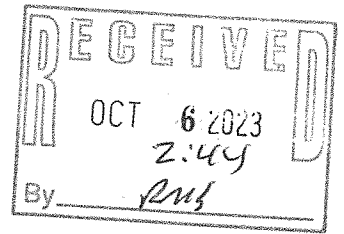


REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
September 28, 2023

ASTE Committee



1. Call to Order The ASTE Committee meeting held at Warren School and remotely was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Bill Davenport.

Members present: Bill Davenport, Chair, Alexandria Papp, Jannelle Carroll, and Christine Lauretano. Also present: Chris Leone, Superintendent, Krista Rizzo, Emily Cole, Joanne Moore, Rob DeLayo, Kristen Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Julie Haggard, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, and Deanna Marchand, Region 20 Project Coordinator.

2. Enrollment Update

Mr. Leone distributed an Enrollment Update as of September 27, 2023, commenting on the number of students on the wait list for Thomaston and Torrington. Mr. Leone also shared information on a recent student transfer from Winsted, Northwest Region 7. The Winsted Board of Education approved this request before the district accepted the student transfer.

3. Legislation Update

Mr. Leone highlighted three legislative topics that included discussions with Representatives Currey and Cook, anticipated increased funding for ASTE programs beginning in SY 2024-2025, and lifting of the three-year average from sending towns cap for students applying to ASTE programs. Mr. Leone also spoke about Ag Day at the Capital and encouraged the Committee and Board members to attend in the spring. Mr. Leone will share further information on Ag Day at the Capital as the details further develop.

4. ASTE Principal – Discussion on Process

Mr. Leone discussed the makeup of the selection team for the ASTE Principal position. Discussion ensued. The committee agreed to a maximum 12-member team that would include representation from the ASTE Committee, Ag Advisory Committee, District Leadership, and Arethusa Farm Foundation. Mr. Leone will follow up with the Ag Advisory Committee on this topic at its next meeting in early October.

5. Arethusa Farm Foundation Update

Mr. Leone shared that the district and the Arethusa Farm Foundation (AFF) have been working on a land lease use agreement and anticipate having a final agreement before the Board in the December timeframe. The property appraisal is complete, and the attorney is finalizing the gift transfer. There will be a bridge agreement between AFF and Region 6 that will end on June 30, 2024, and one between AFF and Region 20 that begins on July 1, 2024. It is expected there will be a lengthy-term similar to the agreement with Plumb Hill. The committee may see a draft proposal at its meeting in late October.

6. ASTE Goal Setting (Draft)

Mr. Leone circulated a draft ASTE Goal for committee review. Discussion ensued. The committee agreed to the edited version that reads: *By July 1, 2024, the Region 20 Board of Education ASTE Committee will work with the Supporters of WAMOGO Agriscience (SWAGS), the WAMOGO Agricultural Science Technology Education Advisory Committee, and the Arethusa Farm Foundation to ensure the successful growth of the ASTE program as measured by enrollment.*

Jannelle Carroll made a motion to move the revised ASTE Goal to the next Long Term Planning Committee meeting in October. Christine Lauretano seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Other Business

Mr. Leone will share the date of the ASTE Open House with the committee. Bill Davenport would like to promote this event and encourage Litchfield students and residents to attend to learn more about this program.

8. Adjourn There being no further business to come before this committee the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Escobar  
Secretary, pro-tem