

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Executive Session Minutes – October 25, 2022
**NEA Certified Negotiation Update - Minutes sealed until an agreement has been reached.
Minutes unsealed May 9, 2023**

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, Donna Chambers, Gary Liguori, Lisa Macaruso, and Karen Reynolds. Absent: George Abbott, Ryan Callahan and endawnis Spears. Recused: William Day, Craig Louzon and Andrew McQuaide.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Attorney Jon Anderson and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

II-9. NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update

A question arose as to whether or not people who recuse are considered part of the quorum. Jon explained that he asked this question and found that if you start a meeting with a quorum, you are OK. As we have three people who need to recuse, they would be part of the quorum. Gary asked if the same would apply if someone had to leave for illness or another reason to which Jon responded “yes”.

Jon reported that mediation has been set up with Matthew Oliverio serving as the mediator. He is an attorney for the East Greenwich School Department and is very good. Scituate is using him now. They will do a two-step mediation process. The first will be a Zoom meeting on October 27th at 11:00 AM with just Jon, Linda and Ned; the union will have Barbara Kelly, Vin and Leslie. Leslie will have to leave early so she will sub out to Pat Crowley. This meeting is for the purpose of explaining our healthcare plan to Attorney Oliverio. Ned will explain how it works. The week of November 14, we will gather for a more traditional, face-to-face mediation with all in attendance. He is hopeful that we will come to a resolution as healthcare is the only issue. We have agreed on language and wages; healthcare is the sticking point. The mediator will go back and forth and he is hoping that they will only need one or two sessions. Attorney Oliverio is a very good mediator. This is where we stand with this contract. Catherine questioned if they are planning to go with a one-year contract to which Jon replied “no, it will be a three-year contract.” Donna noted that Jon has been very busy. Lisa questioned who the full negotiation team will be to which it was stated that it will include Ryan, Linda, endawnis and Gary. Lisa questioned what the process would be if any one of these individuals is replaced after elections. Jon noted that the School Committee has the prerogative to elect a new Chair and the Chair can select the players. Lisa asked if it will be Jon’s role to spend time with the new subcommittee (if there are new members) to bring them up to speed to which Jon responded, “yes, I can meet with just the new ones or the entire subcommittee.” At the next School Committee meeting on November 15th, we could have new members. They have to be sworn in and present certificates before they serve so this Committee may still be seated. You are elected until your successor is “qualified”. Gina asked, so the Chair and Vice Chair serve until all are on board to which Jon replied “yes”. Donna commented on what a wonderful Committee this has been. Jon thanked the Committee and stated they have all been great to work with.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To close executive session and return to open session at 6:41 PM. In favor: Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso and Reynolds. Recused: Day, Louzon and McQuaide. The motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor with 3 recusals.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk