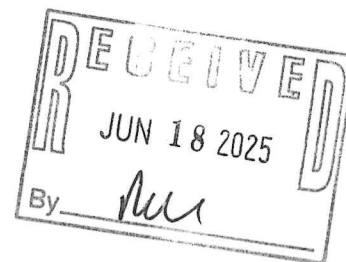


REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Special Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2025



1. Call to Order The Board of Education Special Meeting held at Litchfield Intermediate School and via teleconference was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Tiffany Parkhouse.

Members present: Tiffany Parkhouse, Chair, Rob DeLayo, Vice Chair, Ashley Hall Daddona, Secretary, Matt Terzian, Treasurer, Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, John Morosani, Margaret Hunt, Diane Barnes, Tracy Martin, and Ashley Westfall.

Also present: Jeffrey Villar, Ph.D., Superintendent, and Julia Cardillo, Chief Financial Officer.

Absent: Scott Pottbecker.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Tiffany Parkhouse invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of the FY26 Amended Budget
Dr. Jeffrey Villar and Julia Cardillo presented the FY26 Amended Budget that included the Budget Calendar, Enrollment Projections, Revenues, Expense Projections, Variances by Cost Centers, and Summary of what the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 26 Budget supports.

Additional information presented was by date FY26 Budget Proposals starting with the 'turnkey' budget of \$45,776,466 (11.22%) and the subsequent budgets leading up to the current proposal of \$42,754, 083 (3.88%) increase. A by location staff reduction charts, Region 20 start-up costs, and additional suggested reductions should the district get to July 1, 2025, without a budget was also discussed.

Tiffany Parkhouse opened the floor to the Board for questions.

Discussion included but was not limited to the following:

Margaret Hunt inquired about the two recent teacher resignations and if these were elementary or secondary teachers, emphasized the budget is "super lean," and questioned a few line items.

Matt Terzian commented about cash flow, security and school nurse staffing, and inquired if there is a way to quantify the impact of eliminating the curriculum coordinators. Dr. Villar did share that the district saw a significant increase in the SBAC results, had good SAT scores and that we have high performing schools.

Susan Wheeler spoke about the funding for rowing, questioned travel costs, severance packages in contracts, high school teachers and their course loads, and the fuel charges with the town of Litchfield. Denise Raap was invited to respond and explain the fuel charges.

John Morosani asked for clarification on the ASTE program and funding received from sending towns. Dr. Villar shared information regarding grants from the state and monies from sending towns, and that these funds help support the district and provides a lot of opportunity for kids.

Krista Rizzo referenced a slide in the presentation that showed “Additional Suggested Reductions” and expressed concerns about cutting athletic programs at the middle and high school. Dr. Villar referred to that slide as “an abomination” and any school district could not survive with all those cuts and then explained the value that the arts and athletics provide for students. Krista Rizzo also spoke about students at Plumb Hill Middle School not getting the classes they requested and hearing from the counselor that we are not offering that next year.

Ashley Westfall commented about the impact to the budget should an outplaced student’s family moves into the district.

Ashley Hall Daddona shared having a conversation on capital going forward would be important, the district should consider revisiting fuel charges and would like to see something done about the severance packages in some of the contracts.

Diane Barnes shared that she is hearing in the community that some students would not be returning to Region 20 next year and would a drop in enrollment impact to the budget.

Tracy Martin inquired about the cut in capital funding and impact to the budget if a boiler broke down.

Todd Carusillo spoke about the number of students in Goshen and amount of tax dollars the town pays towards the education budget. He supports teachers, doesn’t want to see anyone lose their job but would want them to consider renegotiating their contracts.

Jeff Zullo asked questions about transportation, explained the difference between debt and a deficit and suggested for the next budget the district consider phasing in some borrowing for capital. He also said he is supportive of this budget.

Denise Raap commented she is a supporter of this budget, the four towns will continue to work to find out how we got into this position, and we need to make sure we fund our children’s education.

With no further questions from the Board, Tiffany Parkhouse asked the Board if any member would like to make a motion for the approval of the FY26 Amended Budget of \$42,744,083.

Susan Wheeler made a motion for the approval of the FY26 Amended Budget of \$42,744,083. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.

During discussion, Margaret Hunt inquired about the value of working with only CIAC sports. Dr. Villar addressed her question saying working with a state agency ensures that the district is following regulation and providing adequate instructional athletic programs for students, and we know CIAC works with the other high schools in our state.

During discussion Rob DeLayo inquired if there would be any value to change the Education Plan and modify the requirement of an “annual operating budget expense of no less than one million per year for the first five years ...designated for the improvement of its facilities.” Dr. Villar commented to make a change to the Plan it would need to go to a referendum and pass in all four

towns. He would also want to work with the Ad Hoc Building Committee on which buildings to invest in and how much we would need. The district should be looking at long term projects.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Rob DeLayo-yes, Ashley Westfall-yes, Krista Rizzo-yes, Margaret Hunt-yes, Ashley Hall Daddona-yes, Diane Barnes-yes, Tracy Martin-yes, Susan Wheeler-no, John Morosani-yes, Tiffany Parkhouse-yes, and Matt Terzian-yes. The motion passes with 87% voting in the affirmative.

4. Approval to Send the Regional School District No. 20 FY26 Amended Budget Vote to Referendum in Town Polling Places on June 18, 2025, from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. in Accordance with CGS 10-51

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a motion to submit the 2025-2026 fiscal year amended budget of Regional School District No. 20 to a referendum to be held in the member towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris and Warren on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. in accordance with the provisions of Section 10-51(a) of the General Statutes.

Margaret Hunt made a motion to submit the 2025-2026 fiscal year amended budget of Regional School District No. 20 to a referendum to be held in the member towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris and Warren on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. in accordance with the provisions of Section 10-51(a) of the General Statutes. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion.

During discussion John Morosani commented he is going to vote 'yes' this time, however, should the FY26 Budget fail to pass, he will not vote in favor for a referendum vote in the future.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem