REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20 BOARD OF EDUCATION Special Meeting Minutes June 26, 2025



Ad Hoc Building Utilization Committee

1. <u>Call to Order</u> The Ad Hoc Building Utilization Committee meeting held at Lakeview High School and via teleconference was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by John Morosani.

Members present: John Morosani, Chair, Rob DeLayo, and Krista Rizzo.

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

Absent: Scott Pottbecker.

- <u>Approval of Ad Hoc Building Utilization Committee Special Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025</u> Krista Rizzo made a motion for the Approval of Ad Hoc Building Utilization Committee Special Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025. Rob DeLayo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. <u>Review Previous Committee Work, Identify Major Topics of Study</u> Dr. Villar opened the meeting summarizing what he understood the past work of this committee to be based on reading the meeting minutes: potential of closing of Litchfield Intermediate School (LIS) with students attending Litchfield Center School (LCS), or potential closing of LCS and students attending LIS, or potential closing of LIS and sending grade 4 students to LCS and grade 5 students to Plumb Hill Middle School (PHMS). He added there were also some preliminary cost savings, and some challenges identified about each of these scenarios.

Dr. Villar then shared some of his initial thoughts about this topic that included but was not limited to data gathering on enrollment, educational specifications of classrooms (an example cited was kindergarten students and bathroom facility needs), understanding the long-term costs of ownership of the buildings, the importance of public input and parental concerns. In his previous district, this work was conducted by an outside firm and was costly; \$250k for 6 buildings. He spoke about an idea of balancing enrollment in schools through an incentive program using the current Intra District Transfer policy. He commented about involving each municipality, the need to be transparent along the way, and believes this work will take at least a year.

John Morosani then spoke about the upcoming Region 20 leadership elections and committee appointments and specifically mentioned the Ad Hoc Building Utilization Committee. It is his hope this committee could be slightly different from the others with the possibly to include non-Board of Education members from the towns. Dr. Villar agrees with this idea; to have key stakeholders as part of the conversation, parents, and possibly civic group leaders were mentioned.

John Morosani offered Jeff Zullo, Selectman from Litchfield the opportunity to speak and he shared his thoughts on this project. Selectman Zullo listed a number of actions the committee should consider when undertaking this work that included but was not limited to understanding the

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annual building maintenance costs, annual operating costs, capital investment plans per building, and capital need costs to convert a school. Krista Rizzo inquired if Selectman Zullo would share a copy of his list with the Committee.

- 4. <u>Set a Meeting Cadence and Propose Future Meeting Dates</u> Discussion opened suggesting the committee set up monthly meetings and the next steps would be to outline and break down tasks on what the committee needs to accomplish.
- 5. <u>Adjournment</u> There being no further business to come before this committee the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Escobar Secretary, <u>pro-tem</u>