

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 15, 2026

1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting located at Lakeview High School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tiffany Parkhouse.

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

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

3. Points of Pride

The following students were recognized as January Points of Pride recipients. These students' poems were selected to be published by Orenaug Mountain Publishing, *Tough Kids*, program. They are: Evelyn Beach, Emma Titus, Emma Lively, Parker Yarrish, Theresa Pacheco, Royel Hill and Maria Mauro. Evelyn Beach also read her poem to the Board.

4. Committee Reports

Rob DeLayo shared that the Facilities Committee met to discuss the boilers at Goshen Center School. One of the two boilers is inoperable, so the committee requested that an RFP be issued for pricing on a replacement boiler and pricing for water filtration. The hard water at the school has created premature aging on the boilers.

Margaret Hunt commented that the Curriculum Committee received a presentation on OpenSciEd, middle school science curriculum, providing an overview of how the instruction is progressing. She spoke about how teachers are collaborating during their professional learning time to familiarize themselves with the curriculum to provide the best instruction for the students. She thanked the teachers for their hard work on this curriculum.

5. Chairman's Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- 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.
- March 12 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
- March 26 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- April 9 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- April 20 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m. (Budget Hearing Presentation)
- May 4 – Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m. (Budget Meeting - Vote)

*(All meetings will have a remote option)*

Tiffany Parkhouse commented she received a request from the town of Litchfield to set up a finance committee per the General Statute 10.51c. That statute says that any Regional Board of

Education can set up an ad hoc finance advisory committee that includes the Board and also two representatives from each town. The committee's purpose is to provide budgetary information and advice to the Board. She brought this forth and asked if any Board member would want to make a motion to add this item to the Board Agenda.

Margaret Hunt made a motion to add Action Item 10.1.5 Discussion and Possible Action for the Development of an Ad Hoc Finance Advisory Committee. John Morosani seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2025

6.2 Policy Adoption (First Read)

6.2.1 Policy 6141.51 Addressing Enrollment in an Advanced Courses or Programs and Challenging Curriculum

6.2.2 Policy 6172.4 Title I Parent Involvement

6.2.3 Policy 6000 Concepts and Roles in Instruction

6.2.4 Policy 6111 School Calendar

6.2.5 Policy 6112 School Day

6.2.6 Policy 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness

6.2.7 Policy 6141.22 Religion and Religious Accommodation

6.2.8 Policy 6141.311 Limited English Proficiency Program (English Learners)

6.2.9 Policy 6141.312 Migrant Students

6.2.10 Policy 6141.326 Electronic Resources

6.2.11 Policy 6141.3221 Website Accessibility

6.3 Out of State Professional Development Approval - Stowe, VT - T. Simaitis

6.4 New Hires

6.4.1 Arthur Powers, School Security Personnel, Litchfield Center School

6.4.2 Tabitha Maffucci, Educational Assistant, James Morris School

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to remove 6.3 Out of State Professional Development Approval - Stowe, VT - T. Simaitis from the Consent Agenda and add Action Item 10.1.6 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Out of State Professional Development - Stowe, VT - T. Simaitis. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, items 6.1, 6.2 (6.2.1 through 6.2.11), and 6.4 (6.4.1-6.4.2). Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 7. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar gave the Superintendent Update and shared a positive comment about the Lakeview High School Winter Concert, noted the hiring and background check procedures of the district's School Security Personnel (SSPs) and expressed gratitude toward Principal Michael Valerio, the staff and families at Lakeview High School for the handling and understanding during the unplanned early dismissal earlier in the week.

### 7.1 Personnel Report

Dr. Villar presented the January Personnel Report.

## 8. Finance Update

### 8.1 FY26 Finance Report

Julia Cardillo provided the FY26 Finance Report update as of January 15, 2026 commenting that there are no changes from prior month and the district is currently projecting a surplus.

The Board voted on Item 8.3 Budget Transfers prior to addressing 8.2 Transfer of Funds to the Town of Litchfield. The following motions were made.

### 8.2 Discussion and Possible Action to Transfer Litchfield Public School funds of \$106.71 to the Town of Litchfield

Susan Wheeler made a motion for the approval to Transfer Litchfield Public School funds of \$106.71 to the Town of Litchfield. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 8.3 Discussion and Possible Action for the approval of FY26 Budget Line Items Transfers.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion for the approval of FY26 Budget Line Items Transfers as outlined by CFO Julia Cardillo. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 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.

Sam Olmstead, Litchfield spoke in support of developing a Building Utilization Master Plan.

Becky Hubuschman, Goshen spoke about the impact of budget cuts to students and staff at all levels.

## 10. Action Items

### 10.1.1 Discussion and Possible Action to Further Examine the Feasibility of Developing a Building Utilization Master Plan

Dr. Villar introduced this topic, highlighting the purpose and value of conducting such a study. He noted that although he shared a potential cost of a plan, that figure will not be determined until the district executes an RFP.

Following lengthy discussion which Dr. Villar addressed Board members' questions, Tiffany Parkhouse asked for a motion to further investigate the feasibility of a Building Utilization Master Plan.

Krista Rizzo moved to approve further examination of the Building Utilization Master Plan, authorizing Dr. Villar to develop and present an RFP to the Board at the May 2026 Board of Education Meeting. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion passed with Bille Jean Sideris abstaining.

10.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Series 6000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption)

- a. FASA Completion Program
- b. Policy 6154 Homework/Make-Up Assignment
- c. Policy 6161.12/1312.3 Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy
- d. Policy 6161.13/1312.4 Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy
- e. Policy 6161.14/1312.5 Library Display and Program Policy
- f. Policy 6164.12 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- g. Policy 6171 Special Education
- h. Policy 6171.2 Pre-School Special Education
- i. Policy 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students Program

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion for the Approval of Action Item 10.1.2 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Series 6000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption) items a. through i. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Villar opened by commenting that Action Items 10.1.3 and 10.1.4 field trips do not conform to Region 20's existing policy and these requests identify a gap that should be addressed. These trips are brought before the Board for its consideration for approval.

10.1.3 Foreign Country Field Trip - Ecuador-Galapogos Islands - L. Bennett & Emily French

Margaret Hunt made a motion for the approval of Foreign Country Field Trip - Educado-Galapogos Islands - L. Bennet & Emily French. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion.

An extensive discussion took place regarding this trip that included but was not limited to concerns about safety in the region, accessibility to all students given the cost, and insurance.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Diane Barnes voted in yes. Tiffany Parkhouse, Ashley Hall Daddona, John Morosani, Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, Billie Jean Sideris, and Rob DeLayo voting no. Margaret Hunt abstained. The motion failed to pass.

10.1.4 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Walt Disney World, FL - L. Baker

Lindsay Baker, Cheer Coach at Lakeview provided background information about the cheer program and on how this opportunity came about. She also addressed questions from the Board members. There was a concern expressed that students will be missing school but dates will remain firm. After all questions were addressed, Tiffany Parkhouse asked for a motion.

Krista Rizzo made a motion for the Approval of Walt Disney World, FL - L. Baker. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.1.5 Discussion and Possible Action for the Development of an Ad Hoc Finance Advisory Committee

There was lengthy discussion on the topic of the Development of an Ad Hoc Finance Advisory Committee that concluded with the Board agreeing to table this item and revisit at the Board of Education meeting on February 5, 2026.

10.1.6 Discussion and Possible Action for the Approval of Out of State Professional Development - Stowe, VT - T. Simaitis

Krista Rizzo made a motion for the Approval of Out of State Professional Development - Stowe, VT - T. Simaitis. Rob DeLayo seconded the motion.

During discussion it was questioned why this Professional Development needed to take place out of state when there are courses available in state. A comment was also made about the value of the CEUs (Continuing Education Unit), earned by attending the Professional Development event for the low cost of registration.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, Krista Rizzo made a motion to adjourn. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Escobar  
Secretary, pro-tem