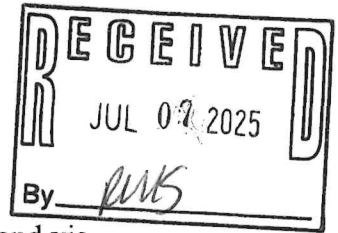


REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2025



1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Lakeview High School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Rob DeLayo.

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

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

Absent: Tiffany Parkhouse, Chair, Scott Pottbecker, and Tracy Martin.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Rob DeLayo invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Committee Reports

Margaret Hunt shared the Curriculum Committee met and Dr. Villar presented his vision on how the district will develop curriculum, the organization and creating leadership from the bottom up. The committee also received an update on NEASC and the Vision of the Graduate. Margaret Hunt also acknowledged that two AP art students created the logo for the Vision of the Graduate. She said this work is exciting and will be ongoing with further discussions at future Curriculum Committee meetings.

John Morosani commented the Ad Hoc Building Utilization Committee met and discussed some of the past work that the committee has done. Dr. Villar provided the committee with a comprehensive list of considerations when undertaking this work. There is a big list of things to do which includes keeping the community and stakeholders involved from the start and also to have extensive discussion about the costs of operating. John Morosani added the committee discussed having input from the four towns and possibly, because this is an “Ad Hoc” committee, the capability of taking on non-Board of Education members as part of this group.

4. Chairman’s Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- July 10 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
- July 24 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
- August 7 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- August 21 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)

Rob DeLayo gave the Chairman’s Report speaking about the challenging year for the district and acknowledged the staff, parent organizations, volunteers who “tirelessly” gave their time to keep the district moving forward for our students. He recognized Dr. Villar for working 10 plus days before his actual start date, working on the budget and with town leadership. He spoke about the students who recently celebrated moving up ceremonies and graduation who “negotiated the challenges of blending two styles and cultures” and have set an example for the community. He noted their consistent message in their ceremonial speeches that were “yes, the merger was hard, but we managed to come together and lay the foundation for something new and meaningful.” He

thanked former and exiting Board of Education members, Andrew Tita, Jen Munson, Jannelle Carroll, Tracy Martin, and Matt Terzian for their volunteer service to the Board this year. His closing message was passing the budget and having a strong leader are the first steps in getting Region 20 where we want to be, and he can't wait to see the progress in the coming years; learning from the past and pledging to become a top tier school district.

Matt Terzian spoke as this was his last meeting as a Region 20 Board of Education member. He opened by thanking the community for letting him serve on the Board of Education over the last nine years (Litchfield Public Schools and Region 20) as well as on the Board of Finance Committee for Litchfield. He thanked his wife and kids, and commented he missed another All-Star game however, when you commit to something, you commit and show up. While the past has been challenging, he believes there is a bright future, and he is looking forward to the four towns growing closer. He urges the Board and elected officials to continue to listen to community members as there is still some healing to do. He closed saying "a school district is the heartbeat of a community, and our children are the building blocks, and our teachers are the builders;" having a top tier school district while practicing fiscal prudence is imperative. He will be there to support Region 20 and the four towns.

5. Communications to the Board
None.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2025

6.2 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2025

6.3 Board of Education Budget Hearing #2 Minutes of May 22, 2025

6.4 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2025

6.5 Board of Education Budget Meeting #2 Minutes of June 2, 2025

6.6 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025

6.7 Out of State Field Trip - Indianapolis, IN – October 28, 2025-November 1, 2025 -

C. Manzolino

6.8 Out of State Field Trip - Nashville, TN – April 24, 2026-April 27, 2026 – R. Geary

6.9 *Stacked Deck* Curriculum -Prevention of Problem Gambling Teen & Young Adults– Lakeview High School Wellness Classes

Ashley Westfall made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar opened by thanking the community for getting a budget passed and, in the process, he learned how smart, invested, and interested the community is in understanding the budget before just voting 'yes.' He is collectively proud on how democracy works. He appreciated the high-level intelligent conversations that happened in meetings around the budget and pledges to improve the process next year. Dr. Villar also extended his appreciation for the positive, warm welcome his family received in the community.

Dr. Villar then shared other news, that on June 18th, Lakeview freshman Grayson Thomas came in first place for the CIAC Heptathlon, a track field competition involving the best high school athletes in the state. She also captured first place in the Berkshire League for this event. She then competed in the *New Balance's* Nationals (Philadelphia, PA) in the freshmen division high jump and 400 meter events.

7.1 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar reviewed the June Personnel Report commenting on vacancies, resignations, a retirement and a physical therapist new hire.

7.2 Enrollment Report

Dr. Villar said the June Enrollment Report is similar to last month. Margaret Hunt inquired how teacher absenteeism stacks up among the surrounding districts. Dr. Villar commented there is an outlier at one school due a specific known health issue. He added, if morale improves, teacher attendance should improve which means the district needs to work on its culture.

8. Financial Update

8.1 Finance Report (projected vs actual)

Julia Cardillo presented the Finance Report sharing on May 22, 2025, the deficit was \$2.764 million as a worst-case scenario and having closed out invoices and unnecessary purchase orders, the deficit sits at \$2.632 million. She closed by saying the earliest she will be able to provide final numbers will be in August.

Ashley Westfall inquired if the district could push vendors to get in all outstanding FY25 invoices now. Julia Cardillo responded, there are a lot of special education invoices outstanding, and the district is respectfully requesting of all vendors to send outstanding invoices as soon as possible.

9. Public Comment

Individuals offering public comment should please state their first and last name and the town where they reside. Remarks should be limited to no more than three minutes. A maximum time limit of 30 minutes will be allocated for public comment at any one meeting. Individuals representing a common interest or topic may be asked to have one individual speak for the group. Public comments must be relevant to the meeting's agenda. Speakers shall direct all comments to the Board, not to individual BOE members or administrators. Profane or vulgar language, partisan political statements, and comments related to the conduct or performance of staff are not permitted. Public comment is received without Board comment or response, the Board is to keep comments "under advisement." However, BOE members may seek clarification or additional information from speakers through the Chairman.

None.

10. Action Items

10.1 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Out of District Tuition Fees

John Morosani made a motion for the Approval of Out of District Tuition Fees. Ashley Westfall seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar reviewed the proposed Out of District Tuition Fees commenting while the proposal outlines fees through FY28 the Board is approving FY26 fees only. Dr. Villar and Julia Cardillo addressed questions from the Board.

Rob DeLayo called for a vote.

The vote passed unanimously.

10.2 Acceptance of Donations

10.2.1 Civic Family Services - \$200.00 Interact Club

10.2.2 Ding Auto Parts - \$2,800.00 for Graduation Lawn Signs

10.2.3 Rachel White Fundraiser - \$1,000.00 for Graduation Flowers

10.2.4 Becky & Jared Hubschman – Four Oaks Day Camp – GCS 5th Grade Fun Day

Matt Terzian made a motion to aggregate Action Items 10.2.1 through 10.2.4. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Villar spoke about each donation and commented that we work in a very generous community. The Board concurred.

Matt Terzian made a motion to approve the aggregate Action Items 10.2.1 through 10.2.4. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of In-District 2025-26 Transportation Agreement – EdAdvance

Margaret Hunt made a motion for the Approval of In-District 2025-26 Transportation Agreement – EdAdvance. Matt Terzian seconded the motion.

During discussion Julia Cardillo addressed a question regarding fees.

Rob DeLayo called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

10.4 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of the Superintendent Goals – 2025-2026

Ashley Westfall made a motion for the Approval of the Superintendent Goals – 2025-2026. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar provided a high-level overview of his proposed Superintendent Goals – 2025-2026 that included but was not limited to conducting an annual climate survey, improve the district's fiscal outlook, develop collaborative relationships with First Selectmen and Boards of Finance, provide leadership to the Board and schools, and identify clear policies and procedures to name a few.

Discussion included but was not limited to communication to community members who don't have children in our schools, increasing revenue and investigating new grant opportunities, and encouraging Dr. Villar to pursue his own growth and development as a superintendent were taken under consideration.

Rob DeLayo called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

10.5 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding – CJR 2025-2026

Ashley Westfall made a motion for the Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding – CJR 2025-2026. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.6 Discussion and Possible Action Concerning the Employment of a Central Office Employee (Discussion Proposed for Executive Session)

10.7 Discussion and Possible Action Concerning the Employment of a Central Office Employee (Discussion Proposed for Executive Session)

10.8 Discussion and Possible Action Concerning the Employment of a Central Office Employee (Discussion Proposed for Executive Session)

John Morosani made a motion to combine Action Items 10.6, 10.7, 10.8 and to enter Executive Session inviting the Superintendent (Dr. Villar) and the CFO (Julia Cardillo). Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Entered Executive Session: 7:57 p.m.

Exited Executive Session: 8:37 p.m.

Ashley Westfall made a motion to move that the Region 20 Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to execute separation agreements with the exact terms discussed in Executive Session. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, Matt Terzian made a motion to adjourn. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem