



Dear Region 20 Community,

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer! As the days grow shorter and we begin the transition from summer to the start of a new school year, I would like to share a few important updates with you.

First, here is some practical information. The first day of school is Thursday, August 27, 2026, and it will be a full day of school. Information on bus routes is available through your PowerSchool account. Families are encouraged to log in to PowerSchool to review their student(s)' transportation information. Additionally, Student Handbooks and Program of Studies can be found on the District website at rsd20.org, select your student's school, and then select the *Policies & Procedures* drop-down menu. Any questions on this information can be addressed by the school administrator.

Looking back at our progress, Year Two of Regional School District 20 (RSD20), the District closed on a significantly stronger note than the year before. The District ended the school year with a surplus of more than \$1.2 million — a remarkable contrast to Year One, when the District faced a significant deficit. As we continue to build a solid financial foundation, grounded in accurate accounting and strong fiscal controls, I anticipate that the variance between our budget projections and actuals will continue to narrow in the years ahead.

This improved fiscal standing has had a meaningful and tangible impact on the District. Most notably, *Moody's Ratings* recently assigned Regional School District 20 an A2 issuer rating — a designation that reflects a strong and stable financial position. An A2 rating is considered investment-grade, signaling that the district is financially reliable and at low risk of failing to meet its financial obligations. This rating is significant: it enables the district to borrow at favorable interest rates, protecting taxpayers from higher long-term costs. *Moody's* was clear that several deliberate actions taken by the District and its member towns were instrumental in preventing a more significant downgrade.

Moody's specifically cited:

- The voter-approved Budget Deficit Mitigation Agreement, which addressed the 2024–2025 fiscal shortfall.
- The conservative management of the 2025–2026 budget, which produced a surplus of more than \$1.2 million.
- The strong financial standing of the four member towns that make up RSD20.

The Board of Education was able to direct a portion of the surplus toward a long-overdue project: the expansion of the high school parking lot. At the inception of Region 20, plans were

developed to increase parking capacity at Lakeview High School to accommodate the greater number of staff and students brought together through the merger of two high schools. Unfortunately, the financial challenges of Year One forced the project to be postponed. Work on the new parking lot has been underway throughout the summer, and I am pleased to report that we anticipate more than 70 new parking spaces will be available in the coming weeks.

If you have had the opportunity to visit Lakeview High School recently, you may also have noticed that the ramp at the rear entrance of the building (West Entrance) has been completely replaced. The original ramp had deteriorated significantly over time, and the district was able to utilize state funding to complete this much-needed repair.

Looking ahead, there has been growing discussion about conducting a comprehensive review of the condition of all Region 20 school buildings and developing a Master Plan to guide future capital repairs and investments, as well as to examine building utilization across the district. While there has been no formal decision made regarding the study, I am pleased to share that the Board of Education has approved my request to seek external funding to support these planning efforts — an important first step in ensuring that our facilities are thoughtfully managed for the long term.

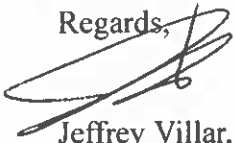
Region 20 staff return to campus on August 24th for our annual Convocation. I very much look forward to welcoming everyone back together. This year, we are fortunate to have Dr. Brandi Simonsen join us as our keynote speaker. Dr. Simonsen is a professor at UCONN and a nationally recognized scholar and leader in the fields of behavioral science and special education. Her distinguished career has placed her at the forefront of research and practice in Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Applied Behavior Analysis, School-wide Positive Behavior Support, Classroom Behavior Management, Behavioral Intervention, Behavioral Assessment, and Special Education — areas that speak directly to the heart of our work in creating a Multi-Tiered System of Support for students aimed at providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for every student we serve. I am confident that her address will be both thought-provoking and inspiring as we begin the new year together.

Year Three is poised to be a year of great achievement for Regional School District 20. The progress we have made—financially, operationally, and as a community—speaks to the strength and dedication of everyone who has contributed to this district's growth. I am deeply grateful for the continued support of our four communities, and I look forward to all that this year holds.

I wish you a wonderful close to the summer.

Go Bobcats!

Regards,



Jeffrey Villar, Ph.D.
Superintendent