

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 30, 2025

1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Lakeview High School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Tiffany Parkhouse.

Members present: Tiffany Parkhouse, Chair, Ashley Westfall, Vice Chair, Ashley Hall Daddona, Secretary, John Morosani, Treasurer, Susan Wheeler, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Diane Barnes, Scott Pottbecker, 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: Krista Rizzo

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

3. Committee Reports

Ashley Westfall commented that the Policy Committee met and reviewed three policies that were tabled from the last meeting; Assigning Students To a Teacher and Classes in Grades K-12, Truancy, and Use of Metal Detectors. Assigning Students To a Teacher and Classes in Grades K-12 policy will be on tonight's agenda for first read, and Truancy and Use of Metal Detectors policies will be sent to the Board for first read at its next meeting.

4. Chairman's Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- November 20 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- December 11 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- January 15 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)

Tiffany Parkhouse commented there is no special Board of Education meeting being held on November 6, 2025, and reminded everyone that there is an ASTE Open House on November 20, 2025.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2025

5.2 Out of State Field Trip – New York, NY – R. Gearu

5.3 Approval of New Hires

5.3.1 Nicole Owler, Educational Assistant, Litchfield Center School

5.3.2 Sherri Contadini, Financial Coordinator, District Office

5.4 Policy Adoption (First Read)

5.4.1 Policy 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating

5.4.2 Policy 5122 Assigning Students To a Teacher and Classes in Grades K-12

5.4.3 Policy 5123.3 Graduation Ceremonies (Participation)

5.4.4 Policy 5127 Graduation Ceremony

5.4.5 Policy 5131.9 Gang Activity or Association

5.4.6 Policy 5134 Married/Pregnant Students

- 5.4.7 Policy 5136 Foreign Students Attending Schools
- 5.4.8 Policy 5142 Student Safety
- 5.4.9 Policy 5145.11 Police in Schools
- 5.4.10 Policy 5145.111 Students/Probation/Police/Courts
- 5.4.11 Policy 5145.6 Student Grievance Procedures

There was discussion on whether Item 5.4.2 Policy 5122 Assigning Students To a Teacher and Classes in Grades K-12 needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda. This is a first read policy but it was noted this policy was amended. The amended version of this policy will be on the next Board meeting agenda for second read.

There was also discussion about the Out of State Field trip noting a typographical error on the event date being held in March 2025. The field trip is scheduled for March 2026 and all supporting documentation indicating the correct date.

Ashley Westfall made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 5.1 through 5.4. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed with Billie Jean Sideris abstaining.

6. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar shared information about the School Climate Survey, his visits to the district schools, and the PDEC & Advisory Curriculum group.

6.1 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar reviewed the Personnel Report as of October 30, 2025 commenting on vacancies, and new hires of an Educational Assistant and the Financial Coordinator.

7. 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 shared his concerns about having Public Comment on the agenda when it is a Special Meeting and gave a suggestion on placement of Public Comment on future meeting agendas.

Becky Hubschmann, Goshen began commenting about the budget. Since the budget is not a topic on the agenda, Ms. Hubschmann will reserve her comments for the next Board of Education meeting.

8. Action Items8.1.1 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 School Calendars

Dr. Villar opened by sharing that there are three versions of each school year calendar. Version 1 is the original presented on October 16, 2025, Versions 2 and 3 reflect feedback from the Board regarding winter break, and school beginning after Labor Day.

Discussion included but was not limited to considering the ASTE sending districts and being good stewards and do our best to align calendars so they do not incur additional transportation costs, ensuring the elementary conference dates align with the trimester end dates, and for calendar year 2027-2028 consider starting school on August 30, 2027 and moving the February professional development date. This will allow for families to have a longer weekend in February for a mini winter vacation should they choose to do so.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve Version 2 of the 2026-2027 school year calendar as is and Version 3 of the 2027-2028 calendar with moving the start of school up two days and adjusting the tentative last day of school accordingly. Scott Pottbecker seconded the motion.

During discussion Margaret Hunt questioned moving the February Professional Development Day.

Billie Jean Sideris rescinded her original motion.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve Version 2 of the 2026-2027 school year calendar as is, and Version 3 of the 2027-2028 calendar with the first day of school beginning on August 30, 2027, adjusting the tentative last day of school accordingly, and moving the February 11, 2028 Professional Development Day to February 18, 2028. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Series 5000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption)a. Policy 5111.3 Protection of Undocumented Students

Margaret Hunt made a motion to approve Policy 5111.3 Protection of Undocumented Students. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Margaret Hunt made a motion to approve Policy 5144 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Policy 5118.2 Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Ashley Westfall made a motion to approve of Policy 5118.2 Educational Opportunities for Military Children. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Policy 5131.21 Threats or Acts of Violence

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve of Policy 5131.21 Threats or Acts of Violence. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Policy 5131.91 Hazing

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve of Policy 5131.91 Hazing. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Policy 5141.24 Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve of Policy 5141.24 Students/Staff with HIV or AIDS. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Policy 5141.231/4118.231 Psychotropic Drug Use

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve of Policy 5141.231/4118.231 Psychotropic Drug Use. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. Policy 5144.2 Use of Exclusionary Time Out Settings

Ashley Westfall made a motion to approve of Policy 5144.2 Use of Exclusionary Time Out Settings. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. Policy 5144.3 Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Ashley Hall Daddona made a motion to approve of Policy 5144.3 Discipline of Students with Disabilities. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There is no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Policy 5144.5 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behavior

Ashley Westfall made a motion to approve of Policy 5144.5 Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behavior. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

k. Policy 5145.71. Surrogate Parent Program

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve of Policy 5145.71 Surrogate Parent Program. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

l. Policy 5145.121 Vehicle Searches on School Grounds

Margaret Hunt made a motion to approve of Policy 5145.121 Vehicle Searches on School Grounds. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem