REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 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 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: Ashley Westfall, Vice Chair, and Scott Pottbecker.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Tiffany Parkhouse invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Committee Reports
   None.

4. Chairman's Report & Update
   Upcoming Board of Education Meetings
   - 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 noted that there will be an Ad Hoc Finance Committee meeting on March 26, 2026. On April 2, 2026, the Board will review the proposed FY27 Budget. This budget incorporates all changes discussed during prior Budget Workshops (Joint Finance Committee & BOE meetings). The Board of Education plans to vote on the budget at its meeting on April 9, 2026.

5. Consent Agenda
   5.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2026
   5.2 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2026
   5.3 Policy Adoption (First Read)
      5.3.1 Policy 6153 Field Trip
      5.3.2 Policy 6142 Basic Instructional Program
      5.3.3 Policy 6142.102 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
      5.3.4 Policy 6142.103 Trauma Informed Schools
      5.3.5 Policy 6144.1 Exemption from Instruction
      5.3.6 Policy 6145 Extra Class Activities

   John Morosani made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 5.1 through 5.3 and associated First Read Policies. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Superintendent Update
Dr. Villar commented about meeting with all elementary and middle school PTOs to present the FY27 Budget. He noted that student parking at local businesses remains a concern. Additionally, he addressed the community budget letter sent on March 6, 2026, which inadvertently omitted the elimination of one secondary choral teacher position. The position has been removed from the FY27 Budget recommendation.

6.1 Personnel Report
Dr. Villar reviewed the March 2026 Personnel Report.

7. Finance Update
7.1 FY26 Finance Report
During the Finance Update, Julia Cardillo reported that the Goshen boiler replacement project is underway. Work on the Warren water storage tanks and filter replacement is scheduled for spring break. She also noted that she will continue to monitor the deficits and surpluses highlighted in the FY26 Finance Report. Additionally, responses were provided to the Board regarding the ASTE grant and the number of students serviced by out-of-district tuition and transportation.

8. 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.

Leah Sobek, Litchfield expressed concerns about student use of AI for their school work.

Amy Sobek, Litchfield expressed concerns about YouTube social media access on student devices and the ability to view non-academic content during the school day.

Adam Sobek, Litchfield, commented about the importance of putting policies, regulations and safeguards in place with social media and expressed his concerns about AI and impacting students' ability to think rather than click for the answer.

9. Action Items
9.1.1 Discussion and Possible Action for Additional Adjustments to the 2025-2026 School Calendar
Dr. Villar presented options for Board consideration on adjusting the 2025-2026 school calendar to move up the last day of school. The discussion included, but was not limited to, the requirement that if early dismissal days are held on April 3, 2026 (Good Friday), and June 19, 2026 (Juneteenth), an educational component be provided for each day, as one is a religious holiday and the other is a state and federal holiday. An example given was to have a "day of kindness" on April 3, 2026. Also discussed were student attendance and high absenteeism on early dismissal days before a holiday or weekend, as well as budget impacts for potential substitute teacher needs if the Board approves these additional days on the school calendar.

Krista Rizzo made a motion to reduce the school year for students by one day to a total of 180 days and to make April 3, 2026, and June 19, 2026, both early dismissal days. Diane Barnes seconded the motion.

Prior to voting, a comment was addressed regarding the potential for disruptive weather next week and its impact on schools; therefore, it was questioned whether the Board should postpone a decision until a later date. The Board Chair noted there was a motion on the floor. A vote was taken.

Krista Rizzo, Ashley Hall Daddona, Susan Wheeler, John Morosani, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Diane Barnes, and Tiffany Parkhouse voted yes. Billie Jean Sideris and Rob DeLayo voted no. The motion passed with one vote from each town at an 83.9% weighted vote.

9.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action for the Board of Education to Conduct its Own Self-Assessment
Tiffany Parkhouse opened by sharing when speaking with staff from CABE it is best practice that before the Board of Education evaluates the superintendent that it conducts a self-evaluation. She reminded members of the Board that a draft evaluation document was shared with them. The timeline would be to complete the assessment by March 20, 2026 and the Board would discuss at its March 26, 2026 meeting.

Susan Wheeler made a motion for the Board of Education to Conduct its Own Self-Assessment. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.

Discussion included, but was not limited to, adding "irrelevant" or "not applicable" as a response option and moving from a 5-point scale to a 4-point scale (as a 5-point scale allows for neutral responses). The Board will also give consideration to having the public and staff evaluate the Board at a later date.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Krista Rizzo, Ashley Hall Daddona, Susan Wheeler, John Morosani, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Diane Barnes, Tiffany Parkhouse, and Rob DeLayo voted yes. Billie Jean Sideris abstained. The motion passed with one vote from each town at an 86.9% weighted vote.

10. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, Krista Rizzo made a motion to adjourn. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem