

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – November 15, 2022

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

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

Chair Lyall called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 6:16 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 Ryan Callahan 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 (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 25, 2022 - NEA ESP Staff Negotiation Update; 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 25, 2022 – NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update); 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 25, 2022 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474; 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 25, 2022 - Scott Perrin, Individually and as Executor of the Estate of William Perrin v. Town of Richmond et al. – C.A. No. WC-2022-0349; 3. The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to potential litigation 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 (Letter from Hall Law & Associates); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for the purpose of discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices (Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and the Town of Richmond Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer) 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 25, 2022 – 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 Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:18 PM and apologized for the late start. 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 pertaining to the matter of security (Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and the Town of Richmond Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to the matter of security (Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and the Town of Richmond Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to potential litigation/matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (Letter from Hall & Associates) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to potential litigation/matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (Letter from Hall & Associates) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

3. Superintendent Picard recommended 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.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan 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 Giusti reported the first vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 25, 2022 - Home Instruction Requests, was approved by Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 25, 2022 – Legal Update, was approved by Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 25, 2022 – another Legal Update, was approved by Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 25, 2022 – NEA ESP Negotiation Update, was approved by Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears with Louzon and McQuaide abstaining.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 25, 2022, NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update, was approved by Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears with Day, Louzon and McQuaide recusing.

Finally, the last vote, to return to open session, was approved by Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears.

VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated/thanked:

1. District Attendance/Residency/Truancy Officer Rich Longolucco for his 12+ years of service to Chariho. He began his career in 2004 as the District's first Officer and although he was only hired on a part-time basis, he worked more than full-time to ensure student success and accountability to the taxpayers of the three towns. We wish him all the best in his retirement. Rich stated that he feels he has taken more from Chariho than he has given. He has a lot of pride for the accomplishments that were made. Chariho has the greatest staff and this was a great experience. He feels Tom will be great for the position. Bill Day commented that he and Rich go back a long

way. Replacing him is like trying to replace Vince Lombardi. He is happy that Rich will get a chance to enjoy his retirement.

2. The Superintendent noted that we had four applicants apply for the part-time position of District Attendance/Residency/Truancy Officer and she is pleased to introduce Tom Richardson from Narragansett who will assume this position on November 16th. Tom has come HIGHLY recommended. He retired from the Providence School District as Dean at Central High School; worked for the Capitol Police and left that to accept a job at the RI Training School. All this he did after he retired from the North Providence Police Department – having worked for them for 24 years as an officer and then supervisor of the Detective Division, the Narcotics Division, the Prosecution Division and the Records Division before becoming Captain. Tom noted that it is an honor to be hired and he will not let anyone down. He has big shoes to fill and he thanked all for the opportunity.

3. Tessa Azzinaro (High School Girls' Soccer) was named *The Westerly Sun's* Athlete of the Week for the week ending October 29, 2022.

4. School Committee Members: George Abbott, Ryan Callahan, William Day, Lisa Macaruso and endawnis Spears for their many years of service to Chariho! Catherine Giusti requested an opportunity to speak as she had a few comments to share. Bill Day – no one cares more about school safety than Bill. He represented Richmond well by asking tough questions, not letting anything slide and, mostly, for showing his unrelenting support for all Chariho children. Barry once told her, "No one cares more about Chariho than Bill, not even him." She can't think of a better reputation for a School Committee member than that. Thank you, Bill, for all your years of service to our community. Ryan Callahan – Dr. Callahan led our School Committee through the loss of Barry Ricci and the hiring of Gina Picard. He was an asset to Jane Daly as she helpfully stepped in to oversee Chariho during the rough start of Covid. Ryan's thoughtfulness and financial acumen have been an asset to our School Committee. His sharp eye for detail and commitment to Chariho students is appreciated and he will be missed on the School Committee. Thank you, Ryan. Catherine noted that she looks forward to working with him more on the other side of the table. George Abbott – George brought a unique point of view to our Committee. He asked interesting questions. His experience working for DCYF lent knowledge to his decisions that many of us do not have. Thank you, George, for all your years of service to the people of Hopkinton. endawnis Spears – endawnis has been a bright light on our School Committee. She brings a fresh perspective and an honest and caring vision for Chariho. endawnis reminded us that not all Chariho students and families feel well represented in our schools. She will miss endawnis' thoughtfulness and willingness to speak for Chariho's underserved. She can't wait to see the continued advocacy. Thank you, endawnis. Lisa Macaruso – Lisa got a heck of a lot done over her 8 years on the School Committee. Lisa got our CALA students and teachers out of trailers and into a building of which our community can be proud. This was no small feat. Lisa has been a tireless voice for the BIPOC residents of Chariho. Mainly, Lisa put students first. The motto of Chariho is All Kids All of the Time. Lisa has been able to remind us all that our own lived experiences in Chariho aren't enough to inform all of our decisions. We have to think of all of our Chariho kids. She will miss serving with Lisa. Gina thanked Catherine for her kind words.

5. Athletic Accolades (Post-Season Awards not released yet):

- High School Unified Volleyball lost to Cranston East in the Division III semifinals.
- High School Field Hockey Team moved from Division III to Division II and started the season 12-0 before losing to Rocky Hill 4-3. They advanced to the semifinals and were defeated by Cumberland.
- High School Girls' Tennis lost to Ponaganset in the Division II semifinals. They finished the season with a 13-3 record.
- High School Football overcame an 18-point deficit but lost to Rogers 26-22 in the Division III quarterfinal playoff game.

- High School Girls' Soccer moved from Division II to Division I this year. They beat Pilgrim in the quarterfinals by a score of 1-0; but lost to North Kingstown in the semifinals. They were named Showcase Cinemas Team of the Week raising \$500 for the Gianna Cirella Memorial Fund in the Shootout for Sepsis. Reid DosSantos made 5 big saves.
- High School Girls' Volleyball were named Division II Champions with an undefeated record (19-0). They beat East Providence 3-0 on Saturday at RI College. Assistant Coach Shawn Cole informed all that Coach McGeehan sends her apologies as she was at a meeting for post-season awards. The following Team members were introduced and given a letter along with a Chariho pin: Grace MacLeod, Maicey MacLeod, Sage Puckett, Abigail McAllister, Emma Kocab, Alexis Cole, Randi Swenson, Erin O'Leary, Katja Nelson, Finleigh Callahan, Elle Clark, Jules White and Brianna DeGiacomo.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To take a 5-minute recess. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:46 PM

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To table recognition of the High School Boys' Soccer Team until such time as the team arrives from a previous event. In favor: Unanimous.

VII. Reorganization of the Committee – Election of Chair/Vice Chair – Subcommittee Vacancies

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To table this item until the December 13th meeting as the new members have not yet been sworn in. In favor: Unanimous.

VIII. Public Forum

Bill Day from Richmond, speaking of old friends, complimented Administrative Assistant/District Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz and stated that he hopes the new School Committee will realize how much work she does. Tyler Champlin from Hopkinton thanked the School Committee members who are going off. While they may not always see eye to eye with his views, he wanted them to know how much he appreciated the work they have done. He knows they have been here for the kids and he hopes to serve them as the members have.

IX. Business

A. AP, SAT and PSAT Data Presentation – Andrea Spas and Jean Bradanini were present to provide an overview of the results. Jean thanked all of the Committee members who are leaving. It has only been a year for her but it has been a great year. She reviewed the results and noted that both SAT & PSAT scores surpassed state and federal scores. In 2022, 181 AP students took 284 AP exams with most exams taken at URI. Also noted in 2022, 17 out of 22 AP subjects have a mean score of 3 or above on the AP exam. It is the fourth year in a row that 80% or more of our AP biology students scored a 3 or above on their exam and the fifth year in a row that 90% or more of our AP Computer Science Principles students scored a 3 or above on their exam. Jean then reviewed AP Scholar data and AP success over the last four years. Craig commented on a quick observation regarding national scores. Why is there such a discrepancy in the numbers taking them; is it a regional issue in terms of participation? Gina explained that these tests are required in Rhode Island but not nationally. Andrew questioned how functionally the District uses this data to which Jean explained that the teachers can use the data if there is a specific area they need to target. This is just one piece of data; they do use other data as well. Andrew asked what the comparisons were to Massachusetts. Gina replied that Massachusetts does not use these for accountability testing; Connecticut does. Jean added that the Connecticut State Test is the SAT. They have a mean score of 1025; our mean score was 1020. Andrew commented that the Connecticut comparison is notable. We clearly have a lot to be proud of. He asked how the % of students has grown over the years to which Jean responded that 25% of 10-12 grade

students take an AP exam; she is not sure how it has grown. Gina noted that Chariho was recognized as one of 5 districts for its participation in AP courses so we are a leader in the State. Chair Lyall stated that the goal of the State is to get others to have more participation. Andrew had other comments but he will wait as he wants to dive in deeper. Lisa added that when this is explored in the future, she would be interested in looking at the demographics (socio-economics). We have front paid for AP but have since changed the policy that students/parents would be reimbursed for the cost of the test if the student scores a 3 or higher. She was wondering if this was working.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To revisit the High School Boys' Soccer Recognition Item #5. In favor: Unanimous.

Gina informed all that the High School Boys' Soccer had 11 straight victories with seven shutouts beating North Smithfield in the semifinals and repeating as Division II Champs after beating Coventry on Sunday 2-1. Team members Morgan Allen, Jakob Bennett, Gavin Boisclair, Kyle Brodeur, Ian Clark, Trevor Crowley, Julian Cubina, Liam Currier, Logan DeGiacomo, Drew DeNoncour (named MVP), Ryan Edenbach, William Edmunds, William Ellis, Bennett Fontaine, Mason Fortin, Dylan Gormly, John Grissom, Evan Harley, Wyatt Holt, Brandon Knowles, Ethan Knowles, Canyon Krom, Jack McCallig, Ethan McCann, Christopher Niziolek, Christopher Pendola, Travis Plante-Mullen, Kody Poplaski, Christian Resinger, Ryan Sheldon and Braydon Simpkins were in attendance along with Coach Les Ahern and Assistant Coach John Linacre. Assistant Coach Brittany Faragalli was unable to attend. The team was congratulated and presented with a letter and pin to acknowledge their great accomplishment.

B. Reappointment of District Clerk – Superintendent Picard recommended the reappointment of Donna Sieczkiewicz to the position of District Clerk effective November 16, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To reappoint Donna Sieczkiewicz to the position of District Clerk effective November 16, 2022 through June 30, 2023. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Reappointment of District Treasurer – Superintendent Picard recommended the reappointment of Deborah Nicotra to the position of District Treasurer effective November 16, 2022 through June 30, 2024 contingent upon an approved updated Job Description.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To reappoint Deborah Nicotra to the position of District Treasurer effective November 16, 2022 through June 30, 2024 contingent upon an approved updated Job Description. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Chariho Middle School Student Activity Fund (SAF) Account Review – Superintendent Picard noted that this item was requested by Andrew McQuaide. Ned has provided a follow-up memo to the discussion on October 25th. Ned's memo details the allocation of funds so that the money follows the class. The enclosed Transfer sheet should address the concerns of equity and she recommended approval of the transfer. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew, to approve the Transfer Sheet. Ned stated that, consistent with the conversation at the last meeting, the funds have been designated to the corresponding class and will be elevated up to the graduating class. The policy was modified in August for equitable distribution. Bill stated that he appreciated the effort as this has been an ongoing battle to get the equity piece in place. The last night he serves he gets SAF accounts to where he feels they are equitable. Andrew noted his pleasure that they were able to bring resolution to this. Chair Lyall thanked Ned.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve the Transfer Sheet. In favor: Unanimous.

X. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall requested any items to be pulled. Craig pulled H-1. He then acknowledged the donations and thanked the donors.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To move the remainder of the Consent Agenda items. In favor: Unanimous.

A. Minutes – Approved the following:

1. Executive Session Minutes of October 25, 2022 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 11, 2022 (minutes not sealed).

2. Regular Session Minutes of October 25, 2022.

B. Transfers – Approved.

C. Bill Review – Accepted.

D. Revenue/Expenditure Account Status Report - As per enclosed.

E. Student Activity Fund Balance – As per enclosed.

F. Personnel Actions – None at this time.

G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quote – Approved issuance of the following:

1. Pumping ISDS System Bid

Approved issuance of the following with the bids awarded as long as the bid comes in within the amount budgeted in the grant:

2. Stage Curtain Bid (ARTS Initiative SBA Capital Fund Grant)

3. Strategic Planning Bid (ESSER III Grant)

I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

J. Grants – None at this time.

K. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Ambient Sound, Inc. Warwick, RI of a brand new Draper Electric Projection Screen, valued at \$1,500, to Hope Valley Elementary School.

2. Donation from the Paul Family (Sandy Paul in memory of her son Jamie Paul) of financial assistance, totaling \$2,000, to be used towards the purchase of diabetic supplies for two students.

3. Donation from Ryan Saunders, Chorus of Westerly, of the George Kent Performance Hall to the CHS Chorus for their benefit concert in support of the Benefit Concert Scholarship Fund.

H-1. Permission to Award Contracts – Grounds Maintenance Bid to S & S Landscaping to include Snow Plowing/Sanding/Sweeping and Lawn Mowing subject to satisfactory completion of the test portion of the bid specifications per the attached pricing. Fertilizer and Seeding portion of the bid to be requested at a later date. Superintendent Picard recommended award of this contract. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to award the Grounds Maintenance Bid to S & S Landscaping to include Snow Plowing/Sanding/Sweeping and Lawn Mowing subject to satisfactory completion of the test portion of the bid specifications per the attached pricing. Fertilizer and Seeding portion of the bid to be requested at a later date. Craig stated that he pulled this item as he noticed snow plowing/sanding/sweeping was added. He asked Gina to elaborate on this. Gina stated that she received notification from the Towns of Richmond and Hopkinton that they would no longer be plowing, sanding or sweeping their elementary school parking lots due to equipment and staffing. We do not have the equipment or staffing to handle these. Craig questioned if this had been planned for in the budget to which Gina responded “no”. We received notice after the budget was done. Craig thought this rather funny that they handled these responsibilities for their elementary schools for the last 50-60 years.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To award the Grounds Maintenance Bid to S & S Landscaping to include Snow Plowing/Sanding/Sweeping and Lawn Mowing subject to satisfactory completion of the test portion of the bid specifications per the attached pricing. Fertilizer and Seeding portion of the bid to be requested at a later date. In favor: Unanimous.

XI. Reports

A. Subcommittee Report

1. NEA ESP Negotiation Subcommittee will meet on November 21, 2022 at 4:00 PM in the High School Library.
2. Health and Wellness Subcommittee will meet on December 6, 2022 at 4:00 PM in the High School Library.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. District Yard Sale – The District is holding another Yard Sale on Wednesday, November 23rd as there are items from the CTC Culinary kitchen renovation project that might be useful to community members. District-wide government agencies and non-profits will be given first option.
2. CHS Benefit Concert was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. It was a wonderful concert; very well attended. A special thanks to Choral Advisor Lynn Dowding for all her work. This is the 12th year that staff were invited to sing with the Chorus and medals were presented to staff in accordance with the number of years they have taken part in this event.
3. Return of Artessy – The Superintendent noted that she is pleased to report that Artessy will be returning this year with the buffet and concert on Friday, March 31 and other events being held on April 1, 2023.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Andrew requested discussion on AP courses and Catherine asked that the Dual Enrollment Program be discussed as well.

Ryan questioned if the onboarding process and tutorial for new members has been scheduled. It is important as the School Committee deals with private and legal matters. Gina replied that she has extended an invitation to all new members to meet with her to review the roles and responsibilities of new member. Donna added that she and Gary are also planning for the process. Gina noted that she has spoken with Jon Anderson about this. Craig questioned the number of professional development hours that are required for School Committee members to which Chair Lyall replied it is six hours. Gina stated that they have sent the template they are working on. Ryan asked if prior minutes could be shared pertaining to the ongoing legal cases to which the Clerk responded that she cannot share executive session minutes with others as the minutes have been sealed. Jon Anderson usually provides a legal update to which Andrew requested that Jon be asked to attend the meeting on December 13th. The Clerk noted that she would reach out to Jon to see if he is free that night.

XIII. Adjournment

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To adjourn at 8:27 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk