

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 24, 2026

1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Lakeview High School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Ashley Westfall.

Members present: Ashley Westfall, Vice Chair, Ashley Hall Daddona, Secretary, Billie Jean Sideris, Treasurer, Susan Wheeler, Sharon Mahieu, Margaret Hunt, Kara Cruoglio, Josh Szwed, Diane Barnes, Scott Pottbecker, and Rob DeLayo.

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

Absent: Tiffany Parkhouse, Chair.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Ashley Westfall invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Chairman's Report & Update

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- October 15 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
  - November 19 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
  - December 10 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
  - January 14 - Lakeview High School - 7:00 p.m.
- (All meetings will have a remote option)*

Ashley Westfall read aloud an update from Tiffany Parkhouse regarding the Curriculum Committee meeting held on September 17, 2026. She then went on to thank F&S paving and facility staff for the work on the Lakeview High School parking lot, and the school PTOs for their work and support of our schools, students, and staff.

4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1 Board of Education Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2026
- 4.2 Approval of Out of State Field Trip - Southern Florida - L. Bennett
- 4.3 Approval of Out of State Field Trip - Boston, MA - J. Laham
- 4.4 Approval of Memorandum of Agreement - CJR - Swim Team Use (Pool)

Ashley Westfall called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda or inquired if a BOE member would like anything removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

**Kara Cruoglio made a motion to remove Consent Agenda 4.2 Approval of Out of State Field Trip - Southern Florida - L. Bennett. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

This Consent Agenda Item will now be Action Item 8.3 Approval of Out of State Field Trip - Southern Florida - L. Bennett.

Ashley Westfall inquired if anyone would like to make a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.3, and 4.4.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.3, and 4.4. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Superintendent Update

Dr. Villar provided updates on the parking lot, administrator and teacher classroom observations based on EastConn training protocols (225 observations with valuable, positive feedback), work conducted by the Elementary Intervention Coordinator, and the status of establishing a Curriculum Council Committee.

6. Finance Report

6.1 FY27 Budget Update

The FY27 Budget Update included but was not limited to a discussion on the debt payment report, FY27 budget items, ASTE supplemental funds, and parking lot guardrail bids. Ms. Cardillo addressed questions about line item surpluses, and encumbered funds, to name a few. Ms. Cardillo will also address BOE member requests regarding a few reporting items.

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.

No public comment was offered.

8. Action Items

8.1 Discussion and Possible Action to Accept a Donation - Policy 3280 Gifts, Grants, Bequests

- Monetary Donation - Lakeview High School- Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field
- "Buddy Bench" in Honor of Jackie Tiul - Plumb Hill Middle School

Dr. Villar shared information regarding the two donations and addressed questions from the Board.

Margaret Hunt made a motion to Accept a Donation - Policy 3280 Gifts, Grants, Bequests (Monetary Donation and Buddy Bench). Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion.

Ashley Westfall called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ashley Westfall thanked the donors on behalf of the Board of Education.

8.2 Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Grade 6 Digital Literacy Course - Plumb Hill Middle School

Dr. Villar shared background information on the rationale for the Grade 6 Digital Literacy course.

Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to approve the Grade 6 Digital Literacy Course - Plumb Hill Middle School. Susan Wheeler seconded the motion.

During discussion, there was support for a digital literacy course, however, Board members expressed concerns about rushing the implementation, that 20% of the curriculum was related to AI, the lack of an AI policy, and fully developed course curriculum.

Questions were addressed by Dr. Villar and comments provided by Principal Pam Vecca regarding the proposed course.

When discussion was completed, Ashley Westfall called for a vote.

Ashley Westfall, Ashley Hall Daddona, Billie Jean Sideris, Susan Wheeler, Margaret Hunt, Josh Szwed, Kara Cruoglio, and Diane Barnes voted against the motion. Rob DeLayo, Scott Pottbecker, and Sharon Mahieu abstained. The motion fails to pass.

This item will be referred back to the Curriculum Committee for review when the curriculum is fully developed.

8.3 Approval of Out of State Field Trip - Southern Florida - L. Bennett

Kara Cruoglio made a motion for the Approval of Out of State Field Trip - Southern Florida - L. Bennett. Billie Jean Sideris seconded the motion.

During discussion, Dr. Villar addressed a question regarding the timing of the field trip.

Ashley Westfall called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, Billie Jean Sideris made a motion to adjourn. Kara Cruoglio seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Escobar  
Secretary, pro-tem