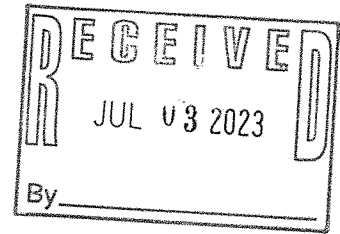


REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023



1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Warren School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Emily Cole.

Members present: Emily Cole, Chair, John Morosani, Vice Chair, Alexandria Papp, Secretary, Krista Rizzo, Jannelle Carroll, Joanne Moore, Bill Davenport, Christine Lauretano, Jennifer Munson, Rob DeLayo, and Tiffany Parkhouse. Also present: Chris Leone, Superintendent, Kristen Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Craig Robillard, Accounting Manager, and Deanna Marchand, Region 20 Project Coordinator.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Emily Cole invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Committee Reports

Joanne Moore provided the Long Term Planning Committee update commenting on taking a soft poll on school names and had some consensus on naming both schools. The Board will discuss and potentially vote on the names of the middle and high school later in the evening. The committee received a presentation on the Bobcat logo, and reviewed some seals created by a local vendor, and also finalized the Region 20 Mission Statement which will be shared with the community at a later date.

The Facilities Committee update was given by Rob DeLayo where he shared the committee reviewed the draft Region 20 Capital Needs Plan and a review of capital and maintenance work that will be completed over the summer.

4. Chairman's Report

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- June 29 – Litchfield Intermediate School – 7:00 p.m. – (canceled)
- July 13 – Wamogo – 7:00 p.m.
- August 10 – Goshen Center School – 7:00 p.m.
- August 24 – Litchfield Center School – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)

Mr. Leone commented, the July 13th meeting as “tentative” as there may be an issue getting a quorum due to summer schedules and this meeting may be scheduled for the following week or later in July.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Long Term Planning Committee minutes of May 31, 2023

5.2 Policy Committee minutes of May 31, 2023

5.3 Board of Education minutes of May 31, 2023

John Morosani made a motion to agglomerate the minutes of May 31, 2023. Jannelle Carroll seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Morosani made a motion to approve the agglomerated minutes of May 31, 2023. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 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

7. Superintendent Update

-Region 20 Website Update

Mr. Leone commented that the Region 20 website will go live on July 1, 2023.

-CSDE Response

Mr. Leone shared after two and half months the district received a response from the Connecticut State Department of Education that basically said, "fend for yourselves." He went on to say there has been legislative approval on the Region 20 Board Terms and codified in state statute. The Town Clerks have been notified. In regard to other legislation, he thanked CAFE, CAPSS, and CEA as teacher tenure law has now be changed addressing when municipal and regional districts merge. Also, legislation for a significant change for AgSci is coming in 2024-2025 with a funding increase of over \$7M statewide for schools with over 150 students. This equates to approximately \$600k annually in revenue for Region 20 students.

The Arethusa Foundation has formed a Board represented by five individuals. There will be an ex-officio position for the Superintendent of Region 20. This information has been sent to the IRS, and it is anticipated the Foundation will be up and running later in the fall.

Mr. Leone shared a document with the Board regarding migration of services for review. He went on to say the Board should expect contract review and approvals at the coming summer meetings and specifically cited PowerSchool and ERP Pro. The district will be going from seven different programs down to two programs and he thanked Deanna Marchand, Kristen Della Volpe, and Craig Robillard for their work on making this happen.

Mr. Leone commented on a great meeting with Litchfield Bancorp to look at handling Region 20 debt. The Finance Committee and Board should expect to see a presentation on options at its October meeting. He also had a productive meeting with First Selectwoman, Denise Raap on how to transfer Litchfield leases and properties to Region 20.

In regard to transportation, Mr. Leone met with All Star to discuss a proposal for Region 20 for Board review. All Star currently has a two-year extension for Region 6 and Litchfield and the Region 20 proposal would take the transportation agreement out five years. The district believes it can reduce use of the fleet by at least two, possibly three buses, and reduce athletic buses resulting in cost savings.

Mr. Leone closed by thanking the Region 20 Board and the four communities for the outpouring of love and support his family received due to the loss of his mother. He shared information on the establishment of a scholarship through the Lions Club for a graduating senior and SWAGs for a graduating ASTE student as a way of saying thank you.

8. Action Items

8.1 Approval Region 20 High School Name

Christine Lauretano made a motion for the Approval of the Region 20 High School Name – White Memorial High School. Bill Davenport seconded the motion.

During discussion Joanne Moore commented, this proposal of naming the middle and high school comes out of the Long Term Planning Committee. As Chair of that committee and because there is such a strong interest should the Board table this decision to continue to think this through as the Board is still receiving anecdotal feedback on school names. Ms. Moore said she doesn't feel quite ready to vote on the names yet. She went onto say the name Litchfield Hills was brought forward and while it may be temporarily offensive to the other three towns it does address identifying the region where the Region 20 school is located.

Mr. Leone commented that any names forwarded to him are forwarded to the full Board. Naming the schools is not a superintendent decision but a Board decision and whatever the Board decides is going to make some people happy and others unhappy. Should one wish to table this discussion a motion is needed and seconded however there is currently a motion on the floor that should be voted on first.

Emily Cole called for a vote.

The motion passed 10-1-0.

8.2 Approval Region 20 Middle School Name

Christine Lauretano made a motion for the Approval of the Region 20 Middle School Name – Plumb Hill Middle School. Tiffany Parkhouse seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-1-0.

8.3 Approval of Policy 4211.2 – School Security Personnel (First Read)

Christine Lauretano made a motion for the Approval of Policy 4211.2 – School Security Personnel (First Read). Jannelle Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.4 Recognition of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO – Classified Staff Bargaining Unit
Christine Lauretano made a motion to approve the Recognition of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO – Classified Staff Bargaining Unit. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.5 Approval of Contract with Region 20 Education Association (2024-2027)
John Morosani made a motion for the Approval of Contract with Region 20 Education Association (2024-2027). Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board Krista Rizzo made a motion to adjourn. John Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem