

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 26, 2026

1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Lakeview High School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Tiffany Parkhouse.

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

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

Absent: Ashley Westfall, Vice Chair.

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

3. Committee Reports

Tiffany Parkhouse commented that the Ad Hoc Finance Advisory Committee of the Whole met earlier in the evening and the session was highly productive. The meeting included representatives from the Boards of Finance across all four towns. Key discussions focused on the potential impact of the draft budget on individual town finances. Tiffany Parkhouse also expressed gratitude to the representatives for their attendance and thanked the committee for their thoughtful questions and engagement.

4. Chairman's Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- April 2 - Lakeview High School - Budget Workshop - 5:30 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)
- May 21- Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- June 11 - Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.
- June 25 - Lakeview High School – 7:00 p.m.

*(All meetings will have a remote option)*

Tiffany Parkhouse read aloud the upcoming meetings.

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026

**John Morosani made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Margaret Hunt seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Discussion on the Board of Education Self-Assessment Results

Nick Caruso, EdAdvance, led a discussion on the Board of Education Self-Assessment Results.

7. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar provided an update on the district's ongoing efforts and discussions regarding student parking at Lakeview High School. Additionally, he commended the winter sports teams for their successful season.

## 8. 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.

Colby Skilton, Morris commented that Board of Education members should prioritize communicating with staff not just the general public as teachers receive directives without understanding the “why” behind decisions, and also spoke about the importance of FOIA understanding and training.

## 9. Action Items

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

- a. Policy 6153 Field Trips
- b. Policy 6142 Basic Instructional Program
- c. Policy 6142.102 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- d. Policy 6142.103 Trauma Informed Schools
- e. Policy 6144.1 Exemption from Instruction
- f. Policy 6145 Extra Class Activities

**Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve Action Item 9.1.1, the Approval of Series 6000 Policies (Second Read/Adoption). Margaret Hunt seconded the motion.**

A comment specific to Policy 6153 Field Trips was made regarding whether the policy should explicitly define the starting and ending points of a field trip. Discussion included, but was not limited to: the importance of keeping policies broad to allow administrators flexibility through regulations, and the necessity of balancing logistical practicalities—such as ensuring students arrive together via school transportation—with the need to manage liability and insurance risks.

There was no further discussion.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### 9.1.2 Approval for Participation in Healthy Food Option of HFC

*Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Regional School District No. 20 certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.*

Billie Jean Sideris read aloud Action Item 9.1.2 Approval for the Participation in Healthy Food Option HFC.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion for the Approval for Participation in Healthy Food Option of HFC. John Morosani seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

9.1.3 Approval for Combined Food and Beverages Exemptions

*The Regional School District No. 20 will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.*

Bille Jean Sideris read aloud Action Item 9.1.3 Approval for Combined Food and Beverages Exemptions.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion for the Approval for Combined Food and Beverages Exemptions. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

A Board member inquired if there were any concerns about schools holding bake sales during the school day; it was clarified that these activities do not happen in the district schools.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Villar shared that a community member has offered to donate two Mendini by Cecilio musical instrument sets to the district's music department.

Susan Wheeler made a motion to accept this donation. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion.

During the discussion, a Board member inquired whether a specific dollar value for the donation needed to be recorded; it was clarified that no such designation was required.

Tiffany Parkhouse called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, Krista Rizzo made a motion to adjourn. Scott Pottbecker seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Escobar  
Secretary, pro-tem