

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, October 19, 2026 6:30 pm

25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT

Lecture Hall

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Board of Education Regular Meeting – October 05, 2026 [page 4](#)
- 4. STUDENT REPORT**
 - a. Monthly Report
- 5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT [page 7](#)**
 - a. Presentation of ODAAC Survey 2025 Overview – Ms. Bunnell, Orange Youth Services, ODAAC
 - b. Superintendent Report
 - c. Athletics Update – Mr. Goodwin
- 6. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
 - a. Curriculum Committee
 - 1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVING NEW COURSE PROPOSALS**
 - i. Artificial Intelligence: Tools, Concepts and Ethics
 - ii. AP Cybersecurity
 - 2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTION OF CURRICULA**
 - i. [Musical Theater](#)
 - ii. [UCONN Chinese ECE](#)
 - iii. [UCONN Chemistry ECE](#)
 - b. Facilities Committee Presentation
 - 1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDING PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL AND BONDING VIA REFERENDUM IN MAY 2027 [page 11](#)**
 - i. Middle School HVAC
 - ii. Middle School Roofs
 - iii. Middle School Library Media Center
 - iv. Middle School Athletic Fields
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public Comment will be limited to those items noticed in this agenda
- 8. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by October 30, 2026**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**



Jennifer P. Byars, Ed.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

PLEASE POST

pc: Town Clerks Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge

***Working to "enable every Amity student to become a lifelong learner
and a literate, caring, creative and effective world citizen."***

District Mission Statement

PLEASE POST

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



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, October 05, 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* (arrived at 6:48 p.m.), Dr. Oladele, Meghan Rabuse, Patrick Reed, Dr. Oladele* (arrived at 7:14 p.m.) Donna Schlank, Donna Schuster * (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Christian Young

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Shreya Viswanathan and Luca DiSorbo

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 – September 28, 2026

MOTION by Donna Schlank, SECONDED by Meghan Rabuse to approve September 28, 2026 minutes as submitted.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

ARHS Teacher spoke in support of maintaining the Passive Alcohol Sensor Testing Policy.

ARHS Student Government Advisor spoke in support of maintaining the Passive Alcohol Sensor Testing Policy.

ARHS Senior and President of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) spoke in support of maintaining the Passive Alcohol Sensor Testing Policy.

ARHS Student Assistance Counselor spoke in support of maintaining the Passive Alcohol Sensor Testing Policy.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Presented by Amity Board of Education Secretary Mrs. Dana Lombardi

6. 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. **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.

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

Presented by Amity Region 5 Director of Finance Theresa Lumas

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

MOTION by Donna Schlank, SECONDED by Dr. Karunakaran to approve the following budget transfer for the development of a statutory Stormwater Management Plan for Amity Regional High School and Amity Middle School Bethany:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	TO	FROM
05-14-2600-5330	Professional & Technical	\$11,650	
05-14-2600-5715	Facilities Contingency		\$11,650

VOTES IN FAVOR, 12 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

10. **Policy**

a. **First Read Policies**

i. **5145.124 – Passive Alcohol Sensor Testing**

MOTION by Chairperson Davis to table the discussion of Policy 5145.124 - Passive Alcohol Sensor Testing and to return Policy 5145.124 - Passive Alcohol Sensor Testing to the Policy Committee.

MOTION by Christian Young, SECONDED by Meghan Rabuse to overrule the Chair.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 10 (Bradley, Cloud-Ingram, Jacquet, Dr. Karunakaran, Lombardi, McDonough, Rabuse, Reed, Schlank, Young)

VOTES OPPOSED, 2 (Davis, Schuster)

MOTION CARRIES

ii. **Policy 5145.12 – Search and Seizure**

b. **Discussion and Possible Action on Second Read Policies**

i. **Policy 6141.3273 Electronic Resources – Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence)**

MOTION by Patrick Reed, SECONDED by Donna Schlank to approve Policy 6141.3273 Electronic Resources – Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) with suggested edits.

VOTES IN FAVOR, 13 (UNANIMOUS)

MOTION CARRIES

11. Personnel

a. Personnel Report

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

7. NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Led by Amity Board of Education Chair Paul Davis

8. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – Due to Chairperson by October 30, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m. without objection.

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

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203.392.2106

Superintendent's Report – October 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.

Instruction

National Honor Society Induction: Amity's National Honor Society chapter welcomed 65 new members at the annual induction ceremony on September 29, 2026. Congratulations to our new NHS members and thank you to NHS advisor Ms. Morrison for her work organizing the event and leading our NHS chapter!

School Day PSAT: October 22, 2026 will be the school day PSAT testing day for all students in Grades 9, 10, & 11. This assessment provides important information for us on school-wide academic progress, gives our students practice with the SAT prior to taking it, and is the qualifying exam for our Juniors for the National Merit Scholarship program. For our Seniors, October 22nd will be an off-campus post-secondary preparation day and they will not be attending school.

ATA Visits WTNH!: Amity Transition Academy visited WTNH and had the opportunity to meet Gil Simons, Laura Hutchinson, and Brittany Taylor! Mr. Gil gave the students a tour of the entire studio, and they even got to watch a newscast live! To top it all off, the students invited onto the set to be a part of a news segment. One of our ATA students had the opportunity to answer questions about the weather live on the air. He even received a special tie from Mr. Gil. A huge thank you to Gil Simons, Laura Hutchinson, and Brittany Taylor for inviting our students to the studio for the morning!

AMSO Students Recognized Hispanic Heritage Month: AMSO students participated in a wide variety of activities to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month. Students explored Hispanic culture through music, dance, and history. Live presentations and interactive lessons included singing and salsa dancing. In addition, students utilized their research skills to study various Hispanic cultures and prepared presentations entirely in the target language.

Fall Data Talks: AMSO and AMSB teacher met with district coaches to review Smarter Balanced and STAR data. Teachers analyzed the data at the school and classroom level to look for trends and identify the learning needs of their students.

AMSB 7th Grade Field Trip to Adventure Park! The 7th Grade at AMSB is invited to participate in a field trip to Adventure Park in Bridgeport on October 19, 2026 for a day of fun and exploration. Students will gain problem solving skills, improve motor skills, and build self-esteem and confidence by participating in this hands-on approach to learning

AMSB Boston Field Trip: The 8th grade at Bethany took their class trip to Boston on October 16, 2026. The class traveled to Bean Town to visit historical sites like the Boston Tea Party Museum and Quincy Market. They also visited the Museum of Science and took a Duck Boat Tour of the town.

Curriculum Council: The Curriculum Council held its first meeting of the school year on September 22, 2026. Members reviewed courses included in summer curriculum writing and two new course proposals. Completed curricula and the new course proposals were subsequently presented to the Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee. Over the next month, the Council will focus on providing feedback on courses currently in development. Members also explored additional approaches to providing feedback, including the use of customized AI Gems.

Content Area Vertical Articulation: District content area vertical articulation meetings have begun, starting with English Language Arts, with additional content areas to follow. These meetings bring middle school content leaders and the high school Department Chair together to strengthen vertical coherence across Grades 7-12 and horizontal coherence across schools. This collaboration supports a consistent progression of learning and assured experiences for all students, including shared expectations and learning opportunities.

District MTSS: The district's first Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) meeting of the school year took place on October 15, 2026. Representatives from all three schools reflected on successes and challenges from the 2025-2026 school year and shared updates on intervention efforts underway in each building. The committee also established priorities for the year ahead. Building-based MTSS teams will advance this work through follow-up planning and implementation.

BOWA Meetings: Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge, and Amity (BOWA) articulation meetings for the 2026-2027 school year are underway. Library Media Specialists and Multilingual Learner (ML) teachers met during the week of September 29th, engaging in meaningful discussions to align curriculum, share resources, and strengthen student skills and learning experiences across districts. Teacher feedback has been positive, with participants valuing the opportunity to collaborate. Some have also scheduled classroom visits to one another's buildings to learn from colleagues' practices. Additional content areas will meet with their BOWA counterparts over the next month.

Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM): The district's Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM) Coordinating Committee (TCC) met on September 23, 2026 to review changes from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), establish the timeline for the year ahead, and prepare materials for the October 6th TEAM Orientation. During the orientation, new teachers and mentors reviewed TEAM requirements, including the completion of five professional learning modules over a two-year period. Mentors and mentees will have opportunities throughout the year to collaborate, plan, and support professional growth. District TEAM Coordinators also facilitated Module Five, engaging mentors and mentees in discussions of ethical and professional dilemmas and their responsibilities to students, families, and the broader educational community.

Resources

CAAD Service Award Given to Mr. Goodwin: Congratulations to athletic director Ernie Goodwin, who has been selected as this year's recipient of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors' Robert Duncanson Meritorious Service Award. This award honors "athletic administrators who have served high school athletics with integrity, dignity, and honor" and who have had a "lasting impact on student-athletes." Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, Mr. Goodwin!

Financial Aid Information Night: Amity's School Counseling department hosted their annual Financial Aid Information Night on September 30, 2026. Making sense of college financial resources is a huge challenge, and this event provided valuable advice and resources on how to navigate it all successfully. For anyone who couldn't attend or who just wants more information about this topic, the evening's information is available on the Counseling department page of the ARHS website.

National Custodians Appreciation Day: October 2nd was National Custodians Appreciation Day. As anyone who has been at Amity after school knows, there is always something happening on campus, and it would not be possible without the efficient, effective, and friendly support that our custodial and maintenance staff – we all appreciate you!

School Choice Visits: Students at both middle schools had the opportunity to hear from the local vocational schools over the past few weeks. Emmett O'Brien, Platt Tech, Nonnewaug, and Sound Schools will all visit 8th grade students during their WINN period. The middle school students will also travel to ARHS on October 29, 2026 to learn more about the programs offered here in Amity and watch the ARHS musicians perform.

SOS Screenings: The District will be starting the Signs of Suicide (SOS) screenings at AMSB the week of October 19th and AMSO the week of November 9th. SOS Signs of Suicide provides evidence-based suicide prevention education to students in middle and high school and allows us to screen for behaviors typically associated with suicide. ARHS will be scheduled for later in the year.

PPS Resources and Professional Learning: Transition Coordinator Jennifer Berkowitz and School Psychologist Geoffrey Millenson recently toured Pathways Academy. Pathways Academy is an approved private special education school dedicated to helping students grow academically, socially, and emotionally through individualized, supportive programming. ARSD staff frequently tour local approved private special education schools to improve our working knowledge of what supports they provide and to ensure our own programming is of the highest standards. PPS Coordinator, Steven Mendelssohn was recently part of the CSDE Approved Private Special Education Program approval process for Solstice Academy. This process includes reviewing documentation and a full-day site visit. CSDE Approved Private Special Education Programs must be reapproved, on a rotation, to provide special education services to students. Public School administrators are part of that approval process. PPS Coordinator, Jamie Guthrie recently was part of a NEASC accreditation visiting team for Trumbull High School. Ms. Guthrie's experiences will help Amity as we participate in our NEASC accreditation process.

Climate

Michaels Jewelers' Achievement Cup Recipients: It what is becoming an annual tradition, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) honored the great work that the student-athletes in the ARHS Class Act Council have done over the past year to foster positive sportsmanship and school spirit over the past year at the annual statewide CIAC Sportsmanship Conference on October 7, 2026. Being part of the small group of Connecticut schools awarded the Michaels Jewelers Achievement Cup is a big honor, and it is even more impressive that Amity's Class Act Council has been selected for this distinction for the past three years in a row and in seven of the last eight years.

Senior Nights: Senior Night celebrations for our fall sports are coming over the next few weeks, so congratulations and thank you to all our senior student-athletes for their leadership and contributions to their teams! The schedule for Senior Nights is:

Girls Soccer: October 15
Field Hockey: October 21
Girls Volleyball: October 23
Girls Swimming and Diving: October 27

Cheerleading: October 30
Football: October 30
Cross Country & Boys Soccer: To Be Scheduled

School Climate: The district's three School Climate Specialists and School Climate Coordinator are developing and facilitating workshops and professional learning focused on relationships, communication, and restorative practices. Specialists are also working collaboratively with their building's School Climate Committee to develop and refine school climate improvement plans. Each committee will establish a meeting schedule and review its improvement plan to guide ongoing efforts to strengthen school climate.

Relationships and Restorative Practices: All administrators participated in professional learning focused on strengthening relationships and cultivating a sense of belonging within our school communities. The administrative team is building its capacity to model and support these practices as professional learning expands to all staff. Across the three buildings, schools are preparing to engage educators in developing and implementing restorative practices aligned with our Developmental Relationship Framework (DRF) and Restorative Practices Model.

Professional Learning Day (Early Release) on October 22: On the afternoon of October 22, 2026, all educators will participate in districtwide professional learning focused on Reflective Intelligence and Curriculum Writing. The first session will prepare educators to extend the district's focus on reflective intelligence from adults to students. Small-group activities and game-based learning will support the development of critical thinking, collaboration, accountability, initiative, and self-direction, aligning with our Portrait of a Graduate. During the second half of the workshop, educators will engage in focused collaboration within their content areas and departments to strengthen curriculum, instruction, and student learning. Department Chairs and Content Leaders will establish priorities to guide this work and maximize the impact of the time together.

AMSB Color Fun Run: The AMSB Color Fun Run was held on October 17, 2026. This event is the primary fund-raising event for the AMSB PTSO and helps to support the many activities we do throughout the school year. More importantly, this event brings the greater AMSB community together for a day of laughter, friendship, and a little exercise!!

Veterans' Day at AMSB: Each year on Veterans Day, the AMSB social studies department invites veterans from our community to speak with our middle school students and share their experiences of service to our country. If you are interested in sharing your story as a veteran, please send an email to [Marika Wissink](#) or a message to Ms. Wissink through Schoology. Look for communications from both AMSO and ARHS as they are also planning Veteran's Day celebrations.

AMSB Career Day Volunteers Needed: AMSB is looking for volunteers for the AMSB Career Day that will be held in the morning on November 18, 2026. This event will help AMSB students explore the world of work and the various career options available. Please consider joining us and sharing your passions and experiences.

AAC Month: In honor of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Month, the SAILS students and teachers are leading a variety of activities during advisory to educate students about the many ways people express themselves. This includes tools such as gestures, communication boards, and speech-generating devices. Throughout the month of October, AMSO students are celebrating all the ways people communicate and show support for AAC users in our school and community. Please see the [video](#) that was used to introduce students to AAC.

AMSO No Place for Hate: The AMSO No Place for Hate Committee has begun meeting and planning for the coming school year. Our students have reviewed the pledge and are attending a leadership conference later this month to meet with other student leaders from around the State to share ideas and participate in workshops to help students become ambassadors for No Place for Hate.

Multiply Your Options (MYO): Students from AMSB participated in the one-day Multiply Your Options conference held at the University of Connecticut that 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.

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge Connecticut 06525



Theresa Lumas
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Phone (203) 397-4813
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To: Dr .Jennifer Byars, Superintendent of Schools
From: Theresa Lumas, Director of Finance and Administration
Re: Approval of Capital Projects and Bond Issuance
Date: October 15, 2026

The Amity Middle School Building Committee and Amity Facilities Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Education various improvements at Amity Middle School, Bethany Campus, and Amity Middle School, Orange Campus contemplated to include at each school: (a) replacing the HVAC Systems (b) repairing the roofs (c) renovating the library media centers and (d) installing all-weather fields. ***HVAC costs may be lowered by Energia lease purchase opportunity. The Energia RFP has is under review by the attorney and expected to be issued by the end of October.**

The Administration is requesting approval from the Board to move forward with planning a referendum on these projects.

Motion to recommend the Amity Board of Education approve the Administration move forward with planning the replacement of the HVAC systems at Amity Middle School Bethany at the cost of \$9,164,787 and at Amity Middle School Orange at the cost of \$9,055,732.

Motion to recommend the Amity Board of Education approve the Administration move forward with planning the restoration of the roofs using a 30-year warranty roof retrofit at Amity Middle School Bethany at the cost of \$3,439,380 and at Amity Middle School Orange at the cost of \$3,187,611.

Motion to recommend the Amity Board of Education approve the Administration move forward with planning the renovation of the library media centers at Amity Middle School Bethany at the cost of \$1,584,957 and at Amity Middle School Orange at the cost of \$1,661,270.

Motion to recommend the Amity Board of Education approve the Administration move forward with planning the installation of an all-weather field at Amity Middle School Bethany at the cost of \$3,900,000 and at Amity Middle School Orange at the cost of \$3,700,000.