

Litchfield Board of Education  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2022

1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting was held at the Litchfield Intermediate School auditorium and via teleconference was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Terzian.

Members present: Mr. Terzian, Chair, Mr. Clock, Vice Chair, Mr. Malo, Secretary, Ms. Reardon, Ms. Stone, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Shuhi, and Mr. Morosani. Also present: Mr. Leone, Superintendent, Ms. Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Robillard, Accounting Manager, Mr. Pascento, Principal, Wamogo High School, and Mrs. Hodges, LPS & RSD6 Liaison.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Terzian invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Points of Pride

The July Points of Pride recipient will be celebrated at the August Board of Education meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Review the minutes of the regular meeting of June 9, 2022

Mr. Morosani made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 9, 2022. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. Mr. Clock abstained. The motion passes.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Superintendent's Report

- a. 2021-2022 Finance Report

Mr. Leone provided the Budget Update. On the Revenue side, there are final adjustments to Outside Tuition, an increase of \$29,399. Mr. Leone publicly thanked Mr. Robillard for his diligence and accuracy in billing and collecting fees for outside tuition for non-resident students. There is also a final adjustment in Facilities Use Fees; a reduction of \$4,506. On the Expense side, there is reconciliation of \$50k for Certified Salaries for a Social Worker, \$120k for Classified Salaries on Custodial substitutes and overtime, \$25k for Shared Services for IT Support, and \$25k in Administration for Legal Fees. There are realized savings of \$150k in Employee Benefits, \$80k in Learning Programs, \$30k in Tuition savings on placements, and \$64k in Transportation savings for special education transportation. Contingency, pre-audit currently sits at \$236,471.

- b. 2022-2023 Finance Report

The Budget Update 2022-2023 included no change on the Revenue side. On the Expense side \$160k reduction in Learning Programs for \$80k savings on Chromebooks and \$80k in grants for SummerFest.

- c. Personnel Report

Mr. Leone reviewed the July Personnel Report commenting on vacancies of an Educational Assistant, Van Driver, Special Education Teacher, and a Custodian, two internal transfers, and two retirements.

- d. Region 20 Update and Timeline

Mr. Leone shared a communication from the State Department of Education certifying the

referendum vote commented that all Region 20 Board of Education members have been elected, and also circulated a draft Region 20 timeline.

7. Presentations

a. Climate Presentation – C. Leone

Mr. Leone presented the April 2022 Climate Survey results.

b. Safety & Security Update – C. Leone

Mr. Leone presented the annual Safety & Security Update.

8. New Business

a. Approval of Budget Transfer 2021-2022 – July

Mr. Morosani made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer 2021-2022 – July. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

b. Approval of Budget Transfer 2022-2023 – July

Mr. Malo made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer 2022-2023 – July. Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

c. Approval of Tuition Rate for 2022-2023

Mr. Malo made a motion to approve the Tuition Rate for 2022-2023. Ms. Stone seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

d. School Resource Officer – Job Description (First Read)

Mr. Leone commented on the School Resource Officer-Job Description was not an Action Item and solicited feedback from the Board members on any suggested edits or additions. Discussion ensued. Feedback noted.

e. Approval of Agreement for Co-Op Lacrosse Team – Region 6 & Region 14

Ms. Reardon made a motion to approve the Agreement for Co-Op Lacrosse Team – Region 6 & Region 14. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

f. Approval of Athletic Donation

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve the Athletic Donation. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

g. Approval of 2022-2023 CABA Invoice

Mr. Clock made a motion to approve payment of the 2022-2023 CABA Invoice. There was no second motion. The motion fails to pass.

h. Approval of Committee Members for Litchfield Education Association (LEA) Negotiations

Mr. Terzian nominated himself, Mr. Malo, and Ms. Stone as Committee members for Litchfield Education Association (LEA) Negotiations. Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

i. Approval of Committee Members for Litchfield Administrators' Association (LAA) Negotiations

Mr. Morosani nominated Mr. Terzian, Mr. Malo, and Ms. Stone as Committee members for Litchfield Administrators' Association (LAA) Negotiations. Ms. Stone seconded the

**motion. The motion passes unanimously.**

- j. Approval of Litchfield Public Schools Union Savings Account Signers  
*Pursuant to a legal opinion from the Litchfield Town Attorney, the Town Treasurer has determined that all BOE accounts should have the Town of Litchfield Treasurer's signature on them. Currently, there are three accounts that will require updated signature cards to comply with this request. As a second request, currently, there is a BOE account that has only the Town of Litchfield Treasurer's signature, this account should be updated to include the BOE Chair and Vice-Chair signatures.*

**Mr. Shuhi made a motion to approve the Litchfield Public Schools Union Savings Accounting Signers as read and as written. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.**

**9. Old Business**

None

**10. Committee Reports**

There was no update for EdAdvance this month.

Mr. Terzian provided the Curriculum, Programs, and Personnel update commenting the committee reviewed the EDI presentation and Climate Survey results.

Mr. Shuhi shared the Facilities and Technology Committee met earlier in the evening and received an update on Capital Projects, district, and town work, as well as technology project updates.

The Finance Committee update was given by Mr. Terzian where the committee members received an update on the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Budgets and budget transfer requests.

**11. Policy Review**

a. Second Read

i. Policy 3542.42 Charging Policy

ii. Policy 5118 Non-Resident Attendance

iii. Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Materials

**Mr. Morosani made a motion to aggregate *Item 11a. Second Read, items i., ii., iii.* Ms. Stone seconded the motion.**

During discussion, Ms. Murphy spoke to *Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Materials* commenting the parallel reason she ran for the school board is her concern for safety in the school environment, for students and staff: the physical, emotional, and intellectual safety. Showing R-rated movies in school violates safety and breaks rules. The majority of high school students are underage to watch R-rated movies and the schools should send a consistent message to students that there are rules and rules are expected to be followed. Showing media that is not appropriate for child development violates safety. Ms. Murphy commented that *Breakfast Club*, *Schindler's List*, and *Saving Private Ryan* were noted as being shown at the school and outlined her concerns about each movie. Acknowledging some students mature more quickly than others, some students may feel intellectually and emotionally violated viewing these movies. All students are impacted by these movies as seeing R-rated content normalizes drug use, rape scenes, and gun violence.

especially when they are presented in an educational setting. Poor adult judgment in the assessment of safe materials violates safety. While the majority of our teachers do not make bad decisions, Ms. Murphy feels that Litchfield has had too many incidences where they have not made good decisions about our students. The Board must be sensitive to the safety concerns that impact our students. Ms. Murphy also has a concern that the policy does not address verifying the accuracy of parent permission slips for approval for students to watch R-rated movies. Also, there is no disciplinary action for teachers or staff who violate the policy. Ms. Murphy also has concerns for those students who do not have the approval to view the movie and are sent to the library. This exclusionary practice is counterproductive to an inclusive school climate and violates safety. This policy creates opportunities for dishonest and antagonistic behaviors between students and their parents that violate safety. Ms. Murphy closed with research showing that watching R-rated movies harms safety and creates aggressive thoughts, emotions, behaviors, early drug, and alcohol use. Ms. Murphy stands firm on not allowing R-rated movies in the school's classrooms.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Morosani made a motion to rescind aggregating *Item 11a. Second Read, items i., ii., iii.* Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Clock made a motion to approve *Policy 3542.42 Charging Policy.* Ms. Stone seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Clock made a motion to approve *Policy 5118 Non-Resident Attendance.* Ms. Stone seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Reardon made a motion to amend *Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Materials* to add language to restrict viewing of R-rated movies to grades 11 and 12 at the high school level. There was no second motion. The motion fails to pass.

Ms. Stone made a motion to approve *Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Materials.* Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. Ms. Murphy voted opposed. The motion passes.

**12. Executive Session**

None

- 13. Adjournment** There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Morosani made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Stone seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Escobar  
Secretary, pro-tem