Dear Region 20 Community,

On April 9, 2026, the Regional School District 20 Board of Education adopted its Operating Budget for the 2026–2027 school year. The Board will next hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026, to present the full budget and hear community feedback. Following the hearing, an Annual District Meeting will be held, as required by Connecticut General Statutes § 10-51, where citizens of our four towns will be invited to vote on the budget.

The Board of Education is recommending a $44,555,698.43 budget for FY27, representing a 4.24% increase over the current year. This proposal follows a series of workshops throughout February and April, during which every category—from Capital Needs to Instructional Programs—was thoroughly reviewed. All materials presented to the Board are available for public review at www.rsd20.org.

Key drivers of the budget increase include contractually required salary increases of more than $1.25 million, a $317,508.61 rise in Employee Benefits driven largely by an approximate 25% increase in Health Insurance Premiums, a $353,395.54 increase in Special Education Tuition, and essential Capital Improvements such as updated HVAC controls ($119,461) and a new PA/Bell system at Lakeview High School ($80,000).

Developing this budget required difficult decisions. Between FY25 and FY26, the district underwent significant reductions, eliminating 29.5 positions and more than $1.7 million in expenditures. For FY27, I made an additional $991,490.35 in reductions, including cuts to instructional software and art supplies, as well as further staffing adjustments. To lessen the impact on taxpayers, the Board also removed a $275,000 Capital Contingency, choosing instead to address those needs through an anticipated year-end surplus.

Despite the net reduction of one position in the proposed budget, bringing the total reduction in staff over two budgets to 30.5 FTE, the Board of Education managed to reallocate funds and positions so that the district is adding 5 staff members dedicated to providing early intervention for elementary students district-wide.

While the regional budget increase is 4.24%, each town's share varies based on student enrollment and the amount of Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding each town receives. This year, Litchfield is projected to receive approximately $375,000 in additional ECS funding, which will help reduce its local impact beyond the projections listed below:

- Goshen: $8,486,341 (0.94% increase)
- Litchfield: $23,298,645 (3.28% increase, not including the ECS adjustment)
- Morris: $6,146,927 (4.81% increase)
- Warren: $3,586,702 (5.65% increase)

This budget reflects our commitment to maintaining high-quality learning programs while remaining mindful of the fiscal realities facing our four towns. Your voice is essential in shaping the final plan. Please join us on Monday, April 20 for the Public Hearing being held at Lakeview High School Auditorium to learn more and share your perspectives. Note, you can join the meeting remotely at: https://meet.google.com/mfd-trkg-yws?hs=122&authuser=0 or Dial In: 1 662-532-6995 PIN: 426 423 966#.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Regards,

Jeffrey Villar, Ph.D
Superintendent