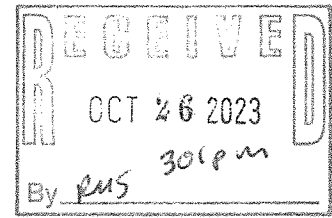


REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2023



1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Litchfield Intermediate 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, Andrew Tita, Treasurer, Krista Rizzo, Jannelle Carrol, Bill Davenport, Christine Lauretano, Jennifer Munson, Rob DeLayo, and Tiffany Parkhouse. Also present: Chris Leone, Superintendent, Kristen Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Julie Haggard, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, and Deanna Marchand, Region 20 Project Manager.

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

3. Committee Reports
Tiffany Parkhouse reported the Policy Committee met earlier in the evening and established its Board of Education Goal and reviewed the updated Graduation Requirements Policy 6146. Policy 6146 will go to the full Board for first read in November.

Alexandrea Papp shared the Curriculum Committee received the Academic Performance reports for LPS and RSD6 and also discussed the Program of Studies and summer curriculum work.

Emily Cole provided the Long Term Planning update commenting the Board agreed to the six goals submitted by the Committees. These goals will go to the full Board at its next meeting for approval.

4. Chairman's Report
Upcoming Board of Education Meetings
 - November 9 – Wamogo – 7:00 p.m.
 - December 14 – Litchfield Center School – 7:00 p.m.

5. Approval of Minutes
 - 5.1 ASTE Committee minutes of September 28, 2023
 - 5.2 Communications Committee minutes of September 28, 2023
 - 5.3 Long Term Planning Committee minutes of September 28, 2023
 - 5.4 Finance Committee minutes of September 28, 2023
 - 5.5 Facilities Committee minutes of September 28, 2023
 - 5.6 Board of Education minutes of September 28, 2023

John Morosani made a motion to combine the Committee and Board of Education meeting minutes of September 28, 2023. Tiffany Parkhouse seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Morosani made a motion to approve the combined Committee and Board of Education minutes. 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.

Margaret Hunt, Litchfield commented for the Curriculum Committee to consider reviewing the Global Online Academy for students. This is an accredited NEASC program and would provide students learning opportunities with peers from around the world.

7. Superintendent Update

Mr. Leone opened by thanking the Committee and Board members for their work on Region 20 Board goals. These goals will go to the full Board for approval at its next meeting in November. In his update he spoke about students from both LPS and RSD6 in grades 6-11 visiting Camp Awosting, and that he will be holding monthly staff meetings to address questions about Region 20 as well as meetings with students. Mr. Leone closed with a property transfer update commenting that the town of Litchfield is requesting Region 20 to share in the cost of fees associated with this process such as title searches. The Board will need to take up this topic at a future meeting.

8. Action Items

8.1 Discussion of High School Name

Emily Cole shared a chart with the Board members that showed their responses to high school names they *love*, *could live with*, or *would never support*. She then showed a list of names that fell into the two categories of *love* and *could live with*, and a shorter list that may have only had one objection to the name. Discussion ensued. It was decided to ask each individual Board member if they could live with each name on both lists. The Board was able to agree on the following five names: Lakeview High School, Maple Hill High School, Union Hill High School, Western Hills High School, and White Memorial High School. While White Memorial High School was the original name selected, a Board member commented, the district heard from about 30 people who did not support this name and the Board never went out to the broader community to get their feedback. Discussion then continued about if or how to have the public vote in the naming process. It was agreed a community message would be sent to the public to rank the list of names from likes best to least. From there the Board will consider the top two names and hope to have an in-person vote to select the final name of the high school.

Christine Lauretano made a motion to send the five proposed high school names (Lakeview High School, Maple Hill High School, Union Hill High School, Western Hills High School, White Memorial High School) out to the community to rank them in order of preference. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 10 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions.

The district will send a community message with survey link requesting people to rank order the five school names. The survey will remain open until noon on November 8, 2023, in order to allow the Board to discuss the results and next steps at its meeting on November 9, 2023.

8.2 Review of Region 20 Budget Timeline

Mr. Leone reviewed the Region 20 Budget Timeline and noted one correction. The Budget Meeting (vote) will be held on May 6, 2024.

8.3 Review of Preliminary Region 20 Assessments

Mr. Leone reviewed the preliminary Region 20 town assessments based on a five-year enrollment. These figures have been shared with the First Selectmen of each town and will not be finalized until enrollment is certified at the end of the month.

8.4 Approval of Out of State Field Trip

8.4.1 Ireland – L. Bennett

Krista Rizzo made a motion to approve the Out of State Field Trip Request – Ireland. Christine Lauretano seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.5 Approval Region 20 BOE Meeting Calendar – January-December 2024 (Second Read)

Prior to any motions, Mr. Leone commented on two corrections on the January-December 2024 Region 20 BOE Meeting Calendar. They are May 3, 2024, and should read May 23, 2024, and November 28, 2024, should read November 21, 2024. Additionally, he inquired if the Board of Education would like to return to in-person meetings only or continue with the in-person and remote option. Discussion ensued and the Board agreed to continue with in-person and remote options for 2024.

John Morosani made a motion to approve the Region 20 BOE Meeting Calendar – January-December 2024 with in-person and remote option. Andrew Tita seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.6 Approval of the Region 20 Job Descriptions

8.6.1 Administrative Assistant to Pupil Services Department

8.6.2 Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services

John Morosani made a motion to approve the Region 20 Job Descriptions – Administrative Assistant to Pupil Services Department & Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services. Andrew Tita seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.7 Approval of the Appointment of Region 20 Administrators

8.7.1 Principal Litchfield Center School

8.7.2 Principal Goshen Center School

8.7.3 Principal Plumb Hill Middle School

8.7.4 Assistant Principal Plumb Hill Middle School

8.7.5 Principal High School

8.7.6 Assistant Principal High School

Christine Lauretano made a motion to approve the Appointment of Region 20 Administrators (Action Items 8.7.1 through 8.7.6). John Morosani seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Executive Session

None

10. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board Christine Lauretano made a motion to adjourn. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem