

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

***A Special Meeting of the Amity Regional Board of Education was held  
on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 5:30 pm  
in the Large Group Instruction Room at Amity Middle School in Orange.***

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson Tom Hurley, Mr. John Belfonti, Mr. Christopher Browe, Ms. Paula Cofrancesco, Ms. Sue Cohen, Mr. Steven DeMaio, Ms. Sheila McCreven, Ms. Jennifer Turner, and Ms. Diane Urbano

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Robyn Berke, Ms. Patricia Cardozo, Ms. Shannan Carlson, and Ms. Amy Esposito

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Charles Dumais, Ms. Theresa Lumas, and Mr. Scott Cleary

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mr. James Leahy and Mr. Brian Serapiglia

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Hurley called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

**2. DISCUSSION OF BYLAW 9132.6**

Chairperson Hurley gave a history of Bylaw 9132.6 and then directed the Board to review the following sentence in the second paragraph of 9132.6 ( c ): *“In such case, the Board will provide public notice in local newspapers that the proposed budget was not recommended by the AFC.”* Discussion ensued regarding removing this sentence due to the decreased role of newspapers as a primary source of communication to the public with the onset of technology since the inception of this bylaw in 2003.

The Board members discussed whether or not explanatory texts that go out to voters from the Board of Education regarding referendums could be considered the primary method of communicating budget results to the citizens of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. Members debated about whether or not these explanatory texts could be considered advocacy. An alternative was suggested that the individual towns could communicate to their voters, if they were in disagreement with budgets; however, the point was raised that this could possibly be considered advocacy for the towns. The Superintendent was asked to provide all explanatory texts that have been sent out from the Amity Board of Education for review at the October 16, 2017 regular meeting.

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**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

James Leahy, Vice Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance, stated that he is not concerned if the sentence regarding newspapers in the second paragraph of 9132.6 ( c ) is taken out. He also said he doesn't understand why the Board would not let the public know if they approved a budget that had not been approved by the Amity Finance Committee.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Mr. DeMaio, 2nd by Mr. Belfonti, to adjourn at 6:33 pm.***

***Vote in favor, 8-0,*** (Mr. Belfonti, Mr. Browe, Ms. Cofrancesco, Ms. Cohen, Mr. DeMaio, Ms. McCreven, Ms. Turner, and Ms. Urbano)

***Motion Carried***

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Pero  
Recording Secretary