

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20  
JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE & BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
February 26, 2026

Finance Committee

John Morosani-Chair	Ashley Hall Daddona
Scott Pottbecker	Ashley Westfall

1. Call to Order The Joint Finance Committee & Board of Education meeting held at Litchfield Intermediate School and via teleconference was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Tiffany Parkhouse.

Members present: Tiffany Parkhouse, Chair, Ashley Westfall, Vice Chair, Ashley Hall Daddona, Secretary, Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Diane Barnes, Billie Jean Sideris, Scott Pottbecker, and Rob DeLayo. All Finance Committee members were present with the exception of John Morosani.

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

Absent: John Morosani.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Tiffany Parkhouse invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Joint Finance Committee & Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
  - 3.1 Joint Finance Committee & Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2026
  - 3.2 Joint Finance Committee & Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2026
  - 3.3 Joint Finance Committee & Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2026

Susan Wheeler made a motion for the Approval of the Joint Finance Committee & Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2026, February 12, 2026, and February 19, 2026. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

4. Review & Discuss FY27 Budget. Emphasis on Categories 5-Tuition, 6-Transportation, 8-Administrative Services & 9-Maintenance

Tiffany Parkhouse turned the meeting over to Dr. Villar and Julia Cardillo. Ms. Cardillo began with a review of Categories 5-Tuition, 6-Transportation, 8-Administrative Services and 9-Maintenance. Dr. Villar, Julia Cardillo, and Julie Haggard addressed questions from the Board.
5. Review & Discuss FY27 Revenue

Julia Cardillo reviewed the FY27 Revenue and addressed questions from the Board.
6. Review & Revise Draft Budget Categories 0 through 9 - Action Anticipated

**Category 0 - Capital**

Scott Pottbecker made a motion to reduce the proposed Capital Contingency fund by \$275,000. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion.

Discussion included concerns about making budget decisions prior to receiving the FY25 audit results, as well as the potential need for repair funds should equipment fail before the fiscal year ends. It was noted that the motions passed at this meeting serve as direction for the Superintendent and CFO rather than a final vote on the FY27 Budget.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, Ashley Hall Daddona, Ashley Westfall, Tiffany Parkhouse, Rob Delayo, Diane Barnes, and Scott Pottbecker voted yes. Billie Jean Sideris voted no. The motion passes with one vote from each town at 76.69% weighted vote.

### **Category 1 and 2: Certified and Classified Salaries**

The Board moved on to discuss the Superintendent's recommendation to create a Coordinator of Elementary Intervention and Instruction. Dr. Villar invited the elementary principals to talk about this topic. Sabin Loveland, Principal of Warren and Litchfield Intermediate School, Michael Pascento, Principal of James Morris School, and Tracy Keilty, Principal of Goshen Center School spoke in support of the creation of a Coordinator of Elementary Intervention and Educational Assistant positions. They also addressed questions from the Board.

Scott Pottbecker made a motion to adopt the Superintendent's proposal for the creation of a Coordinator of Elementary Intervention and 2 Educational Assistants funded by Title I and 2 Educational Assistants funded by the district while keeping a flat budget increase of 4.24%.

Discussion continued with Dr. Villar addressing additional questions from the Board.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passes unanimously with an 81.7% weighted vote.

The Board then went on to discuss the Superintendent's recommendation to eliminate (1 FTE) Secondary Choral Teacher position and turned the meeting over to Dr. Villar. He commented that with this position elimination there would be capacity for a shared Secondary Choral Teacher to travel between the middle and high schools on various days to cover choral classes and not have a negative impact on the program. He added, initially the recommendation was to add a Social Work/Counseling support position, but upon further review is suggesting a high school Science teacher. This would help reduce the number of teachers with 6th assignments.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to eliminate the Secondary Choral position and the Social Work/Counseling support position.

She commented on her concerns about adding a science teacher and that it could cost more money than what the district is paying for sixth assignments. The Board could consider one more year of budgeting for sixth assignments and potentially change or add something during contract negotiations.

There was no second for this motion.

Krista Rizzo made a motion to add a Science teacher position for Lakeview High School funded by the reduction of (1 FTE) Secondary Choral position. Ashley Hall Daddona seconded the motion.

Discussion continued with Dr. Villar addressing questions from the Board.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, Ashley Hall Daddona, Ashley Westfall, Tiffany Parkhouse, Rob Delayo, Diane Barnes, and Scott Pottbecker voted yes. Billie Jean Sideris voted no. The motion passes with one vote from each town at 76.69% weighted vote.

During the continued discussion of Category 1-Certified Salaries and Category 2-Classified Salaries, a Board member commented on the topic of a multi-year budget strategy and the clerical positions at Litchfield Center School. Dr. Villar shared background information regarding these positions, caseloads and staffing across the district.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to eliminate a Clerical Position at Litchfield Center School (LCS). Scott Pottbecker seconded the motion.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

Krista Rizzo, Susan Wheeler, Ashley Hall Daddona, Diane Barnes, Billie Jean Sideris, Scott Pottbecker, Tiffany Parkhouse, Ashley Westfall, and Rob DeLayo voted yes. Kara Cruoglio abstained.

Margaret Hunt asked for more information on impact to the LCS office prior to her vote. Dr. Villar commented they would have to reassign some of the duties however, other schools have a similar student to office staff ratio.

Margaret Hunt voted in favor of the motion.

Kara Cruoglio asked Dr. Villar to expand a bit more on his earlier comments. Dr. Villar shared that staffing is very lean at this point and as an educational organization it is more important to add capacity to teaching and learning than capacity in offices. The office staff is important and does good work, the district just has to change how that work is done.

Kara Cruoglio then changed her vote from abstaining to voting yes, in favor of the motion. The motion passes unanimously with an 81.7% weighted vote.

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.

None

8. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the committee and Board the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Christine Escobar

Secretary, pro-tem