Received
Asst. Town Clerk
AUG 31 2022
9:12 A.M.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
August 24, 2022

1. Call to Order
The Regional School District No. 20 Board of Education meeting held in the Wamogo Library Media Room was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Emily Cole.

2. Roll Call
Roll call was conducted by seating order around the table. Emily Cole, Chair, Goshen – present. John Morosani, Vice Chair, Litchfield – present. Tiffany Parkhouse, Warren – present. Bill Davenport, Litchfield – present. Jannelle Carroll, Goshen – present. Christine Lauretano, Morris – present. Rob DeLayo, Warren – present. Michael McGill, Morris – present. Joanne Moore, Litchfield – present. Krista Rizzo, Goshen – present. Andrew Tita, Treasurer, Morris – present. and Alexandrea Papp, Secretary, Warren-present.

All members were present and accounted for.

3. Approval of Minutes
   a. Review the minutes of the special meeting of August 1, 2022.

Jannelle Carroll made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of August 1, 2022. Andrew Tita seconded. No discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

4. Determination of Term of Office of Each Board Member - C.G.S. Section 10-46(a)
Comments by a representative of each town were made on their town leadership's opinion and preferences.

Warren, via Tiffany Parkhouse: Warren's preference is to wait until 2024 for the first vote, and for each town to have one member up for election for 3 years and the 4th year off (Option 3 in the originally proposed plan from Chris Leone).

Morris, via Andrew Tita: Morris didn't discuss a specific Option to support, but is in agreement that 2024 should be the first election year, giving the current board two years to get things up and running before elections, with one member per town per year in 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Litchfield, via John Morosani: Litchfield leadership developed and subsequently approved option 3B, stipulating that voting would occur every two years, with two towns holding elections for two members, and two towns holding elections for one member. Their plan indicated the first voting year to be 2023, but they are not opposed to 2024 being the first voting year.

Conversation ensued regarding the benefits of the first election year being in 2024.
John Morosani shared some detail from a conversation he had with Matthew Venhorst, legal counsel for the Connecticut State Department of Education. Matt indicated that the State

Board of Education was unlikely to produce a rapid or harsh penalty for RSD20 implementing a voting schedule out of compliance with the current statute. However, he recommended advocating to modify the current Connecticut State Statute 10-46. He suggested two possible changes to current Statute 10-46 that would be voted on within the 2023 legislative session and, if passed, allow RSD20 to remain in compliance because RSD20 would not be out of compliance with the current statute until 2024.

The first method is to have special carved-out language specifically allowing RSD20 permission to conduct its board elections in the manner it determines best for the district.

The second method is to provide the Commissioner the authority to waive a portion of the statute at will. Both Matthew Venhorst and Senator Craig Minor had indicated that RSD20 is more likely to get approval from the legislature for an individual carve-out than to give the commissioner additional power or authority. They believe it will be an easy omnibus statute as long as all four towns, administration, and unions agree. If the Board were to advocate for the modification now, it would not go into effect until the end of the legislative session in mid-2023.

Goshen, via Emily Cole: The town leadership would prefer to be in compliance with the statute, but would be in support so long as the group is attempting to modify the statute to become compliant by 2024.

General consensus and appreciation for the time and effort John Morosani put into digging deeper into our options.

Tiffany Parkhouse made a motion to accept election cycle Option 3, with a start date of 2024. Bill Davenport seconded. No discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

Town	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**
Goshen	1a	1b	1c		1a	1b	1c	
Litchfield	1a	1b	1c		1a	1b	1c	
Morris	1a	1b	1c		1a	1b	1c	
Warren	1a	1b	1c		1a	1b	1c	

Option 3:

Option 3B (per John Morosani's description)

Town	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Goshen	1a, 1b		1c		1a, 1b		1c	
Litchfield	1a, 1b		1c		1a, 1b		1c	
Morris	1a		1b, 1c		1a		1b, 1c	
Warren	1a		1b, 1c		1a		1b, 1c	

Election term limits were then selected by drawing names from a bag.
Tiffany Parkhouse pulled the names for Litchfield. John Morosani pulled subsequent names.

	1A (2024)	1B (2025)	1C (2026)
Litchfield	Bill Davenport	Joanne Moore	John Morosani
Warren	Alex Papp	Rob DeLayo	Tiffany Parkhouse
Morris	Christine Lauretano	Mike McGill	Andrew Tita
Goshen	Emily Cole	Janelle Carroll	Krista Rizzo

5. Committee Discussions

Chris Leone explained that policies come from committees. He recommended starting with five committees: Policy, Negotiations, Curriculum, Finance, and Facilities, and to consider two ad hoc committees: Communications for messaging with the community and Agriculture which is required by statute to be included. He also recommended that one person from each town have representation on each four-person committee. Chris recommended that a chart be circulated for everyone to fill out and return their top 4 choices, to be finalized at the next meeting. Emily Cole to create and distribute the chart.

Emily Cole suggested adding Agriculture and Communications Committees immediately, even if they won't meet for a while. General consensus was in agreement.

Chris Leone remarked that EdAdvance always has a local district representative as the RESC (Regional Education Service Center), which is currently Christine Lauretano for RSD6. Christine agreed she could and would be willing to continue this role for RSD20.
Krista Rizzo asked how many committees should exist. A: If we have 7 committees there are 28 seats, with 4 people per committee and 12 Board members, and everyone would be on 2-3

committees. Past practice for RSD6 and LPS is that committee meetings occur on the same date as the general Board meetings, and typically all Board members attend all the committee meetings. It is not mandatory to have one person from each town on each committee, as votes are not weighted. Only committee members are able to vote in the committee meetings, but any member may participate in the conversation. The Board Chair is usually an ex-officio member and votes as a tiebreaker if needed, which historically is rare. Everything coming out of a committee has to go to the board. Everyone should sit on 2-3 committees.

Alex Papp asked if the committee sizes are limited to 4 members. Mike McGill asked what happens if more than four people feel strongly about being on a committee? A: All Board members can attend and participate in any committee meeting. They just cannot vote, which is historically a non-issue.

Mike McGill asked about considering a strategic planning committee, specifically a short-term, smaller group of people looking at the next two years. Following the district's opening, they would be doing longer-term "early warning" planning, without being restricted to the limited scope of a specific committee. Discussion followed; not necessary because much planning would come from the superintendent, officers, etc. Discussed the potential to consider adding it as an ad hoc committee in the future. Emily Cole said that the description sounds a lot like what RSD6 and LPS's Long Term Planning groups work on. Further discussion around the concerns of Strategic Plans typically being created and then filed away in a drawer until it was time to update it. The group decided to make an official committee that meets as needed.

6. RSD20 Meeting Dates

Proposed schedule was discussed. All proposed meeting dates are Thursdays, alternating with LPSs Board meetings. Location is required to alternate between Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, & Warren. Typically, these meetings would be held at the schools, and the Board Chair will send out specific instructions and necessary directions in advance of each meeting. There was an agreement that Google Meet links should be created as an option for all meetings.

Andrew Tita remarked that October 6th is a significant night for an Under the Lights soccer game beginning at 6:45pm, prompting a discussion about the timing of the RSD20 BOE meetings. The proposed meeting dates did not include a proposed time so that the group could meet when convenient on that date.

Motion: Christine Lauretano made a motion to approve the dates and locations listed as discussed. Krista Rizzo seconded. No discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

Schedule:

Date	Location	Time
September 1, 2022	Goshen Center School	7pm
September 22, 2022,	Litchfield Intermediate School	7pm
October 6, 2022	James Morris School	4pm
October 20, 2022	Warren School	7pm
November 10, 2022	Goshen Center School	7pm
November 17, 2022	Litchfield Intermediate School	7pm
December 1, 2022	James Morris School	7pm
December 15, 2022	Warren School	7pm

7. Board Retreat Information

The RSD20 Board will have a "retreat" on Saturday, September 17th, 9am-2pm, Wamogo Library Media Center.

Chris Leone explained that the draft agenda was developed in cooperation with Dr. Martin Brooks, Executive Director of the Tri-State Consortium. Chris requested that any recommendations for additions or modifications be provided to Emily Cole before September 1st so that the necessary planning can be completed in enough time.

8. Other Business

Chris Leone reminded the Board that 22-23 Bylaw documents were made available to them via email and Google Drive. They will become available to edit on 8/25, and comments and suggestions need to be made by the evening of Sunday, August 28th. The revised Bylaw documents will be part of next week's board meeting packet. There will also be a look into policy next week, breaking it into sections and when it goes into first read, etc.

Chris also mentioned a draft MOA to be discussed during Executive Session, regarding sharing staff between the three districts, as well as a proposed first new clerical position through AFSCME.

RFP for legal and banking will be ready for review by mid-September. Chris is hopeful that the incorporation documents will be on file by the end of September.

Mike McGill inquired about the process to appoint counsel. An RFP process is to be followed. The Board will approve it in September, applicants have three weeks to submit responses.

Either the negotiations or finance committee completes the review and decision. The expectation is to have counsel in place by November. RSD20 cannot have the same counsel as either of the other two districts, but that doesn't preclude counsel from submitting an RFP and recusing themselves from providing counsel to their current district if they are selected.

9. Executive Session

Motion: Janelle Carroll made a motion to enter Executive Session, including Chris Leone for the purposes of negotiation. Krista Rizzo seconded. No discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

Executive Session Begins: 7:43pm.
Executive Session Ends: 8:29pm.

Motion: Christine Lauretano made a motion to adjourn. Tiffany Parkhouse seconded. No discussion. The motion passes unanimously.
Meeting adjourns at 8:30pm

The next meeting is 7:00pm at Goshen Center School.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexandrea Papp
Secretary, Region 20