

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

**Monday, September 14, 2026 6:30 pm**

**25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT**

**Lecture Hall**

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cathy Bradley, Autumn Cloud-Ingram\* (left at 8:03 p.m.), Paul Davis, Jennifer Blando Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Dana Lombardi, Michael McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Meghan Rabuse, Donna Schlank, Donna Schuster\* (arrived at 6:47 p.m.), Christian Young

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA PHONE:**

Patrick Reed

## **STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Shreya Viswanathan and Luca DiSorbo

## **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 6:45 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 – August 17, 2026**

*MOTION by Cathy Bradley, SECONDED by Meghan Rabuse to approve August 17, 2026 minutes as submitted.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Bradley, Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Dr. Karunakaran, Lombardi, Rabuse, Reed)*

*ABSTAIN, 5 (Jacquet, McDonough, Dr. Oladele, Schlank, Young)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A school administrator spoke in support of maintaining the student alcohol testing policy and discussed its role in prevention and student safety.

An Orange resident spoke regarding concerns with the year-end budget surplus and offered suggestions for the use of surplus funds.

An ARHS student spoke in support of maintaining the student alcohol testing policy and shared information regarding student perspectives on the policy.

### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### **a. Committee Reports**

1. **ACES**
2. **Ad Hoc School Start Time**
  - a. **Executive Summary 2025-2026**

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

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 Second Quarter 2026 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 and Possible Action on Designation of Unexpended Funds to the Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures**
  - i. **Update on Energia Project Reimbursement Eligibility**

*MOTION by Dr. Karunakaran, SECONDED by Autumn Cloud-Ingram to approve an appropriation and budget transfer of \$1,162,179 from the General Fund into Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures from the fiscal year 2025-2026 year-end funds.*

| ACCOUNT<br>NUMBER | ACCOUNT NAME                  | FROM        | TO          |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| XX-XX-XXXX        | Various general fund expenses |             |             |
| 05-15-0000-5856   | accounts                      | \$1,162,179 |             |
|                   | Transfer Account              |             | \$1,162,179 |

*MOTION by Meghan Rabuse, SECONDED by Cathy Bradley to amend motion to recommend the Amity Board of Education approve an appropriation and budget transfer of \$86,055.92 from the General Fund into Reserve Fund for Educational Expenditures from the fiscal year 2025-2026 year-end funds.*

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

*VOTES OPPOSED, 7 (Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Reed, Dr. Oladele, Schlank)*

*MOTION FAILS*

*MOTION by Jennifer Blando Jacquet, SECONDED by Autumn Cloud-Ingram to amend the motion to allocate \$200,000 to infrastructure and for the \$1,076,123.08 to be set aside to reduce the bond for future bond projects.*

| <b>ACCOUNT<br/>NUMBER</b> | <b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>       | <b>FROM</b>    | <b>TO</b>      |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1-00-15-0099-5856         | Transfer Account          | \$1,162,179.00 |                |
| 17-00-15-0099-5899        | Undesignated - CNR        | \$59,246.68    |                |
| 21-00-15-0199-5899        | Undesignated – Ed Exp     | \$54,697.40    |                |
| 21-00-15-0104-5715        | Technology Infrastructure |                | \$200,000.00   |
| 21-00-15-0101-5715        | Future Bond Projects      |                | \$1,076,123.08 |

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 7 (Cloud-Ingram, Davis, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Reed, Dr. Oladele, Schlank)*

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

*MOTION CARRIES*

**c. Discussion and Possible Action on Revised Award of Contract over \$35,000**

*MOTION by Michael McDonough, SECONDED by Meghan Rabuse to Increase the amount of the awarded contract to Encore Fire Protection for the replacement of the fire pump and controller in the AMSB well vault by \$75,000 to \$223,250.*

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**d. Discussion of Monthly Financial Statements**

**i. Special Education Update FY27 by Mr. Brant**

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 Dr. Oladele, SECONDED by Meghan Rabuse to approve the following budget transfer:*

| <b>ACCOUNT<br/>NUMBER</b> | <b>ACCOUNT NAME</b>    | <b>TO</b> | <b>FROM</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 01-14-2600-5420           | Repairs & Maintenance  | \$50,000  |             |
| 05-14-2600-5715           | Facilities Contingency |           | \$50,000    |

*VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (UNANIMOUS)*

*MOTION CARRIES*

**g. Other**

**i. Quarterly Report – Grants**

**ii. Quarterly Report – CNR**

**iii. Quarterly Report – Educational Expenditure**

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

**10. 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 September 30, 2026**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Zaleski*

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BOE Recording Secretary