

**6AMITY 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, March 23, 2026 6:30 pm  
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT  
Lecture Hall**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH**
4. **RECOGNITION OF AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY 2025 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. Board of Education Regular Meeting – March 09, 2026 [page 4](#)
6. **STUDENT REPORT**
  - a. Monthly Report
7. **3 A's (Academics, Arts, Athletics) AND POG (Portrait of the Graduate) FOCUS PRESENTATION**
  - a. *The Trident* student newspaper –Ms. Clark & students
8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
  - a. Superintendent Report [page 9](#)
9. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
  - a. Committee Reports
    1. Curriculum and Instruction
      - a. Academic Updates
        - i. Dual Enrollment Alumni Survey – Ms. LaPlante
        - ii. Summer Geometry Enrollment
      - b. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of New Courses
        - i. Public Speaking
        - ii. Unified Art
    2. Finance [page 14](#)
      - a. Discussion and possible action on the authorization to prepare an Explanatory Text for the 2026-2027 Budget Referendum Question
10. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATED TO BOARD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (anticipated)**
11. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public Comment will be limited to those items noticed in this agenda
12. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by March 31, 2026**
13. **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"***

PLEASE POST

PLEASE POST

*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 203-397-4811.

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
*Bethany Orange Woodbridge*



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**NORMS**

**BE RESPECTFUL**

- Model civil discourse and discussion, respecting all viewpoints, welcoming ideas, and disagreeing with courtesy.
- Collaborate as a team.
- Listen actively and refrain from interruptions or side conversations.
- Respect each others' time by brevity of comment.
- Be fully present and mindful of the distractions caused by electronic devices.
- Grow and learn from each other.

**HONOR THE POSITION**

- Work within the Board's statutory and policy duties.
- Prepare for Board & Committee meetings by reading the packet prior to the meeting.
- Treat each student, parent, and stakeholder respectfully and assist them in following the designated chain of command.
- Be reflective, including conducting an annual Board self-evaluation.

**REPRESENT THE BOARD WITH UNITY AND PRIDE**

- Make decisions based on what is best for the collective student body of Amity Regional School District No. 5.
- Respect the professional expertise of the staff.
- Be flexible in response to challenges.
- Collaboratively engage in discussions and actions and once voted on, provide undivided support of Board decisions in both public and private.

**AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, March 09, 2026 6:30 pm**  
**25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**  
**Lecture Hall**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cathy Bradley, Autumn Cloud-Ingram, Paul Davis, Jennifer Blando Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Dana Lombardi, Michael McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Meghan Rabuse, Patrick Reed, Christian Young and Donna Schuster\* arrived at 6:35 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Schlank

**STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Janet Fan and Shreya Viswanathan

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**Documents provided during/ after meeting:**

[BOE budget handout 3-9-26.pdf](#)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 – February 23, 2026

*MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Jennifer Blando Jacquet to approve February 23, 2026 minutes as submitted.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Bradley, Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Dr. Oladele, Rabuse, Reed, Young)*  
*ABSTAIN, 2 (Lombardi, McDonough)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mrs. Dana Lombardi

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RECOMMENDING POLICY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A POLICY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PRIORITIZE IT AS A FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS**

*MOTION by Christian Young, SECOND by Dr. Karunakaran to recommend the Policy Committee to develop a policy on Artificial Intelligence and prioritize it as a first order of business.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ARHS Student**

Raised a variety of concerns regarding the use of AI in educational settings and the dangers/ conflicts that may be present.

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**Orane Resident**

Shared his thoughts on surplus in regard to the budget process.

**7. [MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE UPDATE](#) – Dr. Byars, Dr. Carlson**

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE UPDATE**

*MOTION by Christian Young, SECOND by Meghan Rabuse that proposed changes to the Middle School schedule not be implemented without a majority Board authorization.*

*MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Dr. Karunakaran to table the motion.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 6 (Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Dr. Oladele, Reed)*

*VOTES OPPOSED, 6 (Bradley, Lombardi, McDonough, Rabuse, Schuster, Young)*

*MOTION FAILS*

*MOTION by Christian Young, SECOND by Meghan Rabuse to amend the agenda to include agenda item #8  
Discussion and Possible Action on Middle School Schedule Update*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Bradley, Cloud-Ingram, Jacquet, Lombardi, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Rabuse, Schuster, Young)*

*VOTES OPPOSED, 3 (Dr. Karunakaran, Reed, Davis)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

*MOTION by Christian Young, SECOND by Meghan Rabuse that proposed changes to the Middle School schedule not be implemented without a majority Board authorization.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 6 (Bradley, Lombardi, McDonough, Rabuse, Schuster, Young)*

*VOTES OPPOSED, 6 (Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Dr. Oladele, Reed)*

*MOTION FAILS*

**9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET**

*MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Autumn Cloud- Ingram to adopt the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, in the gross amount of \$58,893,454 and the net amount of \$57,346,112, a*

1.35% increase over the 2025-2026 budget.

*MOTION by Meghan Rabuse, SECOND by Christian Young to amend the motion that the proposed budget increase by 1.0% with the roughly \$200,000 reduction from the Superintendent's proposed budget be taken from salary and /or purchased services line items.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 6 (Bradley, Lombardi, McDonough, Rabuse, Schuster, Young)*

*ABSTAIN, 1 (Dr. Oladele)*

*VOTES OPPOSED, 5 (Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Reed)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

*MOTION by Jennifer Blando Jacquet, SECOND by Dr. Oladele to amend the motion to split the difference at 1.2% and specifically asks that those reductions come from risk, not from a specific loss of a teacher.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Cloud- Ingram, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Reed, Davis, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Rabuse, Young)*

*ABSTAIN, 3 (Bradley, Lombardi, Schuster)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

*MOTION by Jennifer Blando Jacquet, SECOND by Dr. Oladele to adopt a budget at 1.2% increase over the current fiscal year and specifically that those reductions come from risk, not from a specific loss of a teacher.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (Cloud- Ingram, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Reed, Davis, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Rabuse, Young)*

*ABSTAIN, 3 (Bradley, Lombardi, Schuster)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

## **10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### a. Superintendent Report

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

## **11. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### a. Committee Reports

1. **ACES**
2. **Ad Hoc School Start Time**
3. **CABE**
4. **Communications**
5. **Curriculum**
6. **District Health and Safety**
7. **District Technology**
  - a. Monthly Report
8. **Facilities**
  - a. Monthly Report
9. **Finance**
  - a. **Presentation and Discussion of Fourth Quarter 2025 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 of Monthly Financial Statements**
  - i. **Special Education Update**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas and Amity Region 5 Director of Pupil Services Thomas Brant.

**c. Director of Finance and Administration Approved Transfers Under \$3,000**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

**d. Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers over \$3,000**

*MOTION by Dr. Oladele, SECOND by Michael McDonough to approve the following three special education budget transfers:*

*For special education services to cover a vacancy.*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
04-12-1208-5111	Certified Salaries	\$23,225	
04-12-1208-5330	Professional Technical Services		\$23,225

*For special education contracted services for homebound tutoring.*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
04-15-1204-5111	Certified Salaries	\$ 7,500	
4-15-1204-5330	Professional Technical Services		\$7,500

*For special education services for third party literacy assessments.*

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
04-12-1203-5330	Professional Technical Services	\$ 5,850	
04-13-2130-5330	Professional Technical Services	\$ 5,000	
04-12-2151-5330	Professional Technical Services	\$ 3,000	
04-12-1206-5440	Rentals	\$ 2,500	
04-12-6117-5560	Tuition	\$ 3,002	
04-12-1208-5330	Professional Technical Services		\$19,352

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**10. Personnel**

**a. Personnel Report**

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

**12. NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by March 27, 2026**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting, without objection, at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Zaleski*

Lisa Zaleski

BOE Recording Secretary

**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 – March 2026

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.

*March is National School Board Member Appreciation Month - a time to acknowledge the leadership and steadfast commitment our Board of Education members bring to Amity each day. Your work behind the scenes ensures that our district remains focused on what matters most: creating meaningful opportunities for every student to learn, grow, and thrive. Through purposeful governance, collaboration, and a sense of responsibility to our community, you help guides decisions that strengthen our schools and support students and staff. The time, care, and perspective you dedicate to this role make a lasting difference. On behalf of our students, staff, families, and the entire Amity community, thank you for your service.*

Instruction

**6<sup>th</sup> into 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation:** Our middle schools held their transition nights for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade families on March 4, 2026. At AMSB, the parents were given a presentation where they heard from teachers, administrators, staff members, the PTSO, and students. Parents also had an opportunity to tour the school during the evening. At AMSO, the Information Session provided parents with an overview of the middle school program including information on middle school teaming, counseling supports, clubs, and activities. Parents were also given practical tips on helping students through middle school by staff members and the PTSO.

**8<sup>th</sup> into 9<sup>th</sup> Transition:** Members of the high school and middle school Pupil Services Department met during the month of March to further prepare for the transition to high school for our middle school students. These meetings between service providers are an essential step in the process to ensure a smooth transition to high school.

**March 12<sup>th</sup> Testing Day:** ARHS conducted its annual Spring Testing Day on March 12, 2026 with all students engaged in activities tailored to their grade's needs, including:

- Seniors were either taking the APPL assessment at school to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy or off-campus for the day to work on their post-secondary plans or get their senior internship contracts signed.
- Juniors took the SAT, then had time to work on the final elements of their Portrait of the Graduate portfolios and presentations as they prepare for their April 23<sup>rd</sup> presentation day.
- Sophomores took the Pre-ACT and spent time preparing for their upcoming Career Day.
- Freshmen participated in a series of activities focusing on broadening their perspectives and exploring aspects of the Portrait of the Graduate in a series of group activities. After this they attended a presentation from motivational speaker Dennard Mitchell (see below under Climate).

**AMSO Career Fair:** AMSO held a Career Fair on March 18, 2026. Over 35 different professions were represented at the fair. Students enthusiastically explored professions ranging from medical, law enforcement, theatre, engineering, hospitality and more. It was an engaging hands-on learning experience for both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Science Competition Results:** Amity's Science Research Program has had a highly successful competition season, with several students taking home honors in three science fairs in March. Please join us in congratulating the following science research students on their successes:

- CT-STEM Fair:
  - Edward Doubovik: 1<sup>st</sup> in health and medical science
  - David Babic: 1<sup>st</sup> in behavioral science
  - Emma Imanov: 2<sup>nd</sup> in behavioral science
  - Kacee Tam: 2<sup>nd</sup> in proposal projects
  - Karishma Balamurugan: 2<sup>nd</sup> in health and medical science
  - Jordan Chen: 3<sup>rd</sup> in environmental science
- CT High School Science and Humanities Symposium:
  - Aryan Shrivastav: 4<sup>th</sup> place overall, top junior of the year
  - Armaan Shrivastav: 9<sup>th</sup> place overall
  - Congratulations also go to Sarina Tian, Nicholas Lu, and Leonard Yeh, who were chosen along with Aryan and Armaan to present their research in front of a large audience of adult and student scientists from across the state.
- Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF):
  - Aryan Shrivastav placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Energy as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> in Future Sustainability, earning a spot to compete at the Genius Olympiad in New York
  - Mingze Steven Weng placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Life Science category and earned a spot to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Arizona

**DECA Statewide Conference:** Congratulations to two members of Amity's DECA business education club, who did so well at the statewide conference that they have now qualified for the national competition. Aitan Herman finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Principles of Hospitality and Tourism model, and David Babic finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Human Resources Management Series.

**HOSA State Leadership Conference:** On March 14, 2026, members of Amity's HOSA club (Healthcare Occupations Students of America) competed at CT HOSA's annual Statewide Leadership Conference. Congratulations to the students who placed in the following areas:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place in Behavioral Health - Sarina Tian
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Human Growth and Development - Sophia Li
- 4<sup>th</sup> place in Epidemiology - Chloe Chang
- 5<sup>th</sup> place in Physical Therapy - Maja Lypen
- 6<sup>th</sup> place in Pathophysiology - Ereen Mikheal

**Rotary 4-Way Speech Content:** On March 14, 2026, Shreya Viswanathan won first place in the Rotary 4-Way Speech Contest semi-final round. This means she now moves on to the Southern Connecticut Regional Finals, which will be held in mid-April.

**Curriculum Writing:** A dedicated curriculum writing day was held on March 12, 2026 for teachers in the Social Studies, World Language, and Mathematics departments. Teacher teams collaborated on curriculum development and refinement for several courses, including Grade 7 and Grade 8 Mathematics, Grade 8 Spanish, Middle School Chinese, and Grade 8 Social Studies. This work supports ongoing efforts to ensure alignment, coherence, and high-quality instructional materials across departments.

**Articulation Meetings (Grades 7-12):** Curriculum articulation meetings were held across the departments of Reading, English Language Arts, Physical Education/Health, Career and Technical Education, Science, Multilingual Learners, Visual and Performing Arts, and Mathematics. These

meetings are an important part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen vertical articulation and ensure coherence, alignment, and continuity in students' learning experiences across grades 7–12.

**Aspiring Leadership Academy (ALA):** At the March ALA meeting, participants engaged in scenario-based learning designed to help them step into the role of school administrators and think through real-world leadership decisions. Small groups analyzed complex situations and developed action plans, including responding to a potential DCF report and addressing emerging concerns related to cyberbullying. Participants discussed investigative steps, student accountability, and the legal and ethical responsibilities schools must consider in these situations. During the second half of the session, members reflected on their “shadow a building leader for a day” experience across the state, where they spent time with building and central office leaders at all levels. The cross-level exposure provided meaningful insight into the daily responsibilities and decision-making of leaders and sparked thoughtful discussion about leadership practices across different contexts.

**Professional Learning Early Release:** On March 12, 2026, all staff across the district participated in a professional learning early release day focused on strengthening curriculum and instruction. Content areas and departments engaged in a range of collaborative learning opportunities, including curriculum writing, development of course scope and sequence documents, collaborative planning to further develop high-quality planning and instructional practices.

### Resources

**Problem Gambling Awareness Webinar:** Jessica Simone, School Engagement Specialist within the PPS Department hosted a webinar for the BOWA community focusing on Problem Gambling Awareness in honor of Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Presenters included: Kaitlin Brown, the Director of Programs & Services from the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling and Stephen Matos a peer counselor at MCCA's Better Choice Program. The webinar was recorded and will be posted to the district website in the near future.

**Love146 Webinar:** The Pupil Services Department will be hosting [Love146](#) on Wednesday, March 25th at 7:00 pm via Zoom Webinar. This presentation is tailored for the role of the Parent/Caretaker in the identification and prevention of human trafficking. The Pupil Services department has had two presentations from Love146 to their mental health staff on similar topics. To register, you can click here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CaZGCFIDQ\\_6QBDfDLnY7w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CaZGCFIDQ_6QBDfDLnY7w).

**Pupil Services Professional Learning:** School Psychologists and School Social Workers met with Dr. Ben Lovett from Teachers College at Columbia University. Dr. Lovett worked with staff on appropriate scaffolding of anxiety-based accommodations to support students. Special Education teacher continued their literacy focused work with Dr. Perri Murdica. The session built on literacy strategies with all levels of learners within the general education classroom. Allison Tucker and Jennifer Berkowitz (Transition Specialist) attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Secondary Transition Symposium: Youth Leading a Changing World at Central Connecticut State University. The Connecticut Secondary Transition Symposium brings students and their families together with educators and other professionals to improve secondary transition programming and services for students with disabilities.

### Climate

**Denard Mitchell Visits Amity:** At the beginning of the month, Denard Mitchell, a motivational speaker, visited all 3 Amity schools and shared his message of accountability, community, and personal improvement with our students. He reminded our students that by being kind, believing in themselves, and demonstrating compassion they could make a difference in our school and in their community. This is the second time that he has visited Amity, and his message will undoubtedly resonate with our students and help them to finish the year strong.

**Denard's Bio:** *Dennard Mitchell is a Student Retention Specialist, National Best-Selling Author, and International Education Motivational Speaker. His mission is to help schools, colleges, and student organizations to increase the engagement, retention, and success of their students and staff and his message was positive and uplifting. He's the best-selling author of Next Level Student Success and he has authored five additional books. Dennard is an experienced leadership facilitator and has a gift for connecting with any audience, relating to them on a personal level, and inspiring them to bring out the best in themselves and the people around them by identifying their personal strengths, overcoming obstacles, and accomplishing their most ambitious life goals.*

**My Fair Lady:** Amity Creative Theater's spring musical production of *My Fair Lady* opened on March 19, 2026, with five performances scheduled over two weekends.

**Ray's Box of Socks:** AMSO 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are running the annual Ray's Box of Sox collection. The sox drive has already collected hundreds of pairs of socks to donate to local shelters. Collection boxes are at all three Amity Schools and the Orange Elementary schools.

**Student-led Anti-bullying Lesson:** Student members of the AMSO No Place for Hate committee planned and presented an anti-bullying lesson to their peers on March 16 & 17, 2026. The students did an outstanding job working with the club advisor to prepare a lesson that reinforced the ideas of acceptance, empathy and kindness as a means to prevent bullying and create a positive school climate.

**SCC Unified Basketball Tournament:** On March 4, 2026, Amity hosted the SCC Unified Basketball Tournament after school, with six teams from around the SCC region spending an afternoon in friendly competition. It takes many people to make this happen, so thank you to the staff from all three Region 5 schools and the members of the football, baseball, girls' and boys' basketball, cheerleading, and dance teams for being such excellent volunteers, performers, and spectators!

**Penguin Plunge:** Amity Unified Sports will be hosting a Mobile Penguin Plunge on the ARHS campus as a whole school event on April 8, 2026. While it is still in the planning stages, if you want to know more about the Amity Penguin Plunge, click on this link: <https://give.soct.org/amityhsmobileplunge>.

**AMSB 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Panoramic Picture:** On March 25, 2026, AMSB 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will meet in the gym for the first of many 8<sup>th</sup> grade rites of passage – the panoramic class photo! There will be many more end of middle school events, but this one marks the beginning of the “lasts” in middle school.

**AMSB Fiber Arts Project:** On March 16-17, 2026, AMSB 8<sup>th</sup> grader students participated in the yearly Fiber Arts Project presentations. Students learned about various social reformers through time and created meaningful art pieces using felt and other artistic supplies. The work will be displayed in our halls in the coming months.

**AMSB Student of the Month:** On March 9, 2026, students met in the cafeteria for breakfast and the third Student of the Month recognition of this year. AMSB staff took the time to recognize the hard work, kindness, and commitment of 40+ students and spent some time learning about the accomplishments of these young people.

**AMSB Bushnell Field Trip:** On March 24, 2026, the AMSB General Music & Beginning Band classes will be attending a field trip to the historic Bushnell Theatre in Hartford to experience The Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Discovery Concert Series. The students will get the opportunity to view and assess a performance by these professional musicians, which will supplement the course work covered in general music and beginning band. It will be a wonderful experience for the students to see the pieces studied in class performed live by a prestigious ensemble.

**Multiply Your Options Trip:** On March 27, 2026, interested AMSB 8th-grade students went to the STEM Multiply Your Options (MYO) conference held at the University of Connecticut. The conference encourages and supports young women in exploring careers in STEM, with a special focus on

engineering. The conference celebrates Women in Engineering Day and offers students the chance to participate in hands-on STEM workshops and hear from women currently working in engineering fields.

**SOGIE Conference:** On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, students from the AMSB CROME club attended [SOGIEcon](#), a diversity and inclusivity conference at the UCONN Storrs campus. This all-day event includes dynamic keynote speakers, unique performances, interactive workshops, age-appropriate activities, and vendors. In addition, students enjoyed a lunch (with ice cream!) at one of the campus cafeterias.

**AMSB 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boston Trip:** AMSB is excited to announce an upcoming 8th grade field trip opportunity to Boston, Massachusetts, scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2026. This educational experience will allow students to explore Boston's rich history through several engaging activities. Trip highlights include: a guided Boston Duck Tour, Lunch at Quincy Market, and a guided tour of Fenway Park!!

**Nominations for First Selectman's Youth Award Sought-Deadline Extended:** If you know a Woodbridge youth (up to 18 years old) who has volunteered their time working to improve the Town of Woodbridge or its residents, consider nominating that deserving resident. Principals, teachers, school counselors, group and religious leaders, peers, and neighbors are encouraged to make nominations. Parents or family members may not nominate a relative. Nominations are due to Youth Services by April 6, 2026. The winner will receive an award later this spring. The nomination form can be found on the Town Website or call Woodbridge Youth Services at 203-389-3464.

# AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge  
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge Connecticut 06525



TO: Dr. Jennifer Byars, Superintendent  
FROM: Theresa Lumas, Director of Finance & Administration  
DATE: March 19, 2026  
RE: 2026-2027 Budget Update

The Board of Education approved a budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year represented a 1.20% increase. The reductions taken as a result of the March 9, 2026 meeting are listed below:

TIER 5 - REDUCTIONS				
02-11-1006-5111	Add RIF position back	\$ (92,436.00)	Certified Salaries	Restore current WL position
01/02-11-1006-5111	cut new WL	\$ 79,080.00	Certified Salaries	Cut proposed WL position
05-15-1026-5111	Substitutes	\$ 50,000.00	Certified Salaries	BOE approved risk
03-11-1001-5731	Clay mixer	\$ 8,500.00	Equipment-Replacement	Possible EOY purchase
03-11-3202-5730	Athletic Training Table	\$ 2,500.00	Equipment -New	Possible EOY purchase
05-15-0000-5850	Contingency	\$ 30,000.00	Contingency	BOE approved risk
05-15-2512-5281	DC Contribution	\$ 6,598.00	Benefits	Use forfeiture funds
	<b>Net reduction</b>	<b>\$ 84,242.00</b>	<b>\$ 58,809,212.00</b>	<b>1.20%</b>

Below is a summary of the Town allocations with the proposed budget adjusted for the lower expenses.

	2025-2026	2026-2027	\$ Variance	% Variance
<b>Bethany</b>	\$9,160,226	\$9,423,586	\$263,360	2.88%
<b>Orange</b>	\$27,533,537	\$27,363,157	(\$170,380)	(0.62%)
<b>Woodbridge</b>	\$20,142,040	\$20,475,127	\$333,087	1.65%
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$1,273,196	\$1,547,342	\$274,146	21.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,108,999</b>	<b>\$58,809,212</b>	<b>\$700,213</b>	<b>1.20%</b>

**Motion:**

**Explanatory Text:**

*Move to authorize Amity Regional School District No. 5 to prepare an Explanatory Text for the 2026-2027 Budget Referendum Question: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board of Education of Amity Regional School District No. 5 is authorized to prepare, print, and distribute a concise explanatory text of the budget referendum question which, by vote of the member towns, which text shall not advocate either the approval or disapproval of the proposed budget in the gross amount of \$58,809,212 and the net amount of \$57,261,870, a 1.20% increase over the 2025-26 budget, and shall otherwise be prepared in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-369b.*

\*\*\*IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES\*\*\*

Monday, April 6, 2026 – Public Hearing  
Monday, May 4, 2026 – Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, May 5, 2025 – Referendum