

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2026



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 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. Points of Pride Principals from Warren School, Litchfield Intermediate School, Goshen Center School, James Morris School, Plumb Hill Middle School, and Lakeview High School recognized the following students as Superintendent Award recipients for the Connecticut Association of School Superintendents (CAPSS)/Litchfield County Superintendents' Association (LCSA). They are: Malin Sziklai, Martina Carlson, Harper Cole, Madison Munson, Renzo Vattuone, and Nathaniel Stull, respectively.

4. Committee Reports

Margaret Hunt gave the Curriculum Committee update sharing the committee received a presentation from Pam Vecca, Principal of Plumb Hill Middle School (PHMS) and her team of ELA teachers on the pilot of the *Arts & Letters* curriculum for grades 6 through 8. The curriculum was praised for its increased rigor, development of critical thinking, and cross-curricular alignment, leading the committee to unanimously recommend it for full Board approval. The Curriculum Committee Chair closed by apologizing for questioning the PHMS team's professionalism and she had decided to step down from her Chair position for the remainder of the academic year.

5. Chairman's Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- April 20 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m. (Budget Hearing Presentation)
- May 4 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m. (Budget Meeting - Vote)
- May 21- Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- June 11 - Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- June 25 - Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)

Tiffany Parkhouse noted the Budget Hearing meeting on April 20, 2026 and Budget Meeting - Vote on May 4, 2026.

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2026
- 6.2 Out of State Field Trip - C Concilio - Philadelphia, PA
- 6.3 Out of State Field Trip - K Brady & K Roe - Millbrook, NY
- 6.4 Adoption of *Arts & Letters* ELA Curriculum for Plumb Hill Middle School

John Morosani made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 6.1 through 6.4. Ashley Westfall seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar gave the Superintendent Update commenting on continued work on student parking, the PDEC Advisory Committee and his thoughts on creating a Tech/AI Advisory Panel for the district. Dr. Villar closed by providing final words regarding the Curriculum Committee thanking the PHMS ELA teachers for their effort of implementing and developing a pilot program. He shared that he met with the teachers this week and expressed his appreciation for their hard work and apologized to them if they felt that they weren't treated well during the committee meeting. As Superintendent, he takes this seriously. Dr. Villar extended his apologies to them as well, and appreciated Margaret Hunt's words and courage this evening.

7.1 Student Reports

The Board received updates from two FFA students regarding activities occurring at Lakeview High School.

7.2 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar reviewed the April 2026 Personnel Report.

8. Finance Report

8.1 FY26 Finance Update

Julia Cardillo gave the Finance Report that included but was not limited to the finance office halting all discretionary spending after early May for year-end preparation, the district continues to see a budget surplus due to lower employee enrollment in family medical plans, deficits in some budget line items that will likely result requests to the Board for budget transfers and an update on the FY25 audit.

8.2 FY26 Budget Transfer Request

Julia Cardillo commented the Budget Transfer Request for \$410.00 is for walkie-talkie batteries for Plumb Hill Middle School requesting a funds transfer from PE Supplies to School Supplies.

Margaret Hunt made a motion to approve the FY26 Budget Transfer. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Presentations

9.1 Winter 2026 Athletics Recap - Jim Parker, Athletic Director, Lakeview High School

Jim Parker, Lakeview High School Athletic Director, gave a presentation on the activities and successes of the Winter 2026 athletic season.

10. 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.

Deanna Marchand, Litchfield, spoke about technology use and student safety in schools, and made a book available to each Board of Education member regarding this topic.

Caroline Ugurlu, Litchfield, spoke about technology use, student safety in schools, and related public events made available to district families on this topic.

Sarah Sullivan, Goshen, spoke about technology use and student safety in schools.

11. Action Items

11.1.1 Discussion and Possible Action to Establish the Last Day of School for Students - 2025-2026

Susan Wheeler made a motion to establish June 19, 2026 as the last day of school for the 2025-2026 school year. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar commented there will be an educational component woven into the school day as June 19th is a holiday, *Juneteenth*.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

11.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action to Establish Lakeview High School Graduation Date - 2025-2026

Krista Rizzo made a motion to establish June 19, 2026 as Lakeview High School Graduation Date. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar commented that since June 19th is make-up day for exams there will be an acknowledgement of *Juneteenth* between exams. He also commented June 20, 2026 will be the rain date for graduation.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

11.1.3 Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Grant & Donations - Policy 3280 Gifts, Grants, Bequests

- Mini Barn - Plumb Hill Middle School
- Water Fountain with Bottle Filling Station - Plumb Hill Middle School

Prior to a motion for approval it was noted the Mini Barn donation should show this barn installation is for Goshen Center School and *not* Plumb Hill Middle School.

Dr. Villar shared these donations come from the PTOs with no cost to the district. He noted site preparation at Goshen Center School is covered.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve Accepting Grants & Donations - Policy 3280 Gifts, Grants, Bequests. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

11.1.4 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of the FY27 Budget

John Morosani made a motion to adopt the FY27 Budget in the amount of \$44,555,698.43 (4.24% increase). Krista Rizzo seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar addressed questions regarding how the Region 20 budget increase compares to other Berkshire League school districts, and if he would provide additional information on the quiet period once the Board adopts a budget.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passes with Tiffany Parkhouse, Ashley Westfall, Ashley Hall Daddona, John Morosani, Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Diane Barnes, and Rob DeLayo voting in favor of the motion. Billie Jean Sideris voted against the motion. The motion passes with one vote from each town at 89.94%.

Dr. Villar commented about his past work with other school business managers, and was highly complimentary of the work Julia Cardillo, CFO has done for the Region 20 district. The Board offered Ms. Cardillo a round of applause.

12. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, John Morosani made a motion to adjourn. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem