

# 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

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## 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*

*Vote held on 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*

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BOE Recording Secretary