

**AGENDA FOR THE  
CHARIHO REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

**Chariho High School Library, 453 Switch Rd, Wood River Jct, RI**

**6:00 PM Open Session / Meeting Call to Order / Executive Session**

**7:00 PM Open Session - High School Library**

***A vote may be taken on any item on this agenda.***

**Note:** The public is welcome to any meeting of the School Committee or its subcommittees. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/captions) or any other accommodations are needed to ensure equal participation, please contact the Superintendent's office at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting. Any changes in this agenda will be posted on the school district's website ([www.chariho.k12.ri.us](http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us)) as well as in the Chariho Administration Building at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. Individuals requesting special notice of the revised agenda must call (401) 364-7575 to make the arrangements for the same.

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

**II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session:**

**A.** Under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to collective bargaining: (1. Discussion regarding the certified contract negotiations; 2. Certified non-renewals.) – ***Any persons to be discussed have been notified.***

**B.** 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 January 14, 2025 - Approval of Home Instruction Requests; 2. Approval of additional Home Instruction requests.) - ***Any persons to be discussed have been notified.***

**III. Reconvene Open Session**

**IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes**

**V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes**

**VI. Recognitions**

**A. Chariho Regional High School**

1. We proudly announce Carter Stolt, Adaline LaBoissiere, and Penelope Nicolas as school-level Poetry Out Loud contest winners. On Friday, January 17th, 2025, ten students competed in the recitation competition, presenting works selected from an anthology of over 1,100 poems. Judges evaluated their performances on voice, articulation, evidence of understanding, and accuracy. First-place winner Carter Stolt will represent Chariho at the Rhode Island State Poetry Out Loud contest at the Providence Public Library on Saturday, March 8, 2025.

2. Congratulations to Chariho High School on earning the College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). Through these diversity awards, the AP Program acknowledges 1,153 schools for their work toward improving female representation during the 2023-2024 school year. Chariho High School is one of only 847 schools to achieve this accomplishment for AP CSP.

**B. From Chariho Middle School:**

1. It's official! HOPE is now a Certified Therapy Dog! She successfully passed her certification, which is an incredible achievement and a testament to her gentle nature and loving personality. Thank you to everyone who helped her prepare for this important milestone. As a certified therapy dog, HOPE will continue to bring joy, comfort, and support to our school community through the warmth of her companionship, her wagging tail that always helps make a tough day easier, and her calm presence during reading sessions. HOPE makes a difference in the lives of students and staff, we are so proud of her!

2. Spreading kindness and confidence at Chariho Middle School, KINDFIDENCE! Congratulations to Layla and Lindsey, two amazing students at CMS who were on the front page of the Westerly Sun on 1/26/5 for their efforts in creating a kindness campaign. Small, colorful rocks, each painted with a message, are part of the students' mission to "promote kindness and general well-being" all over the school campus. Program Coordinator and teacher Olivia McCulloch stated "It's so good to see the kids come up with these ideas all by themselves," she added. "They did all the work. They are the experts."

**C. Congratulations to Chariho Regional School District** for earning a Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service and Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK). This is an incredible achievement in elevating school nutrition in our School Food Authority (SFA). As an awardee, Chariho will receive the following: National and local recognition by USDA and AFHK; An all-expense-paid invitation to the Healthy Meals Fall 2025 Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada; Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Recognition Awardee Toolkit with promotional resources that will help us publicize our success to local media and our school community; A banner to showcase our accomplishment.

**D Chariho Sports: Girls Basketball** - From the Westerly Sun, 2/4/25: CHS student Erin O'Leary broke a 38-38 deadlock in overtime, making a three-pointer with two minutes remaining, and Maddie Fizzano shot 3-of-4 at the foul line in the final 21 seconds the final two with 3.4 seconds left to seal things for Chariho in a 44-41 inter-division victory on Monday night over East Greenwich. "It was great to get a win," Chariho coach Dan LaBelle said. "All of these girls have worked so hard this season and for them to get a tough road win like this tonight, I couldn't be more proud of them."

**E. Congratulations to our very own Heidi Fee**, at Charlestown Elementary School, who has been named a National Science Foundation awardee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)! PAEMST recognizes outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**VII. Public Forum**



## **VIII. Business**

- A. Resolution in support of Amending RIGL 16-21.1-1(5) to require nonpublic nonprofit schools to share in the cost of the statewide transportation system
- B. FY 26 Budget Approval.
- C. Letter to RIDE School Building Authority for emergency expenditures.
- D. Request to utilize the State of Rhode Island Master Price Agreement list for Charlestown & Ashaway boilers and exterior and interior doors district-wide to access housing aid reimbursement
- E. Stage 1 Elementary Capital Planning application to RIDE
- F. 2026 School Committee Meeting Schedule
- G. 2025-2026 School Calendar.
- H. Food Service Adult meal price increase.
- I. Request to go out to RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for District Legal Services
  - If approved, the committee will vote to establish a subcommittee to review bids, interview potential law firms, and provide a recommendation to the full committee
- J. Request to open the District Homework Policy for review to compare the current policy to other high-performing school districts and to determine if a policy for Elementary, Middle and High school should be separated.
- K. Request to discuss Hope Valley School Play funding.
- L. Budget Transfers /Update.

## **IX. Consent Agenda Items**

### **A. Minutes**

- 1. Minutes from the Regular Session of the Chariho School Committee from 1/14/25.

### **B. Bill Review**

### **C. Personnel Actions**

### **D. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quote**

- 1. Legal Services

### **E. Permission to Award Contracts**

### **F. Home Instruction**

### **G. Grants**

### **H. Donations**

- 1. The Westerly Elks donate dictionaries to Richmond, Hope Valley and Ashaway Elementary School students
- 2. Hope Valley Elementary school also received a bag of school supplies and assorted snacks from RICAN.
- 3. Thank you to Vanessa and Patrick Freeloove for their time spent creating more active spaces behind the Charlestown Elementary School. Since the Fall of 2024, they have created a Gaga Pit, Turf Soccer Field, and an Active Play area with PVC pipes. The supplies used were part of a Home Depot Grant secured by the Charlestown PTO.
- 4. Raymond Cormier of Hope Valley, RI, donated a batting cage to the high school baseball team.

## **X. Reports**

### **A. Subcommittee Reports / Other Reports**

- 1. Minutes from the Chariho Finance Committee meeting on January 22, 2025
- 2. Minutes from the Omnibus meeting on January 22, 2025
- 3. Minutes from the School Committee Budget Workshop on January 28, 2025.

## **B. Superintendent's Report**

1. SurveyWorks
2. Artessy
3. Website Update

## **C. Coming Events**

DATE	EVENT
2/12	Richmond ES Family Night - 5:30 pm
2/17	No School Students and All Staff
2/18-21	No School Students and School Year Staff
2/23-28	Ashaway ES PTO Calendar Raffle
2/25	Budget workshop CHS Library 6 PM
2/26-3/9	CHS Class of 2027 Heartland Magazine Online Fundraiser
2/26	CMS PTO Dine Out Night
2/28-3/2	CMS Drama Production / Beauty & the Beast
3/1	Hope Valley ES PTO Dance - CMS Gym
3/2	Richmond ES Duck Fundraiser
3/3-17	CMS PTO Calendar Raffle
3/4	Health and Wellness Subcommittee
3/4	Charlestown ES PTO Meeting
3/4	Annual Public Budget District Meeting - CMS Auditorium 7:30 PM ( <i>Weather date: 3/5</i> )
3/7	Charlestown ES Family Bingo Night
3/8	Hope Valley ES Family Dance
3/11	Next Regular School Committee Meeting

## **XI. School Committee Requests for Future Agenda Items or Legal Opinions**

## **XII. Adjournment**

**The meeting will be available for viewing using the following link:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjtoRWOc\\_Ov9u6vK7QAuwMDivBGmlce3O](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjtoRWOc_Ov9u6vK7QAuwMDivBGmlce3O)**

Posted Friday, February 7, 2025  
Office of Secretary of State  
Chariho Website  
Chariho Administration Office  
Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton Town Halls

Recognition

**Dana Hall**

to Andrea, Jean, me

Mon, Jan 27, 10:55 AM (10 days ago)

Chariho Regional High School proudly announces Carter Stolt, Adaline LaBossiere, and Penelope Nicolas as school-level Poetry Out Loud contest winners. On Friday, January 17, 2025, ten students competed in the recitation competition, presenting works selected from an anthology of over 1,100 poems. Judges evaluated their performances on voice, articulation, evidence of understanding, and accuracy. The judging panel included Chariho alums and former school-level Poetry Out Loud first-place winners Laura Donnelly (2020) and Regan Clark (2024), who brought unique experiences and insights to the competition. First-place winner Carter Stolt will represent Chariho at the Rhode Island State Poetry Out Loud contest at the Providence Public Library on Saturday, March 8, 2025. Please see attached picture of the participants and judges.

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 10:13 AM Angela Brasil <[angela.brasil@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:angela.brasil@chariho.k12.ri.us)> wrote:

Dana L. Thomas Hall (she, her/s)  
Secondary Humanities Specialist



Chariho Regional School District  
453 Switch Rd, Wood River Junction, RI 02894





Good news - AP Award for CHS!

**Andrea Drake**

Fri, Jan 17,  
9:40 AM

to Gina, Michael, Katie, me

Dear Colleague,

Congratulations! Your school, Chariho Regional High School, has earned College Board's AP<sup>®</sup> Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to **AP Computer Science Principles (CSP)**. Through these diversity awards, the AP Program acknowledges 1,153 schools for their work toward improving female representation during the 2023-24 school year. Your school is one of only 847 schools to achieve this accomplishment for AP CSP.

**Andrea J. Drake**

Principal

Chariho Regional High School

(401) 364-7778

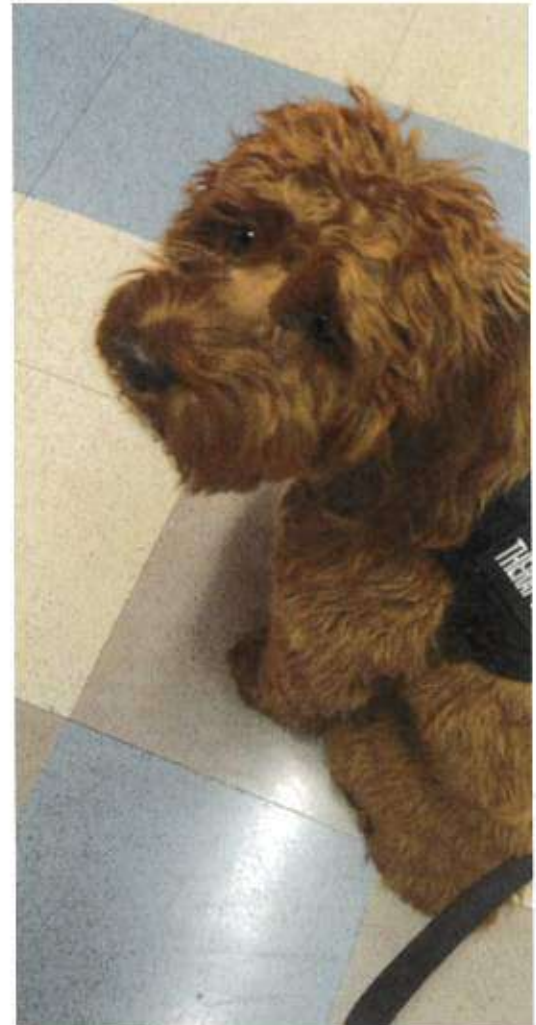
Secondary Director



## It's Official – Hope is Now a Certified Therapy Dog!

I am thrilled to announce that our beloved school dog, Hope, has successfully passed her certification to become an official therapy dog! This incredible achievement is a testament to her gentle nature, loving personality, and the hard work of everyone who helped her prepare for this milestone. As a certified therapy dog, Hope will continue to bring joy, comfort, and support to our school community. Whether it's a wagging tail during a tough day, a calm presence during reading sessions, or simply the warmth of her companionship, Hope is here to make a difference in the lives of students and staff. Let's celebrate our amazing four-legged friend and look forward to all the wonderful moments she'll share with us. We're so proud of you,

Hope! 🐾❤️



[https://www.thewesterlysun.com/news/richmond-hopkinton/spreading-kindness-and-confidence-at-chariho-middle-school-with-kindfidence/article\\_c6ec7cac-d7fa-11ef-821e-6baefe6b5c2f.html](https://www.thewesterlysun.com/news/richmond-hopkinton/spreading-kindness-and-confidence-at-chariho-middle-school-with-kindfidence/article_c6ec7cac-d7fa-11ef-821e-6baefe6b5c2f.html)

TOP STORY

## Spreading kindness and confidence at Chariho Middle School with Kindfidence

By Nancy Burns-Fusaro Sun staff writer  
Jan 25, 2025

1 of 7



Chariho Middle School eighth grade students Lindsey Raymond and Layla Bentley, founders of the Kindfidence program at techniques being used to teach other students to be kind to others through a variety of different techniques at Chariho Middle School on Friday, January 24, 2025. | Karen Stellmaker, Special to The Sun.



RICHMOND — Chariho Middle School eighth-graders Layla Bentley and Lindsey Raymond were called to the principal's office Friday afternoon for some pretty rocky — but all good — reasons.

The students — members of the Student Council, the school's Highly Capable "Hi-C" Program and the CMS Kindfidence Committee — were smiling broadly as they walked into the office of Principal Giuseppe Gencarelli, took seats next to one another and began to talk with great excitement about a schoolwide initiative designed to spread kindness and self confidence, not just at Chariho Middle School but throughout the entire campus.

The students — Layla, 14 and Lindsey, 13 — were joined by Gencarelli and their Student Council advisors, Library Media Specialist Olivia McCullough and fifth-grade math teacher Katie Gobin, who took seats across the table, which was lined with a row of small, colorful rocks.

The rocks — each painted with a message — are part of the students' mission to "promote kindness and general well-being" all over the school campus.

"Be Ur Berry Best Self," said one small, strawberry-shaped rock that was painted red with small black spots.

"Let this ladybug bring you luck," said another small red rock, spotted with the telltale black dots of a real ladybug.

A pink rock, sprinkled with colorful, confetti-like dots, had the words "you are born to stand out" written across it in small black letters.

"Spread kindness," read another pink-painted rock sprinkled with red hearts.



"You're turtle-y awesome," said another rock, which was green and shaped like a turtle.

The girls have been busy painting, then placing the rocks — which they call "Kindfidence Rocks" — all around the Switch Road campus in hopes that everyone who comes across one will experience a little boost of confidence and a little jolt of joy.

The Kindfidence Rocks are part of a larger initiative, the girls explained, that was created about two years ago as part of a school-wide anti-bullying campaign.

Students in the original program were encouraged to come up with ideas to create positive change within the school community and to give students suggestions and practical ways to be kind.

Initially two groups were formed in order to brainstorm ideas, they said, one named "kindness" and the other named "self confidence."

"Then we decided to unite them," said Lindsey, "into one group."

"We combined the names," said Layla, "and came up with the CMS Kindfidence Committee."

The students then set to work planning how best to spread the word about their mission and how to fund their project.

They created a budget for making posters, presented it to the Student Council, and received funding to have students at the Chariho Career and Technical Center create the posters.

Once the posters were made, and they displayed "messages of kindness all over the school," they began to think about other ways to spread their message of kindness and confidence.

"We came up with the idea of sharing motivational quotes during morning announcements," said Lily.

"It's a good way to start the day," said Lindsey.

"Kindness is crucial," said Gencarelli, who continues to applaud and encourage the students for their efforts.

Then, said Lindsey, at another meeting, while brainstorming ideas, they remembered the "South County Rocks" phenomenon, which swept through the region a few years back when people found rocks with inspirational sayings hidden in spots from Watch Hill to Wakefield, and they decided to do something similar.

Each rock has been painted by a member of the Kindfidence Committee, they said, and each has a fun, hopeful, kind saying painted atop.

"It's so wonderful to see this initiative take off," said Gobin. "It's also wonderful to see the students flourish and work together."

Both Gobin and McCullough stressed the student-run aspect of the program and noted how the students have taken leadership roles in the school.

"They are so bright and so brilliant," McCullough said, looking across the table at the students. "I can't wait to see what they do next."

"It's so good to see the kids come up with these ideas all by themselves," she added. "They did all the work. They are the experts."

"We hope that this can spread kindness to everyone that may come across one of our rocks," said Layla.

"Maybe the idea will even spread to other schools," said Lindsey with a smile.

Mostly, the girls said, they hope the program continues to thrive and kindness continues to spread.

"It's been a blast getting to know the girls," said McCullough with a smile as she looked across the table at the youngsters. "These are our future leaders."

*nbfusaro@thewesterlysun.com*

**Nancy Burns-Fusaro**

Arts & Culture Editor





**Congratulations on earning a Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Award- your hard work paid off!**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service and Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) are honored to be the first to congratulate you on your incredible achievement of elevating school nutrition in your School Food Authority (SFA). Thank you for your hard work, constant resilience through new challenges, and daily dedication to providing your students with the nourishment they need to learn, grow, and play. We deeply appreciate and respect your continuous efforts to provide your students with more nutritious school meals. Please find a personal letter of congratulations from Dr. Tameka A. Owens, FNS Administrator (acting), Food and Nutrition Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture [here](#).

As an awardee, you deserve a lot of recognition! USDA and AFHK want to share your hard work and well-earned award. To celebrate your success, you will receive the following:

- National and local recognition by USDA and AFHK
- An all-expense paid invitation to the Healthy Meals Fall 2025 Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada!
- Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Recognition Awardee Toolkit with promotional resources that will help you publicize your success to local media and your school community.
- A banner to showcase your accomplishment

In wellness,  
The HMI Team

*This material is based upon work that is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

January 16, 2025

Dear Gina Picard:

The White House announced this week the most recent awardees for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), including one in your district: **Heidi Fee**. The announcement listing the awardees can be accessed [here](#).

For additional information about your local awardee(s), including contact information and school information, email [paemst@nsf.gov](mailto:paemst@nsf.gov).

The PAEMST program, administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Each awardee will receive a certificate signed by the President and a \$10,000 award from NSF. Awardees will also travel to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony at a future date.

We would like to extend our congratulations to you and to others within your district who fostered such outstanding teachers. We also solicit your help in encouraging and nominating other STEM teachers to compete for this prestigious award. For information about this year's Presidential Awardees or information about the annual nomination and application process, please visit [paemst.nsf.gov](http://paemst.nsf.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lesia Crumpton-Young or Dr. Alfred Hall, PAEMST Program Directors, at [paemst@nsf.gov](mailto:paemst@nsf.gov). They will ensure a member of the PAEMST Team will promptly respond to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Felecia Nave