

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 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, Krista Rizzo, 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.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Points of Pride

Michael Valerio, Principal Lakeview High School honored Reide Augustyn in recognition of his academic achievement - Commended Student - 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

4. Committee Reports

Margaret Hunt commented that the Curriculum Committee received a presentation from Principal Michael Valerio, Assistant Principal Jess Brousseau, and Director of Counseling Stephanie Redmond about the Lakeview High School Program of Studies. She added there was an impressive display on the number of courses offered and some of the challenges with faculty teaching a sixth assignment and some of the complications of scheduling.

Ashley Westfall opened by complimenting the “fantastic” ASTE Open House event being held this evening. She then provided the Policy Committee update sharing they are working on Policy Series 6000 - Instruction. Twelve different policies were reviewed with a few policies being tabled for further information and other policies will be moved forward to the Board for first read at its next meeting.

5. Chairman’s Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- December 11 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- January 15 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- February 5 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- February 19 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)

Tiffany Parkhouse also complimented the ASTE Open House event and also spoke about upcoming Special Committee meetings being held in early December.

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2025

6.2 Policy Adoption (First Read)

6.2.1 Policy 5113.2 Truancy

6.2.2 Policy 5145.123 Use of Metal Detectors

6.3 Out of State Field Trip - New York City, NY - S. DiStasio

6.4 Approval of New Hires

6.4.1 Meredith Fontaine, Educational Assistant, Goshen Center School

6.4.2 Xander Galusha, Temporary Custodian, District

John Morosani made a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda Items 6.1 through 6.4. Kara Cruoglio seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar shared work on FY27 Budget is underway, School Climate Surveys are complete and results have been sent to each school's leadership team. Dr. Villar will be working with the Strategic Planning Committee on next steps with the survey results. He added he recently met with the *Safe Routes for School* team, and key Litchfield personnel about student safety and crossing Route 202. He closed by thanking the Wamogo FFA for the gift of the FFA tie he was wearing at this meeting.

7.1 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar reviewed the November Personnel Report.

8. Finance Update

8.1 FY26 Finance Report

Julia Cardillo gave the Finance Update that included a status on grant opportunities, capital projects, and revenue projections. Ms. Cardillo also reviewed the FY26 Budget Report.

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, spoke about the importance of offering challenging courses at the middle school that will provide a pathway for freshman students to take on more rigorous courses when entering high school and then throughout their high school academic career. He cited offering an Algebra course at the middle school as an example.

Julia DeLayo, Warren, spoke in support of a crosswalk for Route 202 and advocated for this last year. She encourages the school system to continue this work and is willing to volunteer to work on this project if help is needed.

10. Action Items

10.1.1 Discussion and Possible Action to Accept Grant & Donations - Policy 3280 Gifts, Grants, Bequests

Dr. Villar shared that the district was awarded a grant to be used to cover transportation for elementary school arts field trip and a donation of two, \$100.00 checks to be used in support of the Center School library in memory of a former Litchfield Public Schools librarian aid.

John Morosani made a motion for the approval to Accept Grant & Donations - Policy 3280 Gifts, Grants, Bequests. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Series 5000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption)

- a. Policy 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating
- b. Policy 5122 Assigning Students To a Teacher and Classes in Grades K-12
- c. Policy 5123.3 Graduation Ceremonies (Participation)
- d. Policy 5127 Graduation Ceremony
- e. Policy 5131.9 Gang Activity or Association
- f. Policy 5134 Married/Pregnant Students
- g. Policy 5136 Foreign Students Attending Schools
- h. Policy 5142 Student Safety
- i. Policy 5145.11 Police in Schools
- j. Policy 5145.111 Students/Probation/Police/Courts
- k. Policy 5145.6 Student Grievance Procedures

Scott Pottbecker made a motion to combine Action Item 10.1.2 Approval of Series 5000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption) items a. through k. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott Pottbecker made a motion for the approval of Action Item 10.1.2 Approval of Series 5000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption) items a. through k. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to adjourn. Scott Pottbecker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem