

Chariho School Committee Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
Regular Session Minutes - January 11, 2024

Committee Members attendance: Chair Catherine Giusti, Vice Chair Karen Reynolds, Donna Chambers, Tyler Champlin, Kathryn Colasante, Polly Hopkins, Craig Louzon, Linda Lyall, Andrew McQuaide, Larry Phelps, Patricia Pouliot and Jessica Purcell.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Retired Judge Francis Flaherty – exited at 5:40 PM, Attorney for the School Committee Jon Anderson, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Richmond Town Councilor Michael Colasante and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair Catherine Giusti called the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 5:00 PM. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

II. 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/action pertaining to litigation/legal update (The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474). In favor: Unanimous.

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

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

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

Superintendent Picard recommended that the minutes pertaining to litigation/legal update (The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation/legal update (The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Karen Reynolds reported there was one vote taken in executive session to close executive session and return to open session. The vote was unanimous with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds all voting in favor.

VI. Settlement Agreement with Robinson Green Beretta Corporation

Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the settlement agreement with Robinson Green Beretta Corporation.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was VOTED: To approve the settlement agreement with Robinson Green Beretta Corporation. In favor: Unanimous.

VII. Stage I Application with RIDE

Ned provided an update and apologized for not getting the documents to the Committee sooner. He has been working with Colliers going through the Stage I and Stage II process for the bond. In case the bond does not go forward, the District has to have a plan in place for our capital improvements. The Committee will need to approve submission of a proposal if the bond fails. Please consider our revised plan. We have to have all our ducks in a row. Jessica asked if they could use information from the previous Stage I to which Ned replied “yes”. Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Stage I application with RIDE.

Jessica Purcell made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was
VOTED: To allow Ned to submit the Stage I application with RIDE. In favor: Unanimous.

VIII. Budget Workshop

Chair Giusti stated that she will allow anyone with questions to speak after the School Committee has asked their questions. Those wishing to speak should state their name and town of residence. Please remember to speak into the microphone.

Superintendent Picard prepared a slideshow and welcomed all to the meeting. She thanked the entire Chariho team for all their efforts to collaborate to ensure they present a budget that serves the needs of our students, families, educators and staff. She is presenting a budget tonight that continues to ensure Chariho stays on track to provide a high-quality education to all students. She asked all to please allow her to walk through the entire budget presentation before questions are asked. She noted that all of the budget materials are posted on the Chariho website. She began by highlighting the success of the District. We have three Blue Ribbon Schools. US News and World Report ranked Chariho High School 7th among all RI High Schools, all of our elementary schools had substantial growth with three in the Top Ten related to State proficiency data. Our State data revealed that we are showing growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics at all of our schools and that we are outperforming Massachusetts schools and the RI State proficiency data. We offer over twenty CTC programs and over 20 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and Chariho High School is outperforming its peers in several areas in the state and globally. We received recognition for our commitment to Advanced Placement coursework. Richmond Teacher Paige Leddy was selected in October as the 2023 RI Elementary Milken Award Winner (“The Oscars of Teaching”) and Middle School Teacher Michelle Conary Brittain was named the 2023 Middle School STEAM Educator of the Year. Chariho Alternative Learning Academy Teacher Adrienne Buckley was named the 2023 RI Environmental Education Teacher of the Year. The Department of Education recognized Richmond Elementary School as a RICAS rock star for achieving a 17% increase in their proficiency scores in English Language Arts and having 69% of their students achieve high growth in Mathematics. Ashaway saw a 16% increase in Mathematics proficiency and Charlestown saw a 7% increase in Mathematics, placing all three elementary schools back to their pre-pandemic proficiency rates. Hope Valley saw a 9% point increase in grade 3 writing. New accountability ratings were released this past Friday, three of our elementary schools were given 4 out of 5 stars and one earned 5 out of 5 stars, placing our elementary schools among the strongest in the State. Our High School SAT scores saw a 5% increase in Mathematics and English Language Arts, our Graduation rate has increased to 94% and our student post-secondary success is among the highest in the State, achieving 3 out of 3 Success points based on State accountability criteria. While our Middle School is in the top 20% of middle schools in the State based on current accountability data, our students in 7th grade showed a 12% increase in Mathematics. We recognize that we must continue to improve with a strong focus on our Middle School. The Middle School team has been working on revising student instructional experiences to ensure we are meeting students’ needs and we are focused on growth overall. She then reviewed the Budget Process timeline noting that our current five-year proposed Capital Improvement Plan is approximately \$30 million. However, that does not include all of our facility needs over the next five years. They have moved \$750,000 from the Capital Improvement Plan for the FY25 budget with the hope that they will move forward with a bond. She reviewed budget workshop dates and noted there will be additional opportunities for input and

feedback for the School Committee and community during all regularly-scheduled School Committee meetings on February 13, March 5 and March 12, leading up to the budget vote on April 9th. The budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on January 17th and then to the member towns at the Omnibus Meeting on that same night. Changes to the budget can be made until March 12th when the School Committee will adopt a final budget to present to the voters in each town. The Annual Regional District Meeting/Public Hearing will be held on March 5th with budget adoption on March 12th at the regularly-scheduled School Committee meeting. She noted all of the documents that can be found on the Chariho website along with a Google form to submit questions you might have that are not noted. She then reviewed staffing. Our educators and staff are our most significant investment as these are essential individuals who provide the instruction and support to ensure the overall needs of our students are met. Much of our operating budget is allocated to staff but, you will note, there have been slight reductions in staff each year. You will also see that the cuts to Healthcare made last year during the FY24 budget process proved to be too aggressive and, as a result, have impacted our FY25 budget. Gina then reviewed costs required by either Federal/State legislation/statutes that are needed for us to operate. We continue to ask our state legislatures to support us by asking that the State provide full funding for transportation. Our Senators and Representatives have been incredible partners in working with the legislators to ensure we continue to receive full funding for our Categorical Transportation along with other initiatives. Over the last three years the School Committee has approved a Resolution supporting this funding in the State budget and this have been forwarded to all Town Councils, State Representatives and regional districts to request that they pass a similar resolution of support. She then moved to a slide on revenue which showed the District's overall money received from the State, Federal and local government across six fiscal years. There are additional charts on the RIDE Financial Website that can also show how Chariho compares to all districts across the State regarding finances, budget and spending. She pointed out areas where there have been some questions about cost. It is also important to note that she has already made reductions totaling approximately \$1.2 million throughout the budget process. The cuts were necessary to bring the budget down to the preliminary 2.2% increase that is being presented to you this evening. The cuts included an overall reduction of certified staff in grades K, grade 4 and in the High School as well as reductions in non-certified positions. As a reminder, the Governor has not released State Aid, therefore, this budget remains preliminary based on the data that we currently have available. She has heard the Governor's budget is scheduled to be released on January 16th. She then provided a review of budget items with increases which included the following: salaries and benefits per the newly-negotiated contracts for certified and non-certified staff; healthcare adjustments to the FY24 shortfall; curriculum, materials, tutoring and professional development are being placed back in the budget; building and grounds supplies adjustment to the shortfall in FY24; out-of-district transportation; DCYF tuitions which she was just notified have risen from \$75,000 to \$93,000 for each student (we currently have four); capital projects (CTC roof, CMS skylight, safety enhancements to doors, windows and cameras). ESSER funding, which stands for Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund, sunsets September 2024. She reviewed how the District utilized these funds. We continue to work diligently to find other funding sources by applying for grants. Our grants Development Officer Katie Kirakosian continues to work tirelessly with our administrators and staff to seek out these opportunities. In 2023 we have received a total of \$2,029,598 in grants and she reviewed the grants that were awarded to the District. Additional revenue, which includes State Aid, CTC tuitions and increased investment income with higher interest rates were discussed. Current enrollment shifts by town have resulted in Charlestown at 24.05% or -1.03%; Richmond at 37.68% or -0.84% and Hopkinton at 38.26% or +1.49%. The amount paid to the District by each town is determined by that town's share or percentage of enrolled students. This is detailed in the budget in Section 7. She noted there has been many questions regarding how much each town pays per pupil. She shared a chart that shows what each town pays prior to their allocation of State Aid – Charlestown is \$19,736 per student; Richmond is \$19,606 per student and Hopkinton is \$19,159 per student. After State Aid is applied, Charlestown pays \$17,792; Richmond pays \$14,389 and Hopkinton pays \$13,513. The fiscal impact on Member Towns with debt service after reallocation of the fund balance is +2.22% with the impact as follows: Hopkinton +3.76%; Richmond +1.35%; Charlestown +1.18%. Annual

inflation for the New England region consumer price index (CPI) was between 3-5% in FY23 with levels as high as 8% in 2022. Gina then shared an inflation slide which included a table of % increase (+,-) for overall student enrollment, Chariho budget increase or decrease, and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for New England as of November 2023. Enrollment has only shifted approximately 1.33% and even with the budget preliminarily set at 2.2% before the Governor's proposed budget is released and the School Committee takes additional actions, we have averaged 1.06% in comparison to an increase in inflation which has averaged 3%. In FY23, we were level-funded and saw a 0% increase while inflation was at 8%. FY23 Audit results are finalized and for the District to retain a preliminary 2.25% fund balance reserve, aligned to the School Committee Unassigned Fund Balance Policy, results in \$1,261,273 being available for general fund use in FY25. Per the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Chariho's estimated fund balance for the District overall is recommended to be two months of expenditures (Chariho's current monthly average of expenditures is \$10-\$11 million). The recommendation from our auditors as discussed in the December 12, 2023 meeting is 5-7%, which is over \$3 million. The Superintendent reviewed the five-year Capital Improvement Plan required by law. Over the last 20 years, the District made several attempts to address our aging elementary schools. She reviewed proposals offered by Superintendents John Pini and Barry Ricci that were offered in an effort to update our elementary schools. In 2005, Superintendent Ricci tried to put forth a project, with a completion date of 2008, that would have moved the District to having three elementary schools, in in each town, and return Hope Valley to Hopkinton. The projected cost was approximately 100 million at a reimbursement rate of 56%. This plan was defeated by voters. However, the campus and CALA projects were both approved. We have a unique opportunity to build three new elementary schools, one in each town on the existing sites, with a reimbursement rate of 76-81 cents on the dollar. Regardless of the path forward, the District's financial picture will incorporate a phase-out of Hope Valley Elementary School, as discussed last year during the FY24 budget season, as maintaining four aging facilities is quite cost-prohibitive and continues to be a challenge for the budget. With that being said, in order to get our budget to not exceed a 2.2% overall increase and remembering this is also a tentative budget until the Governor's budget is released on January 16th, we would need to stop enrolling K students at Hope Valley School beginning FY25. The District and the School Committee continue to promote budget transparency and we now have a Budget Subcommittee that started in 2023. Those meetings are open to the public and they will continue to meet and discuss the current FY24 budget as well as budget projections for FY25. She thanked everyone who came out this evening to join them in discussing the future of education in Chariho.

Andrew asked the Superintendent to please review some of the adjustments made to the budget format. He is very appreciative of the notes that were added. Gina noted that Section 3 is new – some information was removed as it was felt it wasn't as important as what was added. There is an overall view of increases and decreases which allows the School Committee to be more thoughtful. Kathryn felt this was a fabulous addition and she really appreciates it. Andrew gave a shout out to Tyler as these were his suggestions. Chair Giusti asked if the Superintendent could point out cuts that she has already made. She replied that they asked principals/teams to prioritize needs as ESSER funds were sun setting. The Budget Subcommittee wanted the rationale from principals as to why an increase might be needed. The elementary principals looked at what may come with the building project. For example, RIDE does provide allowances for furniture and technology needs for new buildings. We looked at our current programs to make sure they are efficient. We also reviewed High School electives and looked at a reduction in classrooms at the elementary level. Andrew stated that these were not looked at by the School Improvement Teams as easy cuts. The teams feel these items are needed now but as a School Committee, this is a prudent thing to do with a possible building project in the future. This was not an easy conversation to have at the elementary level. Linda noted three variables in OT; was this because of ESSER to which the Superintendent responded that this is based on students coming in, not on ESSER. We had a school psychologist leave in September and another one on leave so we had to contract for those services. Teachers don't like to make moves before school starts and they also do not want to leave and take a position somewhere else for one year. Andrew asked that the Superintendent prioritize the conversation

around Hope Valley Elementary School (i.e. savings achieved by beginning the phase out, options for the School Committee to accelerate or slow down the process). At this time, he does support the plan. Superintendent Picard explained that last year we had to start looking at decommissioning Hope Valley School. Her recommendation would be to cut one kindergarten class out of the budget. It is not prudent to cut too many out of the budget when making shifts. We will need less custodial coverage and two fewer certified positions. No one will lose their job. We will reconfigure transportation with a potential savings of two buses. The savings would be a minimum of \$450,000 but could go up to \$600,000 depending on whether or not the plan is accelerated. Tyler noted a concern about the enrollment percentages as his numbers did not match those of the District's. Ned explained how he calculated the numbers using the percent difference not the numerical change in students. Tyler noted that he is good with Ned's numbers. Kathryn clarified that \$750,000 is not in the budget because of the bond to which Gina replied that is correct. We have stated that regardless of whether or not the District moves forward with a building project, we will need to go out to bond. She reviewed a few of the larger capital projects. Chair Giusti asked how they arrive at the numbers (cost) to which Gina responded that the architects and Colliers assist with determining this. RIDE states we have to provide proof every year as to how we are maintaining or buildings. We have to have an architect to do this to which Ned added that SLAM is redoing this now so some of the numbers may change. Gina noted some confusion in the community as it relates to housing aid. This is not related to affordable housing. Housing aid is a term RIDE uses for aid to schools because we "house students". She has a link on her FAQ page so all can see what every district receives. Andrew asked the Superintendent to please walk them through page 7 – certified staff reductions. Gina stated that there will be one less K teacher from Hope Valley, two 4th grade teachers at Richmond, one High School teacher and one Middle School teacher. We did not have any social workers in the elementary level so that position is being put back in the budget. Kathryn asked if the Richmond bathroom renovation numbers were new numbers. The Superintendent responded that these are old numbers. RIDE wants them updated so SLAM and Colliers are working on the new numbers. Ned added that RIDE requires a schematic design plus detail. Kathryn wondered how they got estimates without bids to which Ned replied they have cost estimators – individuals who know what the cost is per square foot. They do the estimate. Kathryn asked if it was the same thing with labor to which Ned explained for labor they have to go with the prevailing wage rate. It is required by law that we pay that. Kathryn wondered how close they get to which Ned responded they get pretty close. Jessica asked for clarification between the 8-page document versus the thirty-plus page document. Ned noted that a lot of the format he inherited. He appreciates the granularity of it and the District should be applauded. He then provided a summary of the two documents. Gina commented that the level of transparency in other districts does not exist. This is a credit to the previous finance directors and Ned. We had a brand new auditing firm; the taxpayers and community should be proud as there were no recommendations or findings. Tyler stated that over the past couple of years we have had savings through vacancies but this is not really a savings to which Gina agreed that these were unspent dollars because we were unable to fill vacancies. Tyler asked if the District has planned for these to be filled in this budget. Gina replied that the District currently has seven unfilled custodial positions; we need to minimally fill five of those. Tyler asked if all seven were budgeted to which Gina responded that only five are budgeted. Craig clarified that some of the savings was eaten up by vendors to which Ned agreed. Andrew asked for an overview of Section 6 – Capital Plan. Ned noted that right now they are working on the five-year plan. This is a subset. He thinks the District will get @ \$300,000 in housing aid reimbursement for the Middle School boiler project. He is also looking at revenue from the RI Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Some funding was set aside during COVID. We know we have to make significant capital improvements. Craig suggested they consider adding lights to the front parking lot at Charlestown School as this is a safety hazard. He would like to see this done sooner rather than later. Andrew asked about the paving of the lower lot at the High School. Ned explained that when this was paved, they had enough money to do the binder coat. This was needed as it was nothing but mud there and through COVID we needed the additional parking. Gina added that the money came from the Parking fund. Ned explained that binder coats will last a couple of years so we will have to put a finish coat on it soon. He is working with National Grid on rebate money for the EMS panels and the rest are high priority

needs. He has underlined those projects that can go out to bond. Gina reminded all that regardless of the path forward, the District will still need to go out to bond whether they build or renovate/repair. Ned noted that he will have more robust data plans coming from SLAM. If he was to give the Committee a five-year plan now, it would not be accurate. Tyler stated he had a question on Section 4, page 1, line 13 – Hope Valley salary. There is movement of two kindergarten classes out, where does he see this elsewhere to which Gina explained there is only one teacher, not two and they are planning on a retirement so both teachers will have a position. We cut one teacher but this may be needed in another school. We know we have five certified retirements. Ned added that the total there goes down but Charlestown goes up. Polly, taking the same example, asked if there is any signifier that says this is two positions. Gina referred her to Section 8, by school you will see the numbers. If it is in red, that means it is grant-funded (i.e. Title funding, IDEA). The others are out of the operating budget. Ned added that if you look at the salary tables, the building code is at the back of the table. The code tells you which school it is. This goes back to the RIDE thing. RIDE tells us what numbers we have to use for the school. It is a requirement and is part of our audit. Andrew questioned page 9 of 10 in Section 3 – explain the movement from rental to tech. Ned noted that rental of technology is where the expense lived. We are dropping this down as we plan to purchase now. Before COVID we leased our computers. After ESSER we purchased them instead of leasing. Gina has moved to Chromebooks at the High School. They are getting longer life now from Chromebooks. Louise Dinsmore from Richmond questioned the \$750,000 moved from capital. If the bond vote and the budget vote are on the same day, what happens if the bond fails and the budget passes? What happens with the \$750,000? Gina responded that they have a Stage I plan the School Committee approved this evening so RIDE will have two applications – one for Stage I and one for Stage II. If the bond fails, we will have to go back out to bond for renovations/repairs. Louise asked how CTC tuitions compare from last year to this year. Ned referred all to Section 5 where the detail is listed. Overall we are seeing an increase as there is a healthy interest in our programs. Gina commented that she was on WBLQ with Gerry Auth and Construction Technology Teacher Dave Bannister. We are the only CTC program in the State that has built a home for Habitat for Humanity. The ribbon cutting for this new home is scheduled for next week. Louise asked if they get \$20,000 for each student to which Gina replied that RIDE tells us how much we can charge each district. It is not the same for every student as every district has a different per pupil cost. Goldie from Richmond asked if they will be having special needs services for the students who are moving out of Hope Valley. Gina explained that the law requires we provide services for all students who require them so if a student is in need of services, they will receive what is needed. Andrew noted that last year Clay talked about how they could maximize CTC enrollment strategies to maximize tuition revenue. Maybe they could discuss this at a future meeting. Gina referred all to TikTok and follow radio station WBLQ as this is where we share the work we are doing. There is an Open House at CTC next Wednesday. She advised all Committee members to come early and talk with parents/students. Jessica Swain from Ashaway asked if lights are installed in the Charlestown parking lot that sensors be put on them. She noted she was glad they paved the lower parking lot but the parking spots could be a bit wider. There are no cameras down there and new student drivers tend to not judge correctly. Gina replied that we do have cameras in the budget but they are unable to get chips for them. Jessica Swain then asked about the switch to Chromebooks at the High School. Her daughter has an Apple. Will the District need to buy new programs? Gina explained that Chromebooks are much easier for us to update, programs are budgeted in. Mike added that a year ago they put together a committee at the High School to discuss the crossover. What was found is that largely there is no impact but they will have a cart of MacBooks available for classroom need. Jessica Swain asked if the retirement numbers are guaranteed. She knows there are others who want to retire and can't. Newer teachers require mentors where older teachers are more experienced. Gina commented that the District is actually seeing more retirements coming in but we have five now. We usually see more near the end of school and she feels they will see even more over the next few years. Those teachers who are coming in to the District are actually coming in on higher steps; many on top step. They are experienced teachers coming from other districts. We have a good draw. We do offer a Reflective Practitioner Course for new teachers but they will be shifting that. All new teachers (regardless of experience) get assistance. Dr. Comella and Martha

Dion facilitate this. Andrew asked Administration to consider cuts as he is mindful of where Hopkinton is at. He would like to get Hopkinton to 2%. Gina noted that she would like to hold until she sees what the Governor's budget looks like. She doesn't want to bring forth more angst with staff. Andrew felt that was a reasonable request. That is the direction he would like to see them go. Michael Colasante from Richmond stated that the Commissioner had an interview and warned all to be weary of the 'fiscal cliff'. The money from the General Assembly will be severely limited. He urged all to watch the clip as this is very concerning. He had wanted to get the towns together last year to discuss mandates. A lot of these are very costly and non-sensible. He feels if the government wants them, they should fund them. This would curtail their foolish mandates. Gina noted that the Superintendents have been advocating for the same thing. They are asking for a fiscal statement – where is the money coming from. Michael asked about social space needs to which Gina requested that he please elaborate on this. He asked about mandates around special needs. Gina explained that federal law requires this and we get IDEA money to assist with the cost. Massachusetts and Connecticut do a better job – they fully fund special education – so she completely agrees that Rhode Island has to do something. Michael stated that he spoke with North Providence Mayor Charlie Lombardi. He claims Mr. Lombardi talked about the small tax base and wondered how we will afford these increases. He made a good point. We need to come up with a happy medium. Those who can afford more and those who cannot afford it. Chair Giusti couldn't agree more and advised all to contact their local legislators. Karen noted that at a Budget Subcommittee meeting they invited all of the local State officials and discussed legal requirements we have to follow. Representative Cotter mentioned fiscal statements that need to accompany these. They did take last year's Omnibus Meeting very seriously. Jessica stated that every year they sign a Resolution that goes for all of the regional districts for Categorical Transportation Aid plus the Omnibus Meeting. These are great ways to communicate. Gina referred all to her slide deck that lists all our new mandates. Andrew felt this was a really excellent Budget Workshop. Ned noted that it is helpful for them to understand what is going on in this community. While there will be some disruption in the short term, they do believe their numbers line up with where we need to be to which Craig added that they all feel the same way. Abby from Hope Valley asked if all three towns will be rezoned this fall. Gina noted that for K enrollment, they will relook at the lines. Once they get maps, they will work with the bus company. Abby asked if siblings would be split to which Gina responded that will happen only if parents want to split them. Stephanie from Hope Valley noted a concern that students may end up moving a couple times. Gina replied that her daughter was in first grade and her school was moved. She has moved three times. As a parent she gets it and she hopes the impact is less on them. At Exeter-West Greenwich, their siblings are split up at the elementary level. Stephanie stated that she is hopeful the District will minimize the impact from students moving around. Michael Colasante asked Ned for a breakdown of each town's reallocation of the fund balance. Ned responded Charlestown is \$306,514; Richmond is \$479,322 and Hopkinton is \$475,538. Mr. Colasante thanked him. Filippa Bryson from Richmond asked for a clarification of the K restructure plan. Gina explained that in her recommendations to cut the budget, Hope Valley K students will be shifted to the other three schools. She is not separating siblings unless parents want that. Hope Valley parents will have options. Kindergarten enrollment will begin in March. Every year we monitor the lines so we will have to think about where a student will go. This will depend on whether or not there are population shifts. Chair Giusti commented that people have said they are surprised by these conversations so we will still need to have these conversations to keep everyone informed. We will get hard numbers as requested by Mr. Champlin. If you have a question, she referred all to the website to the FAQ page. If you don't find that your question is answered there, you have the opportunity to submit your question so it can be answered.

IX. Adjournment

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To adjourn at 8:13 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk