

# AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 23, 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\* (joined remotely via telephone), Patrick Reed, Donna Schlank, Donna Schuster, Christian Young

## STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Shreya Viswanathan

## STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jennifer Byars, Dr. Shannan Carlson, Theresa Lumas, Joseph Stochmal, Emily Clark, Jill LaPlante, Andrea Drewry

### 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. BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH

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

### 4. RECOGNITION OF AMITY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY 2025 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jennifer Byars and Amity Region 5 Assistant Athletic Director Joseph Stochmal

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a. Board of Education Regular Meeting – March 09, 2026

*MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECOND by Autumn Cloud- Ingram to approve March 09, 2026 minutes with suggested edits.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (Bradley, Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Lombardi, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Rabuse, Reed, Schuster, Young)*

*ABSTAIN, 1 (Schlank)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

### 6. STUDENT REPORT

#### a. Monthly Report

Presented by Board of Education student representative Shreya Viswanathan

### 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**

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

**9. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

**a. Committee Reports**

**1. Curriculum and Instruction**

**a. Academic Updates**

**i. Dual Enrollment Alumni Survey - Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Counseling Services Jill LaPlante**

**ii. Summer Geometry Enrollment - Presented by Amity Region 5 Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Shannan Carlson**

**b. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of New Courses**

**i. Public Speaking**

**ii. Unified Art**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Shannan Carlson and Amity Region 5 District Instructional Coach Andrea Drewry

*MOTION by Donna Schlank, SECOND by Jennifer Blando Jacquet to approve new courses Public Speaking and Unified Art.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**2. Finance**

**a. Discussion and possible action on the authorization to prepare an Explanatory Text for the 2026-2027 Budget Referendum Question**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

*MOTION by Michael McDonough, SECOND by Dr. Karunakaran to approve 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*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATED TO BOARD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (anticipated)**

*MOTION by Dr. Oladele, SECOND by Dana Lombardi to set a date for an Amity Board of Education retreat.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public Comment will be limited to those items noticed in this agenda

**ARHS Student** spoke on the benefits of Dual Enrollment and voiced their appreciation for the commitment of the Board of Education.

**ARHS Student** voiced their thoughts on the addition of a Public Speaking Class at ARHS.

**12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by March 31, 2026**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting, without objection, at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Zaleski*

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BOE Recording Secretary