

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 AD HOC SCHOOL SAFETY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 7, 2018 MEETING MINUTES
5:30 pm
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT District Office Presentation Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steven DeMaio, Robyn Berke, Patricia Cardozo, Paula Cofrancesco, Carla Eichler, Sheila McCreven, Jennifer Turner

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Christopher Browe, John Belfonti, Shannan Carlson, Amy Esposito, George Howard, Diane Urbano

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

James Connelly, Theresa Lumas, Anna Mahon, Richard Dellinger, Shaun DeRosa, Jim Saisa, Kathy Burke (arrived 5:45)

1. Call to Order

Committee Chairman DeMaio called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

2. Public Comment

Paul Schatz, Woodbridge resident, stated that he is a parent of an Amity student and described an anti-Semitic bias incident that took place at his home. He is concerned there is a significant problem at Amity, as this is the third reported incident in which he believes his child has been targeted. He stated that student-athletes have made anti-Semitic statements on social media against his child and his family. He urged the Board of Education to take their role seriously to address this concern.

Jennifer Turner, speaking as a Bethany resident not in her role as ABOE member, stated that the Amity exchange student her family hosts was the target of a bias incident of harassment, receiving a cell phone call in the middle of the night in which the caller called the student "a terrorist" and hung up. She is concerned there is a problem that is more widespread than she previously realized. She expressed that she is sorry to hear of the incident that targeted the Schatz family.

Mr. DeMaio thanked Mr. Schatz and Ms. Turner for making their public comments.

3. Approval of Ad Hoc School Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – September 26, 2018

Motion by Sheila McCreven, Second by Pat Cardozo to approve the minutes.

Votes in Favor, 7 (unanimous) MOTION PASSED

4. Update on security initiatives and discussion of options for security-related facility upgrades

Motion by Pat Cardozo, Second by Sheila McCreven, to enter Executive Session and invite James Connelly, Theresa Lumas, Anna Mahon, Richard Dellinger, Shaun DeRosa, Jim Saisa, Kathy Burke, and Patrick Rose (Architect from the firm Rose-Tiso & Company) to receive an update from administration on security initiatives and discussion of options for security-related facility upgrades.

Votes in Favor, 7 (unanimous) MOTION PASSED

The Committee entered Executive Session at 5:44 p.m. Exited Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

3. Adjourn

Motion by Paula CoFrancesco, Second by Sheila McCreven, to adjourn meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Votes in Favor, 7 (unanimous) MOTION PASSED

*Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McCreven, Secretary*