

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2026



1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Litchfield Intermediate School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:04 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, Julie Haggard, Assistant Superintendent Pupil Services, 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. Committee Reports
Diane Barnes reported that during a Joint ASTE & Finance Committee meeting, members viewed a Needs Assessment presentation.

Tiffany Parkhouse shared that a Joint Finance Committee and Board meeting was held to review Budget Category 0 - Capital, and a portion of Category 1 - Certified Salaries. The Finance Committee and Board will resume the review of Category 1 and proceed to Category 2 - Classified Salaries at the next meeting.

4. Chairman's Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- February 12-Litchfield Intermediate School - Budget Workshop - 5:30 p.m.
- February 19 – Litchfield Intermediate School – Budget Workshop - 5:30 p.m., BOE 7:00 p.m.
- February 26 - Litchfield Intermediate School - Budget Workshop - 5:30 p.m.
- March 12 - Litchfield Intermediate School - 7:00 p.m.
- March 26 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- April 2 - Lakeview High School - Budget Workshop - 5:30 p.m.
- April 9 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- April 20 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m. (Budget Hearing Presentation)
- May 4 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m. (Budget Meeting - Vote)

(All meetings will have a remote option)

Tiffany Parkhouse read aloud the upcoming Board of Education Meetings. She then asked for a motion to add Action Item 8.1.0 Discussion and Possible Action on the Formation of an Ad Hoc Fiscal Advisory Committee of the Whole.

Ashley Westfall made a motion to add Action Item 8.1.0 Discussion and Possible Action on the Formation of an Ad Hoc Fiscal Advisory Committee of the Whole. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion.

During discussion Margaret Hunt inquired if the Board should edit Action Item 8.1.1. Tiffany Parkhouse responded it is “cleaner” this way and would become apparent once the Board begins discussion on the Action Item.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026

5.2 Out of State Field Trip Approval

5.2.1 Wildlife Center, Atlantis Explorer Boat Tour, Marine Rescue Center & Aquarium- Long Island, NY - C. Manzolino

5.3 Approval of New Hire - Samantha Huthwaite - Educational Assistant, Lakeview High School

Tiffany Parkhouse inquired if there were any items that needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda. There was discussion regarding a vote in the January 15, 2026 minutes.

As a result, Krista Rizzo made a motion to remove and table Consent Agenda 5.1 Board of Education Minutes of January 15, 2026 for the next meeting. Ashley Westfall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan Wheeler made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 5.2 through 5.3 Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar provided an update on the FY27 budget review, highlighting details from prior meetings and directing community members to the district website to view all currently available documents. He also announced the dates and locations of upcoming PTO meetings he will attend and expressed his availability to present budget information to any civic or community groups upon request.

6.1 Student Reports

Student Reports will resume at the next Board of Education meeting.

6.2 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar reviewed the February Personnel Report noting the hiring of an Educational Assistant at Lakeview High School.

6.3 Enrollment Report

Dr. Villar shared that Billie Jean Sideris raised some concerns about the Enrollment Report and he is currently looking into how the numbers were formulated and wanted to flag this for the Board.

6.4 Status of District's FY25 Audit

Julia Cardillo stated this is the first year audit of Region 20 and the preliminary testing is completed and CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP) did not identify any risks or findings. The audit has been moved on to a senior level review. The district anticipates audit completion by early March.

7. 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 FY27 Budget, recognizing there is a proposed position for an Interventionist and two dedicated Educational Assistant positions for support, it is a step in the right direction but not enough.

Matthew Tobin, Litchfield, commented he was having difficulty accessing the R20 FY27 Budget Documents page on the district website. John Morosani commented if Mr. Tobin was using a VPN, he would not be able to access the page.

8. Action Items

8.1.0 Discussion and Possible Action on the Formation of an Ad Hoc Fiscal Advisory Committee of the Whole

Ashley Westfall made a motion to Approve the Formation of an Ad Hoc Fiscal Advisory Committee of the Whole. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion.

The Board held an extensive discussion regarding the formation of an Ad Hoc Fiscal Advisory Committee. Key concerns were the potential size of the committee if two representatives were appointed from each town, the process for member appointment/selection, and the anticipated meeting frequency. Additionally, a Board member sought clarification on the committee's specific goals, noting that Dr. Villar and Julia Cardillo are already attending PTO, and Board of Finance meetings talking about the budget. Prior to calling for a formal vote, Tiffany Parkhouse asked for a show of hands on who would be comfortable appointing two committee members from each town. Two Board members raised their hand indicating the majority of the Board was comfortable appointing one committee member from each town.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

8.1.1 Discussion and Possible Action for the Development of a Finance Committee as Described in C.G.S. § CT Gen. St. 10-51C

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion not to Develop a Finance Committee as Described in C.G.S. § CT Gen. St. 10-51C. John Morosani seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Series 6000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption)

- a. Policy 6141.51 Addressing Enrollment in an Advanced Courses or Programs and Challenging Curriculum
- b. Policy 6172.4 Title I Parent Involvement
- c. Policy 6000 Concepts and Roles in Instruction
- d. Policy 6111 School Calendar
- e. Policy 6112 School Day
- f. Policy 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
- g. Policy 6141.22 Religion and Religious Accommodation
- h. Policy 6141.311 Limited English Proficiency Program (English Learners)
- i. Policy 6141.312 Migrant Students
- j. Policy 6141.326 Electronic Resources
- k. Policy 6141.3221 Website Accessibility

Kara Cruoglio made a motion for the Approval of Series 6000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption) 8.1.2 a.-k. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.1.3 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of PreK Tuition Fees - 2026-2027

John Morosani made a motion for the Approval of PreK Tuition Fees - 2026-2027. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion.

Topics covered before the motion and during discussion included but were not limited to are PreK fees comparable to surrounding areas, do fees cover expenses associated with the program, and payment plans for families.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

8.1.4 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Out of District Tuition Fees - 2026-2027

John Morosani made a motion for the Approval of Out of District Tuition Fees - 2026-2027. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar provided an overview of proposed out-of-district tuition fees. He addressed Board inquiries regarding the student approval process, fee structures for students needing additional services, and current enrollment numbers.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

8.1.5 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of ASTE FY26 Needs Assessment Proposal (ASTE Grant)

Susan Wheeler made a motion for the Approval of the ASTE FY26 Needs Assessment Proposal (ASTE Grant). John Morosani seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar addressed questions from the Board that included but was not limited to consideration of timing, and pulling permits/fees, the ASTE Director will work collaboratively with CFO to ensure expenses do not exceed the grant funding, what is the date of when grant funds need to be exhausted.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

8.1.6 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of the Intergovernmental and Cooperative Arrangement Agreement Between Thomaston Public Schools, Region 14 and Region 20 Boards of Education - Lacrosse

Krista Rizzo made a motion for the Approval of the Intergovernmental and Cooperative Arrangement Agreement Between Thomaston Public Schools, Region 14, and Region 20 Boards of Education - Lacrosse. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion.

There was a lengthy discussion about the lacrosse program that included but was not limited to costs, number of players from Lakeview High School, and CIAC guidelines on number of students to field a team versus a co-op program. Once all questions were answered, Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to adjourn. John Morosani seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem