

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – January 10, 2023

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Catherine Giusti, Donna Chambers, Tyler Champlin, Kathryn Colasante, Polly Hopkins, Craig Louzon, Linda Lyall, Andrew McQuaide, Larry Phelps, Patricia Pouliot and Karen Reynolds. Resigned: Gary Liguori.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, High School Principal Andrea Spas, High School Assistant Principal Jean Bradanini, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, NEA President Vin Levcowich, Attorney Jon Anderson and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

I. Meeting Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Silent Meditation

Chair Giusti called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silent meditation.

II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was

VOTED: That the School Committee go into executive session and close the meeting to the public under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to collective bargaining (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022 - NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update with Mediator Oliverio); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to litigation/legal update (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474; 2. Legal Update - Superior Court CA No. WC-2020-0213 – Kelsey Zell v. Chariho Regional School District et al.; C.A. No. PC-2019-10870 – Town of Barrington, et al. v. Barrington School Committee et al.; C.A. No. WC-2022-0349 - Scott Perrin, Individually and as Executor of the Estate of William Perrin v. Town of Richmond et al.; C.A. No. PC-2021-06474 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall; Chariho Regional School District v. State of RI through Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Department of Administration, Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, Commissioner of Education Kenneth Wagner, Narragansett School Committee, South Kingstown School Committee and Westerly School Committee) and under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(8) for the purpose of reviewing and/or approving matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022 - Home Instruction Requests and 2) Approval of Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous.

III. Reconvene Open Session/Pledge of Allegiance/Silent Meditation

Chair Giusti reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was

VOTED: That minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Champlin, Hopkins and Phelps were not in attendance for the vote).

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to litigation/legal update remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation/legal update remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Hopkins and Phelps were not in attendance for the vote).

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Chair Giusti reported the first vote in executive session, approval of executive session minutes of December 13, 2022 – NEA Certified Negotiation Update, was approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of December 13, 2022 – RGB, was approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of December 13, 2022 – Home Instruction Requests, was approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

Home Instruction requests for this evening, were approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

The final vote, to close executive session and return to open session, was approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated/thanked:

1. High School Boys' Basketball Team – Winners of the Westerly Community Credit Union Holiday Basketball Tournament. Jeremiah Graham was named MVP; Riley Reed received the Joseph N. Cugini Service Award and the Bob Bewlay Sportsmanship Award went to Kyle McGovern; these awards went to athletes on the winning team. Named to All-Tournament Teams were Chris Niziolek (Boys' Varsity), Tyler Dugas (Boys' JV), Tori Babineau (Girls' Varsity) and Brianna DeGiacomo (Girls' JV).
2. High School Senior Brooke Kanaczet established a school record in the mile, with a time of 5:26.23, at the MSTCA Holiday Classic Indoor Track Meet.
3. Brooke Kanaczet (1,000 meter) and Erin von Housen (1,500 meter) finished first in their races at the Girls' Indoor Track meet at the Providence Career & Technical Academy. They beat all competitors in the Sullivan Division. Weeko Thompson placed second in the shot put and Megan Quaratella was ninth in the weight throw but both were first among North Smithfield and Burrillville competitors (who they were competing against).
4. Ryan Currier finished first in his weight class (152 lbs) and was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the Chad Antoch Memorial Wrestling Tournament. Corbin Maraia was 1st in his weight class (195 lbs.) in this Tournament. He is 13-0 this season.
5. Jared Peltier won two races (3,000 and 1,000 in the Southern Division) at the Providence Career & Technical Academy. Other 1st place winners were: Austin Thorp (600), Ethan McCann (1,500) and Ian Clark (300). 4x400 Relay Team of Thorp, McCann, Christian Ressinger and Travis Plante-Mullins also placed first.
6. Postseason Awards - High School Field Hockey – Chaia Elwell (1st Team Division II); McKenzie Allen (1st Team Division II, All-Academic); Megan Henry (2nd Team Division II); Laurel McIntosh (Division II Honorable Mention, All-Academic); Grace Gillett (All-Academic); Taylor Lambert (All-Academic); Maya Weathers (All-Academic); and Kaitlin Wojcik (All-Academic).
7. Chris Philips for all he did for Chariho staff, students and the community. Sincere condolences to his family.
8. Gary Liguori for his contributions to Chariho as a School Committee member, parent and volunteer. We wish him and his family the best in Florida.

VII. Public Forum

Chair Giusti informed all that Public Forum is an opportunity for those who would like to speak on items that are not on this evening's agenda. The first name on the list was Helen Sheehan. Ms. Sheehan stated that she put her name on and under topic she noted "TBD" in case she had something she wanted to say in response to another speaker. Andrew McQuaide informed Ms. Sheehan that the intent of Public Forum is not to respond to something you agree or disagree with. A blanket "I have the right" is not the intent of Public Forum. David Lelli from Richmond was next on the list. He stated that he wanted to speak on behalf of parents and about the education of children. He noted his concern with the disparaging comments that were made in regards to Parents United. He does not feel parents should give over their kids to the State to be indoctrinated. Parents have complete responsibility and authority over their children. It is not political; it is the legal, moral truth. Parents should seek to be involved in their children's education. He grew up during the Civil Rights Movement and we all loved Dr. Martin Luther King's message. However, there is a movement afloat to replace Dr. King's truths with lies. Every good parent would want to know if their children are being taught lies. Families should receive support and encouragement from the community. Thank you.

VIII. Policy

A. Personnel Management System (Revision) – Superintendent Picard noted that due to the fact that the probationary rate of pay was removed from the ESP collective bargaining agreement, a revision to language on page 5 of 6 reflects this change. She recommended approval of the revision to this policy. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve the revised Personnel Management System policy. Tyler commented that when reading through this policy, he noticed a reference made to exit interviews. What subcommittee does this? Craig stated that it was called the Exit Interview Subcommittee to which Donna added that there was a point over the years that they had a Recognitions Subcommittee as well who also reviewed completed exit interview reports. As there have not been any requests noted in any exit interview document for a meeting with the School Committee, this subcommittee has not had a need to meet. Tyler then commented on page 5 where it states that the Superintendent has the right to bump up rates to fill a position that is difficult to fill without School Committee approval. Gina noted this is correct. There are some positions we simply cannot get applicants for (math, science are ones that are tough).

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was
VOTED: To approve the Personnel Management System Policy as revised. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Summer School, Extended School and Night School (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommend approval of the revisions to this policy which includes a title change to Credit Recovery Policy. This policy was reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew, to approve the revisions to this policy which include a title change. Andrew stated that he thoroughly enjoyed reviewing this policy with the subcommittee. He named the members of the subcommittee and said that he thought their first meeting went well. He thanked Linda Lyall for suggesting this.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was
VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Summer School, Extended School and Night School Policy which will now be called the Credit Recovery Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

IX. Business

A. Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Presentation – This item was requested by Andrew McQuaide and Catherine Giusti. Superintendent Picard noted that part of this item was discussed at a previous School Committee meeting; the presentation includes what was already discussed for the new members who were not in attendance at the previous meeting. Andrea and Jean will begin their presentation from the point where they ended. Jean discussed AP demographics, historical participation and SAT comparative data. She noted that in Massachusetts, SAT is not a state requirement; it is a requirement in Rhode Island. Massachusetts had a 55% participation rate; we

had 97% to which Andrew added that it is likely that those in Mass who took the SAT did so because it was required for higher education. Kathryn asked if Massachusetts takes ACT to which Jean explained that ACT is just another test some colleges require. Mass takes MCAs. Gina noted that all Massachusetts' students are required to take MCAs. Rhode Island's test, RICAS, is a comparison to MCAs. Linda stated SAT is a graduation requirement for Rhode Island. Linda wondered, given the steady participation, if this is in line with other districts. Jean was not sure but stated she would get that information. Andrea noted that the High School offers 22 AP courses and we were recognized by the State on this high number. Donna asked if a student, who takes part in an AP class, are they required to take the test to which Jean replied they are not required but it is strongly recommended. If a student doesn't take the test, the class is not recorded as an AP class. A question arose about payment. Jean stated that the student/parent pays up front and if the student gets a "3" or higher on the test, they are reimbursed for the class. Andrew asked if there were any courses in which the number of seats available is less than the number of students wanting to take the course. Jean responded that they have not had this issue. They have been able to accommodate all students. Andrew wanted others to be aware that this does have budgetary implications. Pat questioned the total number of high school students versus the number taking AP courses. Andrea replied there are 1050 total students with 181 taking an AP course. Some take multiple AP classes. Chair Giusti stated the other part of this item is the Running Start Program. Her son was a part of this but, unfortunately, that was during COVID so his classes were online. Chariho had to pivot rather quickly but he graduated high school with five college courses. She asked how many students take part in Running Start or Dual Enrollment. Andrea responded that this depends as every year is different. Andrea explained the two programs. Running Start – college classes are offered here in Chariho with the student receiving college credit if they pass. We have agreements with several higher education facilities. Dual Enrollment – the student attends a higher education campus along with high school. There is a sign-up process and the student must also sign an agreement. Chair Giusti noted this is an opportunity for students and shows how robust our education is at Chariho. There is no cost to the student and they can get college credits while in high school. This makes students more desirable as a college applicant. There is an economic advantage to this when we discuss the impact on the budget. Andrea noted that teachers have to have certain certification requirements to which Donna added that this is wonderful and challenging for those who can handle it. Does Chariho have to pay and if not, would the parent have to pay? Ned explained that they budget for seven slots; Running Start through CCRI has \$38,255 budgeted. Donna wondered how critical is this to which Andrea replied that principals will always encourage support for opportunities that increase education for students.

B. 2023-2024 High School Program of Studies – Gina stated that this comes before the School Committee every year. She is recommending approval of the 2023-2024 High School Program of Studies. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Linda, to approve the 2023-2024 High School Program of Studies. Jean noted that there are not a lot of pictures. They have changed it and created a google site for students to access. Linda asked if this will be on the website to which Jean replied that it will once it is approved. Jean then provided a review of the document. Andrea noted that Jean spent three days over winter break to pull all this information together and create this. Donna asked if four years of Math was new. Andrea replied not for Chariho but it is a State requirement now. Donna commented on the number of pathways to which Jean explained the importance of flexibility for students. Tyler noted how very well done this was but questioned if World Language was a requirement. Gina responded that the current 7th grade will have a World Language requirement for graduation. Tyler asked about the reference to Summer School and Night School to which Gina explained this will be updated to reflect the action taken tonight. Andrew asked if there were any notable revisions. Jean noted the three new courses approved by the School Committee are included along with the new graduation project (graduation portfolio is still included as well). Gina gave a shout-out to Andrea and Jean who visited every 9th grade advisory to review the new graduation project requirement.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was
VOTED: To approve the 2023-2024 High School Program of Studies. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Request for Monitor Variance – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit a request for a variance for the 2023-2024 school year from the requirement which stipulates that bus monitors must be provided on all buses transporting students in grades K-5; this request only applies to secondary bus runs (we are requesting a variance for grade 5 only). We make this request every year.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve the request for a variance for the 2023-2024 school year from the requirement which stipulates that bus monitors must be provided on all buses transporting students in grades K-5. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Resolution in Support of Full Funding of Categorical Transportation Aid as Outlined in RIGL § 16-7.2-6 – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Resolution in Support of Full Funding of Categorical Transportation Aid as outlined in RIGL § 16-7.2-6. Craig made a motion, seconded by Andrew, to approve a Resolution in Support of Full Funding of Categorical Transportation Aid as Outlined in RIGL § 16-7.2-6. Chair Giusti noted that we are asking to be fully funded for Transportation Categorical Aid as we have to wait every year to see if we will get what is owed us. Kathryn stated that she reached out to Senator Morgan and she said it was restored. Gina replied that was last year. We want it to be included in the Governor's budget. Andrew asked if a letter can be sent by the Chair to our Town Councils to support this as there are new members. We should request their support and that they sign similar Resolutions.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve a Resolution in Support of Full Funding of Categorical Transportation Aid as Outlined in RIGL § 16-7.2-6 and ask our Town Councils to support this as well. In favor: Unanimous.

E. FY24 Budget – Superintendent Picard stated that this is an opportunity for further discussion/action on the budget. Chair Giusti stated that at the last meeting a member of the public said she felt disrespected that the Superintendent brought forth a 6.64% budget to the taxpayers. We discussed it and I suggested that a budget be presented, for transparency, that shows what it would cost to run the District as we are currently running. We were not going to ask for a 6.64% increase. This was not meant to be disrespectful and was done so only to be transparent. Gina explained that this item will remain on the agenda until it moves forward to the taxpayers. We have a responsibility to our students and as the educational liaison, a lot of ground work has been done to get us to the top. She is proud of our teachers, administrators and students. Level-funding of a budget has implications. We are a multi-million dollar organization. There will need to be cuts made to staff and programs to get this budget to 4%. Inflation has increased over the past ten years but our budget has not increased at the rate of inflation. We can cut money but it will impact students. Decisions need to be made with the best interest of students in mind. Last year the District returned \$120,000 to Hopkinton and they still voted "no" on the budget so it is clearly not about money. Her door is always open. If we dismantle the educational system, people will move out and your home values will drop. Donna asked that the temperature be raised in the library as she felt it was too cold. It was noted that the temperature was set at 65° which is what some people believe our classrooms should be kept at. Pat stated "look at the RICAS scores". A lot of money is spent on higher-achieving students yet the majority of those graduating are not going to college. Superintendent Picard disagreed. RICAS tests are given to students in grades 3-8. AP classes are for High School students. We have the same number of kids in sports that we have in AP classes. It is not just kids who invest in college. We just received funding for a Food Truck. Education is about opportunity – the future and economic advantage. We had a pandemic and we still had three of our schools get back to where they were before the pandemic. It is not just about education, it is about relationship. It is our job to pay for student success and opportunity. We are asked to do more every day with less. That is the nature of this profession. Athletics cost as much as AP but there is nothing around here for kids to do if you take away athletics. The school department is always blamed for the increases but remove athletics and your police department costs will most likely go up. Donna noted that as long as she has been involved in equity and educating every child,

this has been the focus. Pat's comment was unfair that all the money goes to "upper" students. We have spent money on the CALA building and CTC programs. Gina added that CALA is over-enrolled and if we had to send these students out-of-district, it would be two-fold what you are paying now. Ned added that the District gets tuition for CTC students and a few CALA students. If we didn't get tuition, it would fall back on the taxpayer. Pat asked if enrollment in CTC has increased or decreased to which Ned replied that the coastal communities have seen a decrease in overall enrollment of about 8%. Gina added that there has been a fluctuation in CTC enrollment but we have maintained enrollment in all CTC programs. The State of Rhode Island has lost 2,000 students (mostly coastal areas) but top performing districts have increased enrollment. Pat asked if CTC programs are reviewed to which Gina stated that the District has to have RIDE approval and we just had Visual Arts approved by RIDE. There is an Open House tomorrow night at CTC. Andrew asked where they were at this point as far as the budget goes to which Gina responded that the guidance she received was to work to get every town to 4%. That would result in a decrease of around \$1.97 million. We do not know about State Aid or healthcare yet but the audit clean-up revealed a positive of \$330,000. We need to talk with legislators about fully funding Special Education and Transportation Categorical Aid. Gina then shared a few things that may be impacted such as a cut in teacher assistants which will reduce supervision in halls and bathrooms, change in bus runs and bus stops for more efficiency, increase class size. She stated that she is not in favor of any of these as this is the time when we are trying to build back education. The Committee will not get to \$1.9 million by cutting supplies and furniture. Ned noted that action can be taken to restore \$330,000 to the budget which is a result of duplicate line items (found during a preliminary audit). Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to remove the duplicate line and restore \$330,000 to the budget. Kathryn asked Ned to explain this more. Ned reviewed the UCOA codes and it was found that lines 835-844 were doubled up resulting in a net change of \$200,000. The same thing occurred in rows 865-883 which will drop this down about \$330,000. Craig questioned if this was a mistake, why not just take it out to which Ned responded because the budget was already presented. He wants to make this clean.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was
VOTED: To restore \$330,000 to the budget which is a result of duplicate UCOA lines in the budget.
In favor: Unanimous.

Ned then noted that the audit is in process and on the cover page, section 2, the Member Towns' Reallocation for the fund balance at 2.25% was \$356,298. He would like to change this figure to \$388,462 (up about \$30,000) as a result of the audit.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was
VOTED: To change the Member Towns' Reallocation (noted on the cover page, section 2) from \$356,298 to \$388,462 and increase of around \$30,000. In favor: Unanimous.

Craig brought up a concern of his regarding the District's responsibility to pay CCRI tuition for High School student. His concern is why the District has to pay for high school students to get credits when students who graduate can go for free for two years. He asked this so that the public is aware of his concern. Tyler questioned the \$7.5 million in revenue to which Ned referred him to section 5 – the lines above the local aid (U/R State Aid from Charlestown, U/R State Aid from Richmond, U/R State Aid from Hopkinton) along with the lines above and below this make up the \$7.5 million. Tyler asked if the full amount of transportation categorical aid was included to which Ned replied that they took half of what we received last year. Tyler asked Ned to explain Maintenance of Effort. Ned noted this operates on a few different levels. It is the expectation of the State/Feds that a district will spend at least the same amount + next year. If you have fewer students this becomes complex. Gina explained that if someone gave her \$50 to run the budget last year, they would have to give her at least \$50 the next year. Tyler noted that we are in unprecedented times with inflation. If we hit a recession, costs decrease. Are they stuck next year funding at the same level? Ned referenced Bill Day who was critical of transfers but practically speaking, if you cut two DCYF placeholders and we know we have a lot of mental health issues, we may have to come up with the money so this is

where transfers are made. Gina stated that they use the word fund balance, not surplus. We have implemented a budget freeze already this year. Any leftover money goes into the next budget. The fund balance is your savings account. There are governmental guidelines for that. This year we have less than \$300,000 and this will be wiped out if we have two special needs students move in. We could shut down rec programs which would save around \$50,000. Tyler asked about the \$1.2 million grant. Gina stated that they did not budget for mental health this year. We put aside some positions in ESSER so we will need to fund them when ESSER sunsets. Tyler confirmed that the grant is already allocated to which Gina replied "yes, in hopes that we would receive it." Ned stated that he received an update to the contract for the Substance Abuse Prevention (Section 4, page 14, #4997 and he is recommending a \$5,000 reduction in this line item.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was
VOTED: To reduce the Substance Abuse Prevention line item by \$5,000. In favor: Unanimous.

X. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Giusti requested items to be pulled or clarifying questions. Nothing was pulled. Craig acknowledged the donations and grants and thanked the donors. He then made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew, to move all items in the Consent Agenda. Polly Hopkins noted that she had a question on item H-3. It was explained to Polly that she should request an item be pulled if she has a question or concern. Craig rescinded his motion and Andrew withdrew his second. Polly requested that item H-3 be pulled.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was
VOTED: To move the balance of the Consent Agenda Items. In favor: Unanimous.

A. Minutes – Approved the following:

1. Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 11, 2022 (minutes not sealed).
2. Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022 - Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Certified Staff Pertaining to Article 12B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement – Graduation Portfolio Presentations (minutes unsealed December 13, 2022).
3. Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022 - NEA ESP Staff Negotiation Update/Ratification of Contract (minutes unsealed December 13, 2022).
4. Regular Session Minutes of December 13, 2022.
5. Budget Workshop Minutes of January 3, 2023.

B. Transfers – Approved.

C. Bill Review – Accepted.

D. Revenue/Expenditure Account Status Report – None at this time.

E. Student Activity Fund Balance – None at this time.

F. Personnel Actions – None at this time.

G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quote – None at this time.

H. Permission to Award Contracts – Awarded the following:

1. Pumping ISDS System Bid to Macamaux Septic Pumping, Wyoming, RI for the timeframe and price listed in the memo from Ned Draper dated December 29, 2022.
2. Middle School Stage Curtain Bid to Walker Specialties, Inc. in the amount of \$9,350 (RIDE MOA).

I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

J. Grants – Received \$16,841 in grant awards from Community 2000 Education Foundation (last awards received from Chris Philips)

K. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Staples, Westerly (Alexander Carr, General Manager) of 53 boxes (12 donation kits in each box) of miscellaneous school supplies (over 10,000 items) to the District. These kits were purchased by customers to be donated to schools.
2. Donation from Sensible Heating and Air Conditioning, Hope Valley, RI of \$1,000 to the Robotics Program.

H-3. Strategic Planning Bid to the Center for Leadership & Educational Equity (CLEE) in the amount of \$10,440 (ESSER Funds). Craig made a motion to approve the award of bid to CLEE which was seconded by Andrew. Dr. Comella explained that this item is for the District's strategic planning per RIDE regulations. CLEE did our last plan. Bid proposals went out and bids were received. It is stipulated that the person/group selected would have to meet certain criteria. CLEE was the least responsive bidder. They will work with the Steering Committee to meet requirements of the 2019 legislation set forth by RIDE. Gina added that the actual plan was required by law but is now legislated and we have set points we have to work towards. Andrew stated, not that they don't have staff at Chariho who are competent facilitators, but we have biases. An independent facilitator is independent of the Superintendent, and staff and will guide the process so a variety of voices are heard. Polly stated there is a lot about equity; please speak to this. What if they recommend an equity audit? Gina explained that education was built on equity; it began with special education. In RIDE's plan, we have to ensure equity; she does not know why no one would want equity as education is founded on it. Polly asked if this could lead to further expense to which Linda reminded Polly that the School Committee has to approve it. Gina noted that this group will facilitate our Strategic Plan process and this is required by the State. Chair Giusti noted that she took part in the last strategic planning and it was helpful to have someone from outside the District. This person will drive the process. As there were no other comments, the Chair called for a vote. Kathryn asked if the \$10,000 was a salary cost to which Gina replied it is salary and product; work deliverables as well. Kathryn questioned if this was mandated by RIDE. Gina responded that RIDE mandates that all districts have a plan which is legislated along with who we will use. Andrew called for a point of order. He explained, for new members, that once a vote is called, discussion ends.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To award the Strategic Planning Bid to the Center for Leadership & Educational Equity (CLEE) in the amount of \$10,440 (ESSER Funds). In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps and Reynolds. Opposed: Colasante, Hopkins and Pouliot. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 3 opposed.

XI. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Audit Subcommittee Meeting – January 19, 2023 – 5:30 PM – Admin Building Conference Rm

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Artessy Preparation – The Superintendent noted that last month she announced the return of Artessy on Saturday, April 1, 2023 which will highlight student art, drama and CTC programs.

2. Budget Town Hall – The Superintendent stated that this will be an opportunity for school district personnel to discuss budgetary concerns with the public.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

XII. School Committee Requests for Future Agenda Items or Legal Opinions

Andrew requested the Committee consider a Resolution for the full funding for Special Education. His next request was for communication with our sister towns pertaining to the providing of notice to the towns or town if we have an agenda item that concern them and, likewise, a similar ask of our sister towns.

Pat stated that she does not know what the programs are that make up what was lost from schools/students due to COVID.

XIII. Adjournment

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:53 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk