

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2025



1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Lakeview High School and via teleconference was called order at 7:01 p.m. by Tiffany Parkhouse.

Members present: Tiffany Parkhouse, Chair, Ashley Westfall, Vice Chair, Ashley Hall Daddona, Secretary, John Morosani, Treasurer, Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Diane Barnes, Billie Jean Sideris, and Rob DeLayo.

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. Points of Pride
Michael Valerio, Principal Lakeview High School honored Jack Reynolds as a National Merit Semifinalist.
4. Committee Reports
Ashley Westfall gave an update on the Policy Committee meeting whereby members reviewed policies in Series 5000. Nine policies will be brought to the full Board for first read at its next meeting, two policies have been tabled for further editing and review, and one policy, Use of Dogs to Search Schools, was declined to move forward to the full Board.
5. CABE – Leonard Lockhart, President & Nicholas Caruso Jr., Associate Executive Director for Field Services and Technology
Dr. Villar introduced Leonard Lockhart and Nicholas Caruso Jr. who spoke about CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) services and resources and how their organization supports Boards of Education and school districts.
6. Chairman's Report & Update
Upcoming Board of Education Meetings
 - November 20 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
 - December 11 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
 - January 15 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)
Note: Tentative Special Board of Education meetings on October 30, 2025, and November 6, 2025
7. Board of Education - Correspondence
None
8. Consent Agenda
 - 8.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2025
 - 8.2 Out of State Field Trip – Lyndhurst, NJ – R. Ranft
 - 8.3 Appointment of Margie Groht – Agricultural Education Advisory Committee
 - 8.4 Approval of New Hires

- 8.4.1 Willow Scott, Educational Assistant, Litchfield Intermediate School
- 8.4.2 Eric Augustyn, School Security Personnel, Lakeview High School
- 8.4.3 James O'Connor, Van Driver (part-time), District
- 8.5 Discussion on Series 5000 Policies (First Read)
 - 8.5.1 Policy 5111.3 Protection of Undocumented Students
 - 8.5.2 Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
 - 8.5.3 Policy 5118.2 Educational Opportunities for Military Children
 - 8.5.4 Policy 5131.21 Threats or Acts of Violence
 - 8.5.5 Policy 5131.91 Hazing
 - 8.5.6 Policy 5141.24 Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS
 - 8.5.7 Policy 5141.231/4118.231 Psychotropic Drug Use
 - 8.5.8 Policy 5144.2 Use of Exclusionary Time Out Settings
 - 8.5.9 Policy 5144.3 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
 - 8.5.10 Policy 5144.5 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behavior
 - 8.5.11 Policy 5145.71 Surrogate Parent Program
 - 8.5.12 Policy 5145.121 Vehicle Searches on School Grounds

Margaret Hunt made a motion to remove Consent Agenda 8.2 Out of State Field Trip-Lyndhurst, NJ-R. Ranft and add Action Item 13.1.3 Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Out of State Field Trip-Lyndhurst, NJ-R. Ranft. Bille Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Margaret Hubnt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Student Council/FFA Updates

Jameson McTamney-President Class of 2027, shared information about activities occurring at Lakeview High School. Tyler Horn - FFA President, and Maggie Miller - FFA JRSR Chair shared information on recent FFA events.

10. Superintendent Update

10.1 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar reviewed the October Personnel Report.

10.2 Presentation-State Assessment Report – 2024-2025

Dr. Villar gave a presentation on the State Assessment Report-2024-2025 and addressed questions from the Board. This presentation can be found on the district website.

11. Finance Update

11.1 FY26 Budget Report

Julia Cardillo gave the Financial Highlights report that included a grants update, project updates, and commented about working with the new auditor. She also gave an update on the FY26 Budget Report and transfer forecast.

12. 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.

Becky Hubschman, Goshen spoke about the need for ELA and Math Interventionist and lack of course availability at the secondary level.

13. Action Items

13.1.1 Discussion on 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 School Calendars

There was a lengthy discussion about the 2026-2026 & 2027-2028 School Calendars that included but was not limited to verifying trimester end dates and parent conference dates, potential elimination of phase in dates that were introduced during COVID, potentially cutting back on a two-week winter recess and add an extended weekend in the February or March months. The district will bring back revised calendars for the Board's review and consideration.

13.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Donation – Re: BOE Policy 3280

John Morosani made a motion to Accept Donation – Re: BOE Policy 3280. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion.

This donation is from the Wamogo Class of 1975 to benefit the ASTE program with no stipulations.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

13.1.3 Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Out of State Field Trip-Lyndhurst, NJ-R. Ranft

Margaret Hunt made a motion to Approve Out of State Field Trip-Lyndhurst, NJ – R. Ranft. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion.

During discussion Dr. Villar provided background information about this field trip request commenting it met Board of Education policy, aligned with the middle school curriculum, there were appropriate chaperones available and funding. Questions addressed about the trip from the Board included teacher versus volunteer chaperones and related expenses, length of time on bus compared to the length of the event, and funding for students in need.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board Margaret Hunt made a motion to adjourn. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem