

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – November 9, 2021

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, George Abbott, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, William Day (joined at 6:57 PM), Craig Louzon, Lisa Macaruso, Linda McAllister, Karen Reynolds and endawnis Spears. Absent: Gary Liguori.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, High School Assistant Principal Jean Bradanini, Director of Technology Shawn Cole, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Assistant Athletic Director Jim Provuncher, NEA ESP President Thomas Pirnie and District Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair Linda Lyall called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 6:30 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 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 26, 2021 - NEA ESP Negotiation Update to include discussion/action on a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA ESP Pertaining to Custodial Overtime; 2. NEA ESP Negotiation Update to include discussion relating to a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA ESP Pertaining to Custodial Overtime (Articles 7.1 and 7.5) and 3. Letter from NEA Certified Staff pertaining to contract negotiations); 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 26, 2021 – Approval of Home Instruction Requests and 2. Approval of Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous (Day was not in attendance for the vote).

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

The Committee returned to open session at 6:46 PM and Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent meditation.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained: Day. Recused: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor, 1 abstention and 1 recusal.

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Contract Negotiations) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Contract Negotiations) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers,

Giusti, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister and Spears. Abstained: Day and Reynolds. Recused: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor, 2 abstentions and 1 recusal.

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

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That the minutes which relate to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained: Day. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 1 abstention.

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Giusti reported there were seven votes in executive session. The first vote, to move section II and III to the end, was unanimous with 10 in favor with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 26, 2021 – NEA ESP Negotiation Update, passed with Abbott abstaining and Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of October 26, 2021 – Approval of Home Instruction Minutes, passed with Abbott abstaining and Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The next vote on home school requests of November 9th was unanimous with 10 in favor with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting.

The fifth vote, creation of a negotiation subcommittee, was unanimous with 10 in favor with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting.

The next vote, addition of a Hopkinton member to the subcommittee, was unanimous with 10 in favor with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting.

The final vote, to return to open session, was unanimous with 10 in favor with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears voting.

VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

1. Charlestown School Teacher Assistant Cheryl Ali – October Employee of the Month.
2. New School Committee Members endawnis Spears from Hopkinton and Karen Reynolds from Richmond.

VII. Public Forum

Chair Lyall informed all that this is when the public has the chance to speak on items that are not on the agenda tonight. She asked all to be considerate of others and please keep their comments to two minutes. Scott Bill Hirst from Hopkinton challenged the Committee on behalf of Pastor Stall and himself to events dealing with the Chariho School District. His first suggestion is that the School Committee have one email address that will reach all members; Hopkinton has this. There is no reason to not have just one. He would appreciate the School Committee taking a more public official position and he suggested they look at policy. The Chairman should not be able to block anything on an agenda. He also would hope the School Committee will adopt a policy about employees using school email to promote a candidate for

office. Phyllis Penhallow from Charlestown requested the Committee revisit two policies; the Library Media and Curriculum as they have excluded an entire group of taxpayers and educators. Some of the Committee can't even do it. The Superintendent said it came from legal – what legal says we do? What has changed that you would exclude these groups? If there are a lot of people concerned about curriculum, administration should be concerned. How many taxpayers used this procedure to question curriculum in say the last five years that you would make it a rule? The Chair noted that they would be unable to answer her questions at this time. Goldie Williams from Richmond questioned how many kids from CALA are not getting an education. They are being pushed out. You should have a program like Ledyard. You should make sure every child has a 1:1 aide before transition. Don't teach gender queer, it is porn. David Stall from Hopkinton stated that 45-50 people are gathered and he brought his sign up so all could see it. You as a Committee are not listening so we will continue to rally. Taxation without representation; he doesn't think this is legal. Bring back those two policies and put the wording back in. Condolences to Sheila Grover's family. She listened and was objective. He came to the last meeting and spoke. A few people responded with personal attacks. If you want to create a culture, personal attacks don't go a long way. Joe Moreau from Hopkinton stated that he was elected Director of Public Welfare. He moved to Hopkinton from Coventry. He had several conversations with Barry and he feels Barry would be disturbed with what is going on. Hopkinton spends 20 million dollars of its \$27 million budget on education. He is on the phone with clients who are having a difficult time paying bills. They should have a say with what is going on. Why should I pay the taxes I pay but I can't come before you with an issue because I don't have a child in school. Jim Sullivan, a resident from Charlestown, concerned citizen, educator for over 35 years and former School Committee member, passed out a typed message to the Committee. The silent majority is now the vocal majority. What should be taught is a person should be judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin. Just because a person is smart does not mean they have common sense. He does not support, at this point, the Anti-Racism Task Force. He is concerned about their bringing racism into the Chariho school system in any form. There are curriculum development materials on CRT everywhere in this country. Let's keep them out of Chariho. It is a divisive doctrine. Racism is not embedded in our legal systems and policies of the United States. Many state legislatures have supported outlawing CRT in schools. Idaho, Iowa, Oklahoma and Tennessee to name a few. Reviewing teachers' curriculum is not enough. We have to ask our children what their teachers are teaching them on a daily basis. We should all ask principals, teachers and School Committee members whether they support teaching CRT in our schools. If they do, we should tell them strongly that this is not acceptable. CRT is destructive and rejects the fundamental ideas on which our constitutional republic is based. Sovereignty is the right to be free to question and make decisions concerning the education of our children in the school system. We are not domestic terrorists. Finally, I respectfully request that the School Committee give more time to people of the Chariho community to make their comments heard during School Committee meetings. God Bless America and the Chariho School system. Jeremy Palmer commented that he is sick not because he is ill but because of the lack of respect given by this Board. He has a headache because community members are not being heard. He is glad everyone is partially paying attention to what everyone here that pays your paycheck has to say. The majority of people here tonight would not be here if you were doing your job right. On top of that he completely disagrees with the curriculum being taught and Public Forum should be a different format as they cannot possibly say what they want to say in two minutes. They need an interpreter to determine what the Committee is saying as no one understands what you are saying because everyone just raises their hand and puts their hand down. You guys just speak a completely different language. Why, I assume to throw everyone off topic. Don't look around in surprise. So the suggestion he would make again for everyone who is not paying attention at this point as still everyone is too busy writing notes down. I would assume not what I am saying but your own agendas like a combative one. This is the first time you looked up at me. The Clerk, who he was speaking to, noted that she is here to take notes to which Mr. Palmer replied that she wasn't allowed to interject. Chair Lyall explained that the Clerk is not one of the School Committee members. She is our associate secretary, an administrative assistant, and her job is to take copious notes so there was no need for that. She asked all to please be respectful of others. Jessica Purcell from Richmond has two children in District. She watched the last meeting and commented on the remark about the 30 books that were found to be questionable. Mr. Anderson provides legal advice for other districts as well and while she agrees that all stakeholders deserve representation, she also would agree that Chariho parents/students

deserve to make the decision that could possibly strip children of making their own choice. She does not want to forget about students. Caleb Grant from Hope Valley stated that he tries to walk the middle of the road. There is misunderstood intent on both issues while some feel that the format is not conducive to communication and want more transparency. Tyler Champlin from Hopkinton stated that for the past six months he has listened to everything that has been said and has tried to keep an open mind. You are pushing diversity and equity in our schools but this should apply to everyone. Do not dismiss the concerns of citizens. We have lost the ability to compromise which doesn't mean that you get what you want or I get what I want. People in the District want to be involved. The policies being changed are disenfranchising people. He pulled his kids from the District and is homeschooling them. We have a voice and we will be heard. Come June 2022 some of us will be heard as we will be declaring for your seats. Bill Day from Richmond noted that he is speaking as a citizen, not as a School Committee member. This is the wrong battle to be fighting. The only time we have this many people is when we have budget talks. You are approving policies that shut out the voice of taxpayers. This is no way to get a budget passed. He hopes the School Committee will do things differently. Jennifer Silvia from Hopkinton agreed that they should revisit policy issues. She also talked about the cancellation of school. What happened on October 25 was horrendous. It put students and bus drivers in danger. Her parents are bus drivers. Her Mom had to stop for three trees that were downed. What you did by calling school off so late in the day was uncalled for. Kim Coulter from Charlestown stated that she went to Chariho and is appalled by what she has been seeing. She is embarrassed. You have made policies that we can't speak about. If we can't speak, you don't need our finances. She is not going to pay for something she can't speak on. It takes a village to raise a child. You work for us. You are elected officials. These people have to be watch dogs. You have your own children, raise them but don't raise ours. This is wrong. Revisit the policies or you don't need our money. Michael Geary from Hopkinton, also a member of the Hopkinton Town Council, stated that he is not speaking on behalf of the Council, he is speaking on behalf of the Hopkinton residents. He finds it deeply disturbing to vote on a policy that limits a taxpayers voice. 78% of Hopkinton taxes go to the District. Chair Lyall noted that at this time, the Committee will end Public Forum.

George Abbott made a motion, seconded by William Day and it was
VOTED: To suspend the rules and allow more time for people to speak. In favor: Abbott and Day.
Opposed: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. The motion was defeated by a vote of 2 in favor with 9 opposed.

The majority of those in attendance noted their displeasure and got up to leave the meeting. Chair Lyall tried to explain that the District has an Appeals Policy and any citizen can appeal any issue or policy. People do have a voice. The Chair asked if the Committee wanted to recess to give those who want to leave the chance to do so.

Lisa Macaruso made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was
VOTED: To recess the meeting for five minutes. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. The motion passed unanimously. Day did not vote.

Chair Lyall called the meeting back to order at 7:48 PM.

VIII. Business

A. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) 2020-2021 Annual Report – Superintendent Picard recommended the Committee accept the SEAC 2020-2021 Annual Report and place it on file. She thanked Committee Members Polly Hopkins, Nicole Allen, Erin Sefranek and Sarah Algieri for all their work this past year. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to accept the SEAC 2020-2021 Annual Report and place it on file. Donna suggested, before approving this, that goals be reworded – they need to be better defined. She sees this as a process and asked what the goal is for items #3, 4, 5 and 6. She is sure the Committee knows what it is they want to achieve. She made an amendment to the motion that items #3, 4, 5 and 6 be stated in terms of goals. Lisa noted that she was in attendance for this meeting and leadership has changed. There were procedural challenges running a meeting after the pandemic.

At the next meeting, she can advise the new Chair on how to write new goals. Donna noted she was fine with that and she pulled her amendment.

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

VOTED: To accept the SEAC 2020-2021 Annual Report and place it on file. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Girls' Ice Hockey Co-Op Request – Memorandum of Agreement with Warwick – Superintendent Picard stated that a two-year agreement is being proposed for a Girls' Ice Hockey Co-Op to include our High School, Pilgrim and Toll Gate. Chariho would pay based on the total number of girls that join the team and participate (i.e. if there are 20 total players on the team and Chariho has three athletes that participate, we would pay 3/20 percentage of the fees for the following: Coaches' salaries for three coaches and Officials' fees for games - estimated cost to be around \$2,000 for us). There would be no transportation costs as parents would be responsible to provide their own transportation for their child to and from Thayer Arena where the team practices, plays their home games and leaves for away games. Parents/Guardians will need to sign a waiver releasing Chariho from any liability in regards to transportation. We would also NOT pay for ice time at Thayer Arena. We would, however, pay for uniform patches that would be installed on the uniform to designate Chariho as a member of the Co-Op. A copy of the Parental Agreement (which mirrors the Boys' Ice Hockey Agreement with Narragansett) was included in the packet for your review. She recommended approval of the MOA with Warwick for a two-year agreement for a Girls' Ice Hockey Co-Op contingent upon the Warwick School Committee approving it as well. They will meet next week. They had an agreement with another district that backed out. Once approval is granted, an MOA (similar to the Parental Agreement) will be signed by both School Committee Chairs and both Superintendents. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the MOA with Warwick for a Girls' Ice Hockey Co-Op Team. Bill requested a ballpark number of interested girls. Jim Provuncher replied there is a solid two with potential for a third and fourth who have expressed interest. Bill stated he is not against sports but this is a two-year agreement. What if the team members back out? Gina replied that the District is only responsible to pay based on the number participating. Jim added that they have another school so we could decide to vote to approve this but Warwick could vote it down. Gina stated that RILL reached out to Mike Shiels because we do have girls interested. Lisa suggested that they support the motion based on equity. This policy has parity with the boys and she will support it just because of Title IX.

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

VOTED: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Warwick for a Girls' Ice Hockey Co-Op Team per the conditions noted above. In favor: Unanimous.

C. RI Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) State Assessment Results – Assistant Superintendent Dr. Comella presented the RICAS results. COVID did have an impact on teaching and learning so the Commissioner has stated that this is the new baseline. RI administered the full assessment and we did an outstanding job of getting students in. We doubled the State average of in-person students and had the 5th highest participation rate in the State. Ashaway finished 8th out of 180 elementary schools in math so kudos to the Ashaway staff and students. We use Massachusetts as a benchmark as they have done this work for a long time. It is a rigorous assessment system and curriculum and Massachusetts is a leader across the nation; we are right in line with them. He explained the action that will be taken to raise the scores. Learning Walks will be conducted and ESSER Funds will be used for professional development. Once ESSER Funds are gone, the teachers will have the supports and skills they need in place. Lisa questioned homework and discussion ensued on whether or not this is based on assessments or more individualized. The Superintendent noted that there are some guidelines in the handbook but this is also based on the needs of the student. Bill commented that Gina and both Unions did a fantastic job in keeping our students learning. He questioned the difference between school days and school times to which Mike provided clarification. Gina added that K-5 students had to be in school every day but there was more flexibility with the older students. Some schools staggered in-person and others had shortened days. Mike noted that it is hard to compare as there were many options per district. Bill responded "so they played with time and we were one of the few school districts that had students in-person every day". We should have taken an ad out to let our taxpayers know that we exceeded and excelled. The job that was done

