

Litchfield Board of Education  
Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2023

1. Call to Order The Litchfield Board of Education meeting held at Litchfield Intermediate School 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, Mr. Morosani, Ms. Reardon, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Shuhi, and Ms. Stone. Also present: Mr. Leone, Superintendent, Ms. Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Robillard, Accounting Manager, Ms. Deltano, Principal Center School, Dr. Pascento, Principal Litchfield Middle/High School, Mr. Storrs, Dean of Students, and Mr. Valerio, Principal, Litchfield Center School.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Points of Pride

The following were recognized as August Points of Pride: Kerra Kennedy, winner of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Young Writers for her submission *Fear*, Andrew Schact for his 7 years of dedicated service to students and staff at LPS, and Ginny Chambers for her 35+ years of dedicated service to LPS.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Review the minutes of the special meeting of June 20, 2023

b. Review the minutes of the regular meeting on June 20, 2023

Mr. Morosani made a motion to combine the Board minutes approval of June 20, 2023. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. Mr. Terzian called for a vote. The motion passes 7-0-1.

Mr. Morosani made a motion to approve the combined minutes of June 20, 2023. Mr. Clock seconded the motion. Mr. Terzian called for a vote. The motion passes 7-0-1.

5. Public Comment

Lynn Rice Scozzafava spoke as the president of the LEA about Ginny Chambers who recently retired from the Litchfield Public Schools. She went on to say those who know will tell you that good schools run primarily because of the administrative assistants, custodians, and other behind-the-scenes employees. While teachers and support staff are in front of classrooms and meeting with students and families, our colleagues, who are rarely recognized, are the ones who really run the show. The same can be said for our district and Ginny Chambers has been running this show at least the payroll and insurance end of it, and running it really forever. She said you can ask any member of the LEA and what they will remember most and miss most about Ginny is her patience and knowledge. If she didn't know something she would find out right away. Staff never had to be concerned about paychecks and if the amounts were correct. or if deductions and contributions, were taken out or reported or if absences were even recorded properly. The LEA can be a panicky group and Ms.

Scozzafava wagers the questions Ginny got asked the most was *Did I fill out my insurance form properly?* And even more popular come late, May and early June, *I did say I wanted a balloon, right?* No matter how many times you got the same questions over and over Ginny remained at least to us the pinnacle of understanding and compassion. We've been lucky to have her for this long and will miss her for sure. We're happy that she no longer has to count anyone's days; not even her own. She closed by wishing her a great retirement and may every day be Saturday.

Margaret Hunt of Litchfield would like to add thanks as a community member, to Ginny Chambers for all she has done to keep the Litchfield School District afloat and running and headed in the right direction.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. 2023-2024 Finance Report

Mr. Leone reviewed the 2023-2024 Finance Report commenting there is no change in revenue. On the expense side, the district is monitoring long-term substitutes for maternity leaves, and DCF placements.

b. Personnel Report

Mr. Leone reviewed the August Personnel Report commenting on vacancies for an Educational Assistant, Custodians, and Special Education teacher. He also spoke to two new Educational Assistant hires, two resignations, and a transfer.

c. Climate Survey Results

Mr. Leone shared that Ms. Della Volpe presented the survey results at the Curriculum Committee meeting and there was some great news, a lot of positives, a lot more engagement, and we have a lot more work to do. The district is moving in the right direction and that's the most important thing. The Climate Survey results will be posted on the district website.

7. New Business

a. Approval of Policy 4211.2 School Security Personnel (Second Read)

Mr. Clock made a motion to approve Policy 4211.2 School Security Personnel (Second Read). Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. Mr. Terzian called for a vote. The motion passes 6-2-0.

b. Approval of Non-Resident Students

Ms. Reardon made a motion to pass the approval of Non-Resident Students. Mr. Clock seconded the motion. Mr. Terzian called for a vote. The motion passes unanimously.

c. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation -2022-2023

Mr. Shuhi made a motion to pass the approval of the Superintendent Evaluation-2022-2023. Mr. Clock seconded the motion.

During discussion, Mr. Morosani suggested on the second page, first bullet in reference to Region 20 to strike the words "name and." This is in reference to

naming the Region 20 schools and given this task has gone back to the Region 20 Long Term Planning Committee it no longer applies.

Mr. Morosani made a motion to amend the Superintendent Evaluation to strike the words “name and.” Mr. Clock seconded the motion. Mr. Terzian called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

The sentence now reads *Chris and his team have worked with Region 20 boards and stakeholders to put together an extensive list of policies and procedures, as well as vendors, and to build a new culture including a mascot for the new Region 20 district.* The revised Superintendent Evaluation will be posted on the district website.

#### 8. Old Business

None

#### 9. Committee Reports

Ms. Stone provided an update on EdAdvance and spoke about the purchasing of two properties in Torrington. She also about the financial stability of the organization.

Ms. Reardon provided the Curriculum Committee and School Security & Safety Committee updates. The Curriculum Committee received a detailed report on Climate Survey results. The School Security & Safety Committee began prioritizing projects brought forward from the committee and some from the community and will begin pricing out projects for implementation.

Mr. Morosani shared that Region 20 recently approved the R20EA (teachers) contract and anticipates finalizing the R20AA (administrators) contract with the coming weeks.

Mr. Shuhi gave the update for the Facilities and Finance Committee meetings commenting on receiving a status of summer projects and reviewing the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Budget Reports.

#### 10. Executive Session

None

11. Adjournment There being no further business to come before this Board Mr. Morosani made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Clock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Escobar  
Secretary, pro-tem