



Special Meeting
July 16, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Christopher Browe, Patricia Cardozo (arrived 7:16 pm),
Sheila McCreven, Paula Cofrancesco, Thomas Hurley,
Jennifer Turner, John Belfonti, Shannan Carlson,
Diane Urbano (departed 7:54 pm)

Board Members Absent: Amy Esposito, Robyn Berke, Steven DeMaio,
Carla Eichler

Staff Present: James Connelly, Theresa Lumas, Scott Cleary

Also Present: Joseph Erardi (departed 7:30 pm)

- 1. Call to Order:** Christopher Browe called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm; Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present
- 2. Public Comment:** James Zeoli, Orange First Selectman and transportation provider of twenty-five years to the Orange Board of Education, expressing preferences regarding owner-operators rather than small scale companies. He recalled his service on the original committee that created the BOWA transportation collaboration and stated that the owner-operator system goes back to 1912 in Orange and includes “Pop” Winkle, great grandfather of the current Winkle operators. Mr. Zeoli stated that dealing directly with owner-operators is better than dealing with business owners, who then have to speak with the drivers. He stated that the door will be open to larger companies; and if Amity moves in that direction, Orange will withdraw from joint contracts. He urged the Board to consider his concerns.
- 3. Introduction of James Connelly, Interim Superintendent:** James Connelly introduced himself and recounted his history with the Woodbridge school district. He provided an update on hiring and plans for the new superintendent’s orientation to include getting to know the three communities with a tour, so he or she will better understand where the students live. He is also making plans for Convocation. He is expecting the security audit soon and will address the immediate needs. His aim is to turn over the District to the next superintendent in good shape. He would like the Board to conduct a retreat so that the Board will all be “on the same page.” Early September would be an ideal time for this. He will be reviewing facilities with James Saisa this week. He said the Amity Board of Education committee schedule could be considered at a retreat.



Amity Regional School District No. 5, Woodbridge, CT
Board of Education

- 4. Superintendent Search Update:** Joseph Erardi reported on progress of the search and asked the Board to add meeting dates to their calendars. He described the process and what the Board can report at its August 13, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- 5. Safety and Security Update:** The chairman provided an update, and the report is expected soon. Next steps will be scheduled.
- 6. Busing Update and Possible Action:** The chairman provided a brief overview of what was shared at the July 9, 2018 for Board members who did not attend and requested a revote due to the fact that the July 9, 2018 meeting notice was not sent to the Orange Town Clerk for posting. Ms. Lumas provided additional information regarding full versus half contracts including details of questions Mr. Zeoli asked about requirements to own school buses either new or used (but not older than a certain year) and the timeline required to award contracts so that inspections could take place prior to school starting. The Board discussed its desire to review at a later date policy and regulations with regard to transportation contracting, including the transportation coordination role and possibly limiting owner-operators to no more than fifty percent of the routes. The chairman noted that the next five-year contract will be negotiated soon and the Board should get input from administration as it moves into this process. Ms. Lumas provided additional details regarding the history of negotiation as she has investigated. The fall of 2019 is the time period to begin this negotiation. It was noted that one factor in consideration of changing school start times is the constraint that shared bus contracts present. Motion by Diane Urbano to award bus contracts as recommended by the Director of Finance and Administration, 2nd Patricia Cardozo; votes in favor, 5 (Cofrancesco, McCreven, Turner, Cardozo, Urbano); votes opposed, 3 (Hurley, Belfonti, Carlson); Motion Carried
- 7. Motion to Adjourn:** Paula Cofrancesco, 2nd Thomas Hurley, unanimous; meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila McCreven
Secretary