

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024

ASTE Committee

1. Call to Order The ASTE Committee meeting held at Wamogo and via teleconference was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Bill Davenport.

Members present: Bill Davenport, Chair, Alexandra Papp, Jannelle Carroll, and Christine Lauretano. Also present: Chris Leone, Superintendent, Emily Cole, Krista Rizzo, Matt Terzian, Andrew Tita, Rob DeLayo, Kristen Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Julie Haggard, Assistant Superintendent Pupil Services, and Deanna Marchand, Region 20 Project Coordinator.

2. ASTE Enrollment Update

Mr. Leone provided the Enrollment Update commenting there are 5 vacancies available for Thomaston students and 8 vacancies for Torrington students. The district is currently projecting 189 out of district students and 87 in district students for the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Leone also spoke about two pieces of legislation; ASTE per pupil costs and lifting the three-year average acceptance cap which will increase revenue and enrollment.

3. Arethusa Farm Foundation (AFF) Update

The Arethusa Farm Foundation Update given by Mr. Leone included but was not limited to that on December 21, 2023, the Arethusa Farm Foundation closed on the Arethusa property and also the Foundation acquired approximately 40 acres north of Webster Road. There is a plan to craft a land use agreement, similar to Plumb Hill Playing fields that would allow for leasing space and bring in additional revenue that would go to the district.

4. ASTE Staffing Update

Mr. Leone requested Charlie Rowland to come forward before the Committee and presented him with a Region 20 quarter-zip and rain jacket sharing Mr. Rowland is recommended for appointment to the ASTE Principal position for Region 20, an Action Item on the BOE meeting agenda later in the evening. Mr. Leone added there is a Farm Manager Job Description that will go before the Board for approval and in the upcoming months will be posting for an ASTE teacher.

5. Adjourn There being no further business to come before this committee the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem