

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – October 24, 2023

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

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Middle School Principal Greg Zenion, Middle School Assistant Principal Mary Beth Florenz, Charlestown School Principal Jen Poore, Richmond School Principal Sharon Martin, Ashaway School Principal Jeff Scanapieco, Hope Valley School Principal Joe Gencarelli, Special Education Director Jennifer Durkin and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair Catherine Giusti called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 6:45 PM. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall 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 pertaining to litigation/legal update (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 10, 2023 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) 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 October 10, 2023 – Approval of 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 and asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

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

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Reynolds reported there were four votes taken in executive session. The first vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 10, 2023 in regards to RGB, passed with 10 in favor with Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Purcell, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps and Reynolds all approving.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 10, 2023 – Home Instruction Requests, passed with 10 in favor with Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Purcell, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps and Reynolds all approving.

The next vote, approval of home school requests, passed with 10 in favor with Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Purcell, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps and Reynolds all approving.

The last vote, to return to regular session, was unanimous with 10 votes with Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Purcell, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps and Reynolds all in favor.

VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

1. Middle School grade 7 student Meriden Alge finished 3rd overall out of 148 runners in the Intermediate race at the 51st Annual Manhattan College Invitational. Other Middle School medal winners were Cameron Coggeshall (34th), Noah Waterman (51st), Sam Prentiss (54th) and Jacob Holland (60th).
2. High School senior Erin von Housen finished 14th overall (15:06 over 2.5 miles) in the Girls' Eastern States Championship race at the 51st Annual Manhattan College Invitational. Additional medal winners were Grace Steere, 5th overall in the Sophomore A race and Emma Prentiss placed 16th in the Freshman B race.
3. High School junior Tom Golas finished 35th overall in the Varsity B race at the 51st Annual Manhattan College Invitational. Additional medal winners in the Varsity B race were Jared Peltier (72nd), Camron Eidam (75th). In the Boys' Sophomore C race, Ben Steere finished 30th, Isaac Graham (31st), Anthony Guglielmo (43rd), Everett Knerr (61st) and Andrew Fitzgerald (64th).
4. Milken Award Winner Paige Leddy was in attendance and was thanked for all she does for the District. The District is very proud of her.

VII. Public Forum

Samantha Wilcox stated she is a Richmond resident and Town Councilor but is here today to speak for herself about things that have been said about her and President Mark Trimmer on social media on October 19th by School Committee member Kathryn Colasante. You (Kathryn) stated that she (Samantha) and President Trimmer “outrageously wanted to cooperate with the Town Administrator to fire the electrical inspector before affording him the opportunity to respond to accusations made against him which Colasante relentlessly argued out of simple fairness.” You (Kathryn) also stated that the Town Administrator “told the inspector to stand down, interrupting the professional management of safety violations. Colasante attempted to have the Council look into that as any responsible council should but you, referring to Trimmer, and Wilcox sabotaged the meeting and walked out ending it in an irresponsible whim.” So her questions for Kathryn Colasante are very simple. When did she not allow Mr. Vaillancourt to respond to the accusations against him and when did Councilor Colasante relentlessly argue for the same? Also, what meeting did President Trimmer and she sabotage and walk out on? She has never walked out of a public meeting. The public is owed an explanation for these claims as you (Kathryn) are a School Committee member and you are a School Committee representative. The public is also owed an explanation for the lies that have been spread on social media. Further, addressing School Committee member Phelps, Sir, I disagree with your opinion that School Committee member Reynolds is a liar and an evil person. Thank you.

VIII. Business

A. RI Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) 2022-2023 Data Presentation – Superintendent Picard noted that the elementary and Middle School leaders were in attendance. Dr. Comella stated he is quite proud of the results even though we still have quite a bit of work to do. If there are any questions as he presents, feel free to ask. This data sets a new benchmark. He highlighted where the District was and where it is going. He began his presentation with a big picture understanding of the assessment data. It will take 3-5 years for Districts to approach pre-pandemic levels. We more than doubled the State's growth while having one of the highest participation rates in the State (99.8% participation in ELA and 99.4% in Math). We have put heavy resources in our curriculum with credit going to the teachers for implementing the curriculum. He then reviewed the data, noting the highest jump was 12 percentage points for grade 7 math. Teachers are the #1 impact on students with administrators being #2. Gina sparked a round of applause for staff as we are outpacing other districts. Our expectations are clear to students and our curriculum resources have items for practice so students are familiar with what they will be asked. Karen commented that they are not asking kids to solve a problem but more so asking them to explain how they got an answer to which Mike agreed – they create the equation and then provide an explanation. It is asking them to do both. In Math, we are back to pre-pandemic level and we are on track in year one to meet the goals in our new Strategic Plan. Gina noted that in May, the Committee approved the Strategic Plan and in June, the SIT Plans were approved. Their job is to monitor these. The three largest areas we need to improve are 1) students with disabilities, 2) economically disadvantaged students and 3) chronically absent students. Rhode Island compares its results to Massachusetts as Massachusetts has always done well on RICAS. They are a good benchmark to use. We have outpaced Massachusetts

(Mass ELA is at 42%, we are at 46.1% and Mass Math is at 41% while we are at 46.9%). They have not made the same rebound they would like. Andrew stated that they should all be very proud. He asked if there are any insights as to what is happening at Hope Valley that saw a decrease in ELA from 49.4% to 43.3%. Dr. Comella replied that they have met with Principal Gencarelli and to his credit, he has already devised a plan. Citing evidence was a gap but we can dig deep into every student. Gina added that teachers are really good at admitting they may not have pointed the emphasis in some areas. Andrew commented that he appreciates that level of detail and then questioned Grade 6 ELA that went from 42.0% to 36.1%. Dr. Comella responded that the same discussions are happening at the Middle School. Gina noted that they can pull the writing sample of each student and review it with the student. Feedback is provided and the student can think through instructional practices. They will be focusing on grade 5 as that is a transition year. Andrew noted another decrease in grade 8 Math from 38% to 33% to which Dr. Comella replied that the focus is the same as for ELA. They start out with observation and then provide feedback. Gina added that they are also having conversation with other districts in an effort to coordinate supports. They are targeting the level of need and teachers are investing in the test. Students are understanding their work so they can explain it to their families. Dr. Comella added, look at the grade 7 cohort which increased by 5 points. You have to look at the same cohorts to compare. Andrew then questioned “cusp” students that, with one or two questions, they could have met the goal. Dr. Comella explained that the cut score is 500 and some were at 494 and 495. We will focus on the standards and look at those questions the District did not do well on. Andrew stated that he would be curious to look at the cut score and see how many students were close to meeting it. This is a helpful data point to be mindful of. There is a lot of data to be celebrated. Kathryn asked if the test questions themselves are addressing the deficiencies in the children. Common core standards, she understands, we are held to those by the State and she knows there is an emphasis that they need to be able to demonstrate their thinking process as opposed to just giving the answer. So her thought process is if, in the test, the student would actually be able to arrive at the correct answer but they are not able to show exactly how they got there and with that in mind, is that going to any discussion as the children are actually learning it but they are not demonstrating what their thinking skills are that the test is wanting to assess. Dr. Comella responded that the practice the Middle School has put in place is they make sure students have paper to show their work. This holds them accountable to show the work and not just putting in an answer. This is not just a practice for the assessment, they do this across all grade levels. This gets the students in the practice of being mathematicians to demonstrate their answers – we call it habit of mind. Kathryn stated that she thinks Dr. Comella is a little bit misunderstanding her question. What she wants to make sure is happening without seeing the test, if children are able to do it but they aren’t able to demonstrate the way the test wants them to. She gave an example. Some students reflectively do things but struggle when trying to explain it so her question is more like she said – when it comes to taking the test, they know how to do it but aren’t able to express it. Dr. Comella replied that if they do know how to do it, they will get full credit. The test is not requiring them to show their work and that is why he was explaining that they show their work on paper. Gina added that sometimes they can get partial credit if a question has two responses. They might get one right and one wrong. We have to be thoughtful of how we present the material. This is one indicator; there are lots of other indicators. We need to show growth so we monitor students. Jessica agreed. This is only one way students are measured on their performance. As a member of a School Improvement Team and the Strategic Planning Team, if you do not meet the % required, you have to put this in your Plan and review the expectations. Gina noted that it is State law, not RIDE’s, that you have to achieve 80% or higher; Ashaway is at 74%. Jessica commented on the fact that students who do not possess the necessary foundational skills in reading by third grade will not be successful in reading and comprehending grade level material; these students are four times more likely to drop out of High School. Math requires a lot of reading comprehension. Do 2nd graders get measured? Dr. Comella replied that they are measured just like kindergarten and grade 1 students. If we don’t get them at reading level by grade 3, it does increase the drop-out rate. Jessica thanked Dr. Comella for the presentation. She appreciates seeing the progress. Kathryn added if kids have mastered math, it gives them a higher level of confidence to which Dr. Comella noted that by grade 3, children have to have mastered math skills. As for next steps, a lot looks the same as last year. What we have in place is working. 95% of our educators will have completed the Science of Reading Training by the end of the school year. Kids also have to feel safe in school so extra support is offered and we are addressing mental health as these go hand in hand. We have a Literacy Fellow who provides support and we do Learning Walks along with monthly meetings

with school leaders. We are in year three of our curriculum resource implementation and we have had other districts come in to see what we are doing. Some of our teachers have visited other schools. We are also looking at schedules and maximizing time. Andrew noted that clearly all students benefit from the interventions mentioned. He asked if there were any additional interventions for students with special needs. Gina stated they are using ESSA funds for tutoring and Mike added that Richmond and the Middle School have restructured supports so that kids with special needs are getting additional time. Andrew asked if there was anything in the horizon that will support our work such as Learn 365. Gina commented that all three towns have reached out to her. Richmond wants to acquire space at the YMCA for tutoring; Hopkinton will use community space. The Governor is checking attendance so we will work on chronic absenteeism and provide support to those families. The towns are all thinking through this and Charlestown is thinking about giving the money to the District. Kathryn asked if there were resources that we provide kids to see independently how problems are worked out to which Dr. Comella explained that it sounds like Kathryn is asking about Virtual Tutoring. There is a cost to this and we feel it made more sense to offer money to the schools and have them do tutoring. There are barriers with virtual tutoring as not all kids may have WIFI at home. Andrew was mindful that the District had to open an additional Pre-K class. This might be better as a future agenda item to look at the needs of students at the early intervention age so we aren't alarmed by the outcomes when they take RICAS. Gina noted that 80% of students with IEPs are in general ed classes. We have to coordinate the supports. Yes, we build in integration opportunities; we have them with their peers to help them learn and build their capacity. Where they are seeing the shift is with social emotional learning. We are handling a lot more trauma that we have seen in the past. Andrew asked if the District is seeing gaps in the learning of the population of students that were born during the pandemic or developing during the pandemic; are we seeing gaps that feel or look different than pre-pandemic Pre-K to grade 1 in relation to future RICAS scores? Mike replied that they saw a lot of kids in the red but this year our BOY (beginning of year) data is strong. He is not ready to determine what the impact of COVID might be. The data is much stronger than last year. Andrew acknowledged the leaders who joined them this evening and thanked them for coming. Dr. Comella was thanked for his presentation.

B. Diving into the Ocean Twilight Zone: Inspiring Creativity and Innovation Among Secondary School Students Solving Authentic Deep Sea Exploration Challenges Grant – Superintendent Picard noted that the following organizations - Department of Navy Science, East Bay Educational Collaborative of Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Scoutlier (Learning Platform Organization) - have sponsored an “innovative STEM competition” that “integrates cutting edge content from the Ocean Twilight Zone” (OTZ Application). The program is geared towards grades 6th-12th. The program contains gamified, real-world NGSS-linked activities where students will learn about Ocean Exploration by studying critical species within marine food webs using Robotics, Circuitry and Programming. Challenges are taken from problems that researchers in the field are currently working on. Students will solve challenges related to the complicated idea of exploring environments at the bottom of the ocean. Students will solve 3 challenges using “mobile robots, sensors, and a gamified mat experience (Kathy Eller)”. Solving each problem is expected to take about 10-12 hours each. Students will present their solutions to a panel of judges from Woods Hole, East Bay, and the Navy. The winning teams go to Woods Hole for a tour of the facilities and the research vessel. This is a nice opportunity for our students. She recommended approval to submit this grant request, in the amount of \$20,000 for the Middle School (grades 6-8) and thanked Middle School Teacher Trisha Whipple and Development Officer Katie Kirakosian for all their work. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig and Karen, to approve submission of this grant. Linda questioned how students would be chosen to which Principal Zenion explained that this is just grades 6-8 for up to 14 students. Meetings will be after school so if there are more than 14 students interested, they will do a lottery and could select a certain number per grade. Donna felt this was very exciting and she can see careers being built around this. Larry asked if this has been approved yet to which the Superintendent responded “no, that is why it is on tonight’s agenda.” Larry asked Ned to explain the last page. Gina noted that the last page is the budget for the grant which Ned has nothing to do with. Craig wondered how many winning teams will there be. Greg replied that they have not been told how many; it will depend on how advanced the teams are. Gina added that this is based on challenges so there could be a winner of one challenge. Jessica agreed that this is a great opportunity as we live in the Ocean State and she just read in The Globe that Rhode Island was declared the ocean hub. This could expand the

work force and she loves to see Chariho providing this opportunity. Gina added that we have Marine Tech at CTC so this is an opportunity to get kids excited. Greg was thanked.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and Karen Reynolds and it was VOTED: To submit the Diving into the Ocean Twilight Zone: Inspiring Creativity and Innovation Among Secondary School Students Solving Authentic Deep Sea Exploration Challenges Grant request in the amount of \$20,000 for Middle School students grades 6-8. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Letter/Invitation to Local Legislators to Attend Budget Subcommittee Meeting – Superintendent Picard recommended approval for the Budget Subcommittee to send the letter that was included in the packet to local legislators inviting them to a Budget Subcommittee Meeting to discuss state level concerns that affect our District budget. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Polly, to send the letter/invitation to local legislators to attend the next Budget Subcommittee Meeting. Polly questioned if they would want the whole School Committee to sign the letter. They wouldn't go wrong having all names on it. Andrew responded that this is intended to be an invitation to a meeting of the Budget Subcommittee, not the whole School Committee, so he feels that just the subcommittee should sign it. He thanked Jess and Karen for drafting the letter. Kathryn thanked both ladies and asked what determines what comes to the full School Committee for approval to which Gina replied that all subcommittees are advisories to the full School Committee so that is why the School Committee needs to approve this. Linda added that she thinks it is great to invite them as we have new senators and representatives so we can get them on board.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Polly Hopkins and it was VOTED: To send the letter/invitation to local legislators to attend the next Budget Subcommittee Meeting. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Budget Transfers – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Transfers for 10/24/23.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve the Transfers for 10/24/23. In favor: Unanimous.

E. FY24 Budget Updates – This item is on the Business section as requested. She referred all to Ned's memo for review. Linda asked if the lunch fund loss is just because of the time of year to which Ned replied that overall we are not in the hole. We are fine in this account. Jessica questioned the chart about healthcare. Ned explained that the green/blue lines represent money that goes into our health fund (individuals pay premiums – that is the green line). There are certain things we get back, like rebates (blue line). The red line represents money that comes out of the bucket to pay the premiums/costs which are going up. This is a result of the fact that no one went to the doctors during COVID and tests/elective surgeries were postponed. We will start to erode the health fund balance because of this increase. We took a risk in last year's budget by cutting this. Andrew added that is an area that this School Committee chose to make a strategic/targeted cut. We own this. He appreciates that Ned is monitoring this closely and feels they should monitor it as well. This is what we chose to do, not administration. Jessica asked about housing aid to which Ned explained that there is a process to receive 61% allocation that is given to us. About a year and a half ago, we moved to a point where we didn't have a Stage II plan so we were capped at \$500,000 per year. The Middle School boiler cost us this much so we were capped off in receiving any additional allocation. Gina added that we will have to pay dollar for dollar for any repairs/renovations. That is why it is important for us to have a Stage II Plan. Andrew explained the reason the Budget Subcommittee requested this be on the agenda under Business is so that the full Committee has a line of sight on this. When we get to this year's budget, there will be no surprises. Surplus we have is related to vacancies so we should not be surprised to see us favorable in this area.

F. Budget Freeze for FY24 – This item was requested by Larry Phelps. Larry stated that this was not his original request; it was the request of Andrew and Tyler. Chair Giusti noted that she explained to Larry that both had pulled their request so this is his request. Larry felt that they should freeze the budget so they can see how much the District has spent. Gina replied that they have Principal meetings and meetings with each School Improvement Team so this is live information that is shared with all. It is also discussed

at Budget Subcommittee meetings. Andrew added that there are controls currently in place so he is not interested in doing a budget freeze. We are taking the budget very seriously based on controls and processes that in place. He feels confident that administration is monitoring the budget and does not feel that a budget freeze will have an impact; it will just make things more cumbersome. The Budget Subcommittee is monitoring this as is administration; administration is even monitoring the use of copy machines. Gina stated that they had under-budgeted fuel last year and had two contracts that were being negotiated and were not settled. There was a level of uncertainty so that is why they froze the budget. When there is a lot of uncertainty that is when we implement a freeze. Administrators are being really thoughtful of their budgets. She would not cut health care as that is a gamble and we will have to borrow from Peter to pay Paul. Our budget fills a 'need' not 'wants'. She would love to be able to do more but just like with your own home, prices are not going down. If the School Committee wants a budget freeze, we will do that. Ned agreed. Last year there were a lot of unknowns. We will see things in our results (i.e. custodial vacancies may offset health care increases). We locked into an electrical agreement that will get us through this year and the start of next year. Gina added, same with transportation. Ned explained that they have no control over DCYF and Statewide transportation costs. Kathryn questioned how a budget freeze works, like with heating costs. Fixed costs you can't control. Ned replied, using last year as an example, during a budget freeze do we consider filling vacancies? No. We put the brakes on purchasing supplies so you will see there was a surplus in that line item. We certainly don't freeze things we need like band-aids, epipens, etc. Kathryn asked, practically speaking, how does it get flushed out? Ned responded that in capital we have vacancies so people will say we don't need to fill them but over time that becomes a problem. Kathryn commented, like at home, you let something go and it becomes a bigger problem. Gina added that Charlestown needs pipes replaced but she does not want to replace them now if we are going to renovate schools. The same with the CTC roof. We are hoping we can hold off a little longer. Work on the Ashaway playground was postponed and Charlestown has tape on theirs. Kathryn noted that she had wanted to tour all schools but was unable to do so. Jessica stated, as a member of the Budget Subcommittee, they have discussed this at length with Tyler and she does not support a budget freeze. If we are doing it for formative reasons, she is not in favor of it. We are doing a lot to promote transparency. Chair Giusti noted that she does not see an appetite for this even within the Budget Subcommittee. As there were no other questions, she determined they would move on to Consent Agenda.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Giusti asked if any items needed to be pulled. Kathryn requested that A-2 be pulled. Craig acknowledged the donations and thanked the donors.

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 October 10, 2023 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of September 12, 2023 (minutes not sealed).

B. Bill Review – Accepted

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

D. Permission to Award Contracts – Awarded the following:

1. FY24 EMT Training Provider to OZGA EMS (Johnston and Hope Valley) at a per student cost of \$775 not to exceed eight (8) students with final agreement subject to legal review and final contract terms.

E. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

F. Grants – None at this time.

G. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Oldcastle Lawn and Garden, Richmond, RI of 51 yards of playground mulch, valued at @ \$1,500.00, to Charlestown Elementary School playground.

2. Donation from Washington County Coalition for Children (Susan Orban, Director) of @ 400 T-Shirts and 3 cases of sidewalk chalk for Chariho students for Chalk It Up to Kindness Day, October 24th.

3. Donation from the Cahir Family (Lena and Thomas Cahir), Carolina, RI of one (1) tennis net, valued at \$150.00, to Richmond Elementary School.

2. Regular Session Minutes of October 10, 2023 – Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew, to approve the regular session minutes of October 10, 2023. Kathryn noted a few corrections. The first, at the bottom of page 5, should read “Kathryn, speaking as a former student and parent...” not Karen. The second correction she would like to make is on page 9 (Item L – about half way through the paragraph), she would like it to read *“if we are making decisions and are making them as a body, then we are obligated to the decision that we make and so that is not at all her intent. Her intent is just a matter of keeping track.”* Craig noted a concern he had as this was abused in the past by some members. Kathryn was asked if she reviewed the film to which she replied that she would watch it and moving forward, she will check it before making a request but she remembers saying this. Andrew removed his second and suggested this be tabled until the next meeting. Gina explained what is required by law to be taken down in minutes. Andrew noted that the Clerk goes above and beyond what is needed but he is removing his second as he appreciates the fact that someone has taken the time to read the minutes. Craig did not want to rescind his motion as he is concerned with past practice. As there was no second to the motion, there was no longer a motion on the floor. The Clerk reminded all that minutes have to be recorded on the State website within 30 days of a meeting and that there are people who have turned the District in for not promptly posting minutes. She asked that if anyone has any corrections to make, they please contact her before the meeting and she can bring the revised minutes to a meeting for approval so that timelines are adhered to. She has no problem reviewing the film and making any corrections that are needed.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Polly Hopkins and it was
VOTED: To table the Regular Session Minutes of October 10, 2023 until the next meeting. In favor: Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Purcell and Reynolds. Opposed: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Budget Subcommittee met on October 16, 2023. A copy of the approved minutes of September 25, 2023 were included in the packet.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Necessity for School Construction Update – The bid has been downloaded by 20 architectural firms. They have until November 8th to submit their bid. The architect that is recommended will be presented at the November 14th meeting.

2. Effective School Solutions invites Chariho families to the first of four (quarterly) workshops in SY'23-'24 – 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom (see flyer for link). She will send a reminder out tomorrow.

3. CTC Parm Dinner – October 26, 2023 from 4:30-7:30 PM – Creative Tastes Café (CTC). She hopes the community will attend.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Craig asked if ESSA was over last month to which Gina replied that it ends in September 2024. Craig had no requests.

Donna noted she is a firm believer in Freedom of Speech but is appalled by what one of their Committee members has done. She feels they need a serious workshop on Rules of Conduct and Ethical Standards for School Committee members. She does not feel a School Committee member should publicly attack another School Committee member. Chair Giusti asked Donna to please put her request in an email to her.

XII. Adjournment

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was
VOTED: To adjourn at 8:43 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk