared practical insights and advice on navigating both the academic and social challenges of high school.

Spring Concert Season is Here: Several band and orchestra students participated in the AMSO Small Ensemble Concert. Students were given the opportunity to highlight their skills and celebrate their

passion for music by performing a musical selection of their own choosing. The AMSB Spring Concert will be held on May 1, 2025 at 6:30 in the AMSB Gym. ARHS Orchestra, Tri M, and MusicFEST concerts are all coming up in the next 3 weeks.

Statue of Liberty Field Trip: Students and staff in Spartan Academy and Spartan Prep went on a field trip to the Statue of Liberty as part of their on-going learning of American history. Throughout the school year, students and staff in Spartan Academy and Spartan Prep engaged in various authentic hands-on learning experiences to bring real world application to taught material.

Stepping Up Ceremony: The 8th grade stepping up ceremonies will be held on June 11, 2025. Due to the high school graduation date this year we will have a change in our end of year middle school celebrations. We will ask that all 8th grade students come to school as usual at 7:30. Eighth grade students will have time to sign yearbooks, participate in some goodbye activities, and have a farewell breakfast with staff and students, sponsored by our PTSO. The Stepping Up Ceremony will begin at 9:00am. All 7th grade students will not need come to school on June 11th.