

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2025

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 Jeffrey Villar, Ph.D.

Members present: Krista Rizzo, Ashley Hall Daddona, Susan Wheeler, John Morosani, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Diane Barnes, Billie Jean Sideris, Tiffany Parkhouse, Rob DeLayo, and Ashley Westfall.

Also present: Jeffrey Villar, Ph.D., Superintendent, Julie Haggard, Assistant Superintendent Pupil Services, and Julia Cardillo, Chief Financial Officer.

Absent: Scott Pottbecker.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Dr. Villar invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Villar explained the process the Board of Education will follow when nominating and voting on the Election of Officers. He opened by asking for nominations for the Chairperson.

3. Election of Officers

- a. Chairperson

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to nominate Rob DeLayo for Chairperson. Krista Rizzo made a motion to nominate Tiffany Parkhouse for Chairperson. There were no further nominations. Dr. Villar closed nominations and called for a vote.

Kara Cruoglio, John Morosani, Margaret Hunt, Tiffany Parkhouse, Ashley Westfall, Ashley Hall Daddona, Susan Wheeler, Diane Barnes, and Krista Rizzo voted for Tiffany Parkhouse as Chairperson. Billie Jean Sideris voted for Rob DeLayo as Chairperson. Rob DeLayo abstained. Tiffany Parkhouse was elected Chairperson with 87% of the vote with a yes vote from each town.

- b. Vice Chairperson

Krista Rizzo nominated Ashley Westfall for Vice Chair. Ashley Hall Daddona nominated Rob DeLayo for Vice Chair. There were no further nominations. Tiffany Parkhouse closed nominations and called for a vote.

John Morosani, Billie Jean Sideris, Ashley Hall Daddona, Susan Wheeler, and Diane Barnes voted for Rob DeLayo - 42% affirmative votes. Margaret Hunt, Ashley Westfall, and Krista Rizzo voted for Ashley Westfall-33% affirmative votes. Kara Cruoglio, Rob DeLayo, and Tiffany Parkhouse abstained. No one was elected as Vice Chair for failure to meet 66% of the affirmative vote and one vote from each town.

Kara Cruoglio commented as a new Board member she is not familiar with all the Board members, and it would be helpful to hear from the nominees on why they would want to be Vice Chair.

Krista Rizzo renominated Ashley Westfall for Vice Chair. Billie Jean Sideris nominated Rob DeLayo for Vice Chair. There were no further nominations.

Tiffany Parkhouse invited each nominee to speak as to why they would want to be Vice Chair. Each nominee spoke. Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Diane Barnes, Ashley Hall Daddona, Ashley Westfall, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, and Krista Rizzo voted for Ashley Westfall – 59% affirmative votes. Susan Wheeler, John Morosani, and Billie Jean Sideris voted for Rob DeLayo – 30% affirmative votes. Tiffany Parkhouse and Rob DeLayo abstained. No one was elected as Vice Chair for failure to meet 66% of the affirmative vote and one vote from each town.

Margaret Hunt made a motion to nominate Ashley Westfall for Vice Chair. Billie Jean Sideris nominated Ashley Hall Daddona. Ashley Hall Daddona did not accept the nomination. There were no further nominations. Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Diane Barnes, Susan Wheeler, Ashley Hall Daddona, Ashley Westfall, Margaret Hunt, John Morosani, Kara Cruoglio, and Krista Rizzo voted yes for Ashley Westfall as Vice Chair. Tiffany Parkhouse, Rob DeLayo, and Billie Jean Sideris abstained. Ashley Westfall was elected Vice Chair with 84% voting in the affirmative and there was one vote from each town.

c. Secretary

Ashley Westfall nominated Ashley Hall Daddona as Secretary. Margaret Hunt nominated Diane Barnes as Secretary. Diane Barnes declined the nomination. There were no more nominations. Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Krista Rizzo, Diane Barnes, Susan Wheeler, Ashley Hall Daddona, Ashley Westfall, Rob DeLayo, Margaret Hunt, Billie Jean Sideris, John Morosani, and Kara Cruoglio voted yes. Tiffany Parkhouse abstained. Ashley Hall Daddona was elected Secretary with 92% voting in the affirmative and one vote from each town.

d. Treasurer

Kara Cruoglio nominated John Morosani for Treasurer. There were no other nominations. Before Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote she responded to a question about the role of the Treasurer for the Board.

Krista Rizzo, Diane Barnes, Susan Wheeler, Ashley Hall Daddona, Ashley Westfall, Rob DeLayo, Margaret Hunt, Billie Jean Sideris, John Morosani, and Kara Cruoglio voted yes. Tiffany Parkhouse abstained. John Morosani was elected Treasurer with 92% voting in the affirmative and one vote from each town.

4. Chairman's Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- July 24 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
- August 7 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- August 21 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- September 11 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- September 25 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)

Tiffany Parkhouse read aloud the future meeting dates, time and location.

5. Communications to the Board

None

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Board of Education Budget Meeting #3 Special Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2025

6.2 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2025

Margaret Hunt made a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with Billie Jean Sideris abstaining.

7. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar opened by welcoming the new Board of Education members Billie Jean Sideris and Kara Cruoglio. He then thanked Mat Wheeler and Chris Hurlburt for mowing and trimming the lawns at Goshen Center School and Town Hall. This was a significant amount of work, the district has some systems issues that we are working through that caused the scenario, but none the less these gentlemen deserve thanks and appreciation.

7.1 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar reviewed the July Personnel Report speaking about vacancies, resignations, and in-district transfers.

8. Financial Update

8.1 FY26 New Chart of Accounts (Discussion)

Julia Cardillo provided the Board of Education members a handout of a draft FY26 Chart of Accounts for review and discussion. She shared with the Board that while the adopted budget has not changed, every single line account number has changed because the district is now following the guidelines of the National Center for Educational Statistics. While the line item numbers may not mean a lot to most people, from an accounting standpoint, when the district reports its expenditures to the state, these numbers are very important. Julia Cardillo responded to a question on why there are categories with expenditures but no money to support the item. She explained the district had to process payroll before these accounts were ready. All entries reflected in this report will be processed and moved to the location of where it should be.

9. 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.

Dave Wiig, Morris commented the Financial Report that was just reviewed by the CFO was not included in the Board of Education packet. Julia Cardillo confirmed that is correct. She shared this sample draft report with the Board of Education this evening so they are aware of what they will receive in their Board of Education packets at future meetings.

10. Action Items

10.1 Discussion and Possible Action for School Security at Board of Education Meetings

Dr. Villar shared he was recently made aware that on August 21, 2024, the Board of Education voted to have school security coverage attend all Board of Education meetings. He reviewed past coverage at meetings commenting after January 2025, school security coverage was inconsistent, and now is the appropriate time to revisit this decision. Discussion on this topic included but was not limited to the background on why this coverage was requested in 2024, a comment that now meetings are located in a central location there may no longer be a need for coverage due to the close proximity of Troop L, and if voted to suspend this coverage, it can be resurrected at the Board's request.

Margaret Hunt made a motion to rescind the Board of Education protocol of having School Security attend Board of Education meetings. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding – FY25 Budget Shortfall Agreement for the Towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, and Warren

Dr. Villar shared the district is gearing up for the upcoming school year and have concerns placing orders as vendors will not continue to provide services as a result of outstanding payments due. There have been several discussions with the Selectmen on how to handle the \$2.6 million deficit, down from \$2.7 million. In the past, the Board had voted to borrow money that failed in referendum. A second option to address the deficit is to call for a supplemental budget allocation, whereby a district meeting would be called, and this would need to pass in all four towns. Dr. Villar has concerns about this option with the impact to taxes and the need to undo the work the towns have done creating its budgets. The third option before the Board is to allow Dr. Villar to work with the towns and plan for payments toward the debt over the next three years. The payment schedule would be based on \$2.3 million as that is the number the district was working on up until about a month or so ago.

The floor was opened for discussion that included but was not limited a comment about the impact a supplemental allocation to the MBR, where Dr. Villar confirmed a supplemental allocation would be included in the MBR.

John Morosani made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and finalize a MOU with the Region 20 towns for the purpose of addressing the Region 20 Fiscal Year24-25 deficit. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.

Tiffany Parkhouse requested the motion be amended to “mitigate the FY24-25 deficit” and asked Margaret Hunt read the amended motion out loud.

Move that Region 20 Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate and finalize a MOU with the Region 20 towns for the purpose of securing funds to mitigate the FY24-25 deficit.

John Morosani accepted the amended motion as read. Margaret Hunt seconded the amended motion.

Additional questions and discussions included but were not limited to timing on finalizing the MOU (Target Date is August 1, 2025), why are there Litchfield Public Schools and Region 6 invoices included (these were identified by the auditor and will be backed out), is the district walking a fine line with reporting and is the CFO comfortable signing off on reports related to this

(Julia Cardillo confirmed she is comfortable certifying the numbers), and the need if this is secured to pay off vendors and carefully managing cash flow.

Dr. Villar commented he would share progress with the Board throughout this process as well as the final document agreed upon by the towns.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passes with Billie Jean Sideris voting no.

10.3 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of the Superintendent of Schools and Chief Financial Officer as Account Owners for the Frank Beran Scholarship Account at Union Savings

There is currently a Frank Baran Scholarship Account held at Union Savings Bank that is under Regional School District No. 6 and the former superintendent. There are worthy students who have earned scholarships from this account, but the district is unable to draw funds and is asking for the authorization for the Superintendent and CFO to be signers on the account to release the funds.

John Morosani made a motion to approve the Superintendent and CFO to be the account owners of the Frank Beran Scholarship Account. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.

During discussion a scenario was raised on the authority to transfers this account to Region 20 as Region 6 is the owner. A past experience was cited as an example regarding the difficulty on closing a charter. Dr. Villar commented this has been reviewed with the bank and attorney and this is the direction given from both parties.

John Morosani amended the motion to approve the Superintendent and CFO to be the account owners of the Frank Beran Scholarship Account and transfer ownership from Regional School District No. 6 to Region 20. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passes with Kara Cruoglio abstaining and Billie Jean Sideris voting no.

10.4 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Open Regional School District No. 6 Accounts at Northwest Community Bank (Operating and Payroll)

Julia Cardillo provided background information that there are two open bank accounts under Region 6, Operating Account with a balance of \$9,351.78 and Payroll Account with a balance of \$2,146.75. There has been no activity since the inception of Region 20 and the district is looking for authorization to return these funds to the three Region 6 towns.

Tiffany Parkhouse asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to transfer ownership of these accounts to Region 20 so the balance of funds can be returned to the Region 6 towns.

Susan Wheeler made a motion to transfer ownership of the Operating and Payroll Accounts at Northwest Community Bank to Region 20 so funds can be dispersed back to the Region 6 towns. John Morosani seconded the motion.

Dr. Villar responded to questions from the Board. One question was why Region 6 didn't take into consideration these two accounts when closing out its books and Dr. Villar could not

comment as he was not employed with Region 20 at the time. A second question was why not leave this up to the three towns to deal with. The towns do not have access to these accounts, and this is the process the bank is asking the district to follow. It was also clarified the amount of funds dispersed back to the towns would be based on the towns assessment percentages in FY24.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passes with Billie Jean Sideris voting no.

11. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, John Morosani made a motion to adjourn. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem