

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 20
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
May 18, 2023

1. Call to Order The Board of Education meeting held at Litchfield Center School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Emily Cole.

Members present: Emily Cole, Chair, John Morosani, Vice Chair, Alexandria Papp, Secretary, Andrew Tita, Treasurer, Bill Davenport, Joanne Moore, Krista Rizzo, Jannelle Carroll, Christine Lauretano, Jennifer Munson, and Tiffany Parkhouse. Also present: Chris Leone, Superintendent, Kristen Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, and Deanna Marchand, Region 20 Project Manager.

2. Pledge of Allegiance Emily Cole invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Committee Reports

Bill Davenport shared that the ASTE Committee discussed the Arethusa Farm Project, changing the ASTE committee from a Special Committee to a Standing Committee, and future agenda topics that included enrollment updates, and enrollment expansion to name a few.

The Facilities Committee update was given by Chris Leone commenting the committee will receive a draft of the Region 20 Capital Plan at the June 22nd meeting and also discussed a new high school entry concept relocating it to the current gym, auditorium, library media entrance. The district's next steps will be to lay out a design and costs for the Facilities Committee's consideration.

Joanne Moore provided the Long Term Planning Committee update that had a discussion on the Branding process and timelines on school naming and mascot/logo design. Discussion on Board of Education Goals and Mission Statement will be done at the May 31, 2023 meeting.

Krista Rizzo provided the Communication Committee update commenting on a preview of the updated website that will launch on July 1, 2023, held a discussion on low attendance at the Town Tours, and generated ideas on how to increase community interest, awareness, and involvement. She will be submitting articles for the new Goshen newspaper and a thought is to share those articles with the Towns to be posted on its websites to increase awareness.

Andrew Tita commented on the Finance Committee that viewed a presentation on School Debt for Litchfield and Region 6 and discussed options for the transfer of property to Region 20.

4. Chairman's Report

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- May 31 – James Morris School – 7:00 p.m.
- June 22 – Warren School – 7:00 p.m.
- June 29 – Litchfield Intermediate School – 7:00 p.m.
- July 13 – Wamogo – 7:00 p.m.

(All meetings will have a remote option)

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Long Term Planning Committee minutes of May 4, 2023

5.2 Board of Education minutes of May 4, 2023

John Morosani made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for Long Term Planning and Board of Education on May 4, 2023. Jannelle Carroll seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

6. 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

7. Superintendent Update

Mr. Leone provided the following for the Superintendent Update: Region 20 and the Region 20 Education Association came to a tentative agreement. Mr. Leone will share details in Executive Session. Legislation is being considered on Teacher Tenure and the Region 20 Board of Education Terms. The district is expected to have information on these two topics in early June. Mr. Leone closed with an update on *America 250* a state proclamation from Governor Lamont celebrating the 250 Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This proclamation has resulted in the formation of an *America 250* committee in Litchfield where there will be several activities happening in our area with district involvement.

John Morosani made a motion to add Item 8.4 Executive Session – Negotiations and to invite Chris Leone and Kristen Della Volpe. Andrew Tita seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Action Items

8.1 Approval of Policy 3515 Form #1 – 5131.911 Form 1 (Second Read)

Christine Lauretano made a motion for the Approval of Policy 3515 Form #1-5131.911 Form 1 (Second Read). Jannelle Carroll seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.2 Approval of School Colors

Christine Lauretano made a motion for the Approval of School Colors – dark blue, teal, and silver gray. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

8.3 Discussion and Potential Action on Revised Branding Process

Mr. Leone commented that since there are revisions to the Board approved Branding Process timeline, there needs to be a discussion on the revisions and Board approval. Mr.

Leone outlined the revisions to the Middle and High School Naming Process and Mascot Logo design.

The changes to the Naming Process are to open community submissions beginning on Monday, May 22, 2023, and closing on Friday, May 26, 2023. The Board will review school naming submissions at its meeting on May 31, 2023 and is expected to make a decision at its meeting on June 22, 2023.

For the Mascot Logo design, submissions will be open on Monday, May 22, 2023, and close on Thursday, June 22, 2023, and the Board is expected to act at its July meeting.

Joanne Moore made a motion to approve the Revised Branding Process as described by Mr. Leone. Bill Davenport seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

8.4 Executive Session - Negotiations

Christine Lauretano made a motion to enter Executive Session and invited Chris Leone and Kristen Della Volpe. Krista Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Entered Executive Session: 7:16 p.m.

John Morosani made a motion to exit Executive Session. Tiffany Parkhouse seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Exited Executive Session: 7:39 p.m.

9. Adjourn There being no further business to come before this Board Tiffany Parkhouse made a motion to adjourn. Alexandria Papp seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem