

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 11, 2026 6:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT
Lecture Hall

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Cathy Bradley, Paul Davis, Jennifer Blando Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Dana Lombardi, Michael McDonough* (arrived at 6:37 p.m.), Dr. Oladele, Meghan Rabuse, Patrick Reed, Donna Schuster* (arrived at 6:43 p.m.), Christian Young

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Cloud-Ingram, Schlank

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Shreya Viswanathan

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 6:35 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 – April 27, 2026

MOTION by Cathy Bradley, SECONDED by Patrick Reed to approve April 27, 2026 minutes as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 9 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

b. Annual District Meeting on the Budget – May 04, 2026

MOTION by Dana Lombardi, SECONDED by Meghan Rabuse to approve May 04, 2026 minutes as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 8 (Bradley, Davis, Jacquet, Lombardi, McDonough, Rabuse, Reed, Young)

ABSTAIN, 2 (Dr. Karunakaran, Dr. Oladele)

MOTION CARRIES

c. Board of Education Special Meeting – May 05, 2026

MOTION by Christian Young, SECONDED by Michale McDonough to approve May 05, 2026 minutes as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Reed, Young)

ABSTAIN, 3 (Bradley, Lombardi, Rabuse)

MOTION CARRIES

4. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS 2025-2026

Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jennifer Byars and Amity Region 5 High School Mr. Andre Hauser

5. RECOGNITION OF CABE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Presented by Amity Region 5 Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jennifer Byars, Amity Region 5 High School Mr. Andre Hauser, Amity Region 5 AMSB Principal Dr. Tracy and Amity Region 5 AMSO Principal Kathy Burke

Chair Davis calls a short recess from 6:53 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. to allow parents and students to exit.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Orange Parent addressed the 8th - grade Social Studies Curriculum and voiced his appreciation for the “common misconceptions” portion of the curriculum document. Speaker mentions that CT Social Studies State Standards now include the teaching of climate change. Speaker questions where climate change curriculum is included in the current ARSD Social Studies curriculum and suggests where there may be opportunities to include climate change curriculum in Social Studies curriculum.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Superintendent Report

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

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mrs. Dana Lombardi

9. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

a. Committee Reports

- 1. **ACES**
- 2. **Ad Hoc School Start Time**
- 3. **CABE**
- 4. **Communications**
- 5. **Curriculum**

a. [Discussion and Possible Action on Adoption of Curricula](#)

i. [8th Grade Social Studies](#)

ii. [Spanish \(UCONN ECE\)](#)

Presented by ARHS World Language Chair Xia Feng and ARSD Instructional Coach Andrea Drewry

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECONDED by Jennifer Blando Jacquet to adopt the 8th grade Social Studies and Spanish UCONN ECE Curricula.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

6. **District Health and Safety**

7. **District Technology**

a. Monthly Report

8. **Facilities**

a. Monthly Report

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Water Filtration System AMSO

MOTION by Dr. Oladele, SECONDED by Dr. Karunakaran to award the contract to New England Sales Group, LLC for a water treatment system for Amity Middle School – Orange for \$60,414.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

c. Discussion and Possible Action on PA System at ARHS

MOTION by Meghan Rabuse, SECONDED by Dr. Karunakaran to award Eastern Datacomm the contract for upgrading the high school public address and safety notification system.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

d. Discussion and Possible Action on Energia Contract

MOTION by Meghan Rabuse, SECONDED by Michael McDonough to approve the District entering into a contract with Energia to pursue an energy performance contract.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

9. Finance

a. Presentation and Discussion of First Quarter 2026 Executive Summary Review of Amity Pension Fund, Sick and Severance Account, and OPEB Trust; and Policy Review

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Contracts over \$35,000 – FY26 & FY27

- i. FY 26 -PA & Security System – ARHS (action taken under Facilities)*
- ii. FY26 - Energia – HVAC Projects (action taken under Facilities)*
- iii. FY26 -Technology Education Devices*

MOTION by Dr. Karunakaran, SECONDED by Dr. Oladele to approve the purchase of 22 student devices from Lenovo for technology education at a price of \$58,324.20.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

iv. FY 27 - Student 1-to-1 devices

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECONDED by Dr. Karunakaran to approve the lease purchase agreement with Insight Financial Services for 420 student devices. This is a four-year lease with options for a FMV buyout, continued lease, or return of devices at the end of the term for a total of \$83,427.96 annually.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

c. Discussion and Possible Action on Tuition Rate for 2026-2027

MOTION by Meghan Rabuse, SECONDED by Patrick Reed to approve the non-resident tuition rate for 2026-2027 school year at \$23,083.00; and the non-resident Special Education base tuition rate for 2026-2027 school year at \$23,518.00 plus any additional services

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

d. **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

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

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

f. **Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Transfers of \$3,000 or More**

MOTION by Meghan Rabuse SECONDED by Dr. Oladele, to approve the following budget transfers of \$3,000 or more:

For tutoring services:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
04-12-6130-5560	Tuition – Private Out	\$10,000	
04-15-1204-5330	Professional Technical Svcs		\$10,000

To consolidate the technology budget to purchase student devices for the middle school technology education:

ORG	OBJ	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
01-14-2350	5695	TECH SUPPL	2,698.40	
01-14-2350	5732	EQ-TECH-N	1,312.71	
02-14-2350	5695	TECH SUPPL	1,670.21	
02-14-2350	5732	EQ-TECH-N	205.15	
03-11-1006	5695	TECH SUPPL	894.71	
03-11-1006	5732	EQ-TECH-N	6,000.00	
03-11-1008	5695	TECH SUPPL	2,706.00	
03-11-1008	5733	EQ-TECH-R	175.00	
03-11-1010	5695	TECH SUPPL	2,806.02	
03-13-2400	5695	TECH SUPPL	2.00	
04-12-2350	5695	TECH SUPPL	5.60	
05-14-2350	5330	PROFESSIONAL TECH	20,028.95	
05-14-2350	5420	REPAIR & MAINT	1,500.00	
05-14-2350	5550	COMMUNICATION	5,090.52	
05-14-2350	5695	TECH SUPPL	12,578.93	
05-14-2350	5810	DUES & FEES	650.00	
01-14-2350	5733	EQ-TECH-R		29,162.10
02-14-2350	5733	EQ-TECH-R		29,162.10

58,324.20 58,324.20

For upgrading the public address system at the high school:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FROM	TO
04-12-6130-5560	Tuition – Private Out	\$190,186	
03-14-2600-5715	Improvements to Buildings		190,186

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

g. Discussion and Possible Action on Standard Year-End Transfers

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECONDED by Dr. Karunakaran to authorize the Director of Finance and Administration to make the necessary budget transfers to salary and benefit accounts and to pay other standard charges. These budget transfers may exceed \$3,000. The Director of Finance and Administration will report all budget transfers made to the Amity Finance Committee and Amity Board of Education.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 11 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

10. Policy

a. First Reads

- i. Policy 3434.1 - Accounting for Compensated Absences
- ii. Policy 4134 – Tutoring

11. Personnel

a. Personnel Report

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

10. NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by May 29, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting, without objection, at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Zaleski

Lisa Zaleski

BOE Recording Secretary