was never shared with the community. He appreciates the report but we don't get the respect; we do not do a good job in selling ourselves. Craig stated they can wait for Item B-1 – Reports - and toot their own horn. He is concerned with going forward. If we increase tutoring, how long will funds be around for this? Will the District have to budget for anything that ESSER is covering now? The Superintendent explained that with the pandemic, there were many students who fell into “partial” but will continue to grow. There will be bumps but teachers will learn how to utilize new resources to build capacity. Kerry Pastore is doing a great job as ELA Fellow. We will access all supports. The money will go away; we will have to make sure we are ready when the funding is gone. The survey she sent out was clear – they want supports as a District with the most need at the Middle School. Donna commented that this was great and she is proud of our numbers. We were one of the first to put computers in the hands of students plus we have a rigorous professional development program so when the pandemic came, we were ready. We are not just teaching with computers, we are using them as a tool. endawnis wanted to echo the sentiments. It is all integrated and interrelated. It is the nature of interventions. Karen thanked Mike for sharing the data and the students who took the tests. These tests are overwhelming and daunting. Our scores are fabulous. She also thanked teachers and administrators for making this happen. Amanda Blau asked how she could follow the cohort of a student who took the test back in 5th grade and then took it again in 8th grade to which Mike replied that without the 2020 testing, it distorts this. Amanda raised concern of these scores being the new benchmark. For a new 3rd grader that might be fine but not for an 8th grader who has already taken these assessments. This is concerning because we know where they were pre-pandemic and it could be a drop. Mike noted that there is a lot of foundational learning; we have a lot of work to do to which Gina added that they also look at their growth. When we did beginning of the year assessments, many of the students had most of the skills to move forward. We are building the capacity of administrators and teachers as we not only want to be proficient but grow as well. Amanda responded that she wants to make sure that when they are looking at numbers, we want students to get to where they were before the pandemic and exceed that – not the new benchmark. Michael Waterman noted that he is not interested in how Chariho compares to RI but how we compare to high performing districts. We need to challenge ourselves. He agreed with Amanda. There are groups at the Middle School who had significant drops. Every effort has to be made to bridge this gap. He begged that they look at PD and Early Release Days and keep kids in school. He commended Gina on her call on the storm day as the storm came in at a bad time. He would not want to be her having to make these calls. Tyler Champlin from Hopkinton noted the large drop in math numbers both here and nationwide. Is there any understanding as to why this is happening? He is a math teacher. He also questioned why Ashaway is performing much better than the other elementary schools. Mike stated that he spoke with Mr. Scanapieco and his school is using a resource call IReady every day. We know this resource works so all elementary schools will be using it as well. It is hard to teach math virtually so he is guessing that is why the scores dropped like they did. A Hopkinton parent stated that her son was in 3rd grade last year and Hope Valley did poorly but her son is smart in math. His biggest struggle was taking his test on the Chromebook plus Hope Valley wasn't using IReady. Hopefully they will all use it and the numbers will improve. Lisa complimented the community for the real dialogue that took place. The Committee is allowing as much time as necessary and she is taking copious notes from all the community comments. Compliments to all.

D. Assignments to Subcommittees/School Improvement and School Safety Teams – Superintendent Picard reported that vacancies are indicated in red. This is also an opportunity, if you wish, to change representation on School Improvement and School Safety Team. The first vacancy is for a Richmond Representative on the Finance Committee. This group generally meets just once per year; right before the Omnibus Meeting in January. Karen Reynolds volunteered to fill this vacancy.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was
VOTED: To appoint Karen Reynolds as the Richmond Representative on the Finance Committee. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Lyall noted two vacancies on the School Improvement Team Selection Committee; one at Ashaway School and one at Richmond School. endawnis stated that she could fill the vacancy at Ashaway School and Karen agreed to fill the vacancy at Richmond School.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint endawnis Spears to the Ashaway SIT Selection Committee and Karen Reynolds to the Richmond School SIT Selection Committee. In favor: Unanimous.

Bill questioned when the Threat Assessment Oversight Committee would be meeting as there has never been a meeting of this group. The Superintendent responded that she will see that this happens. Craig asked how long would a committee stay dormant (i.e. Facilities Subcommittee) before it is disbanded. Maybe this could be a future agenda item.

E. Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and Chariho Education Support Professionals Pertaining to Custodial Overtime (Articles 7.1 and 7.5) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the MOA which has been reviewed by legal counsel and NEA ESP. Catherine made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan to approve the MOA. Chair Lyall asked if there were any questions. Amanda Blau from Hopkinton commented that she assumes this will be public to which the District Clerk replied that once the agreement is approved this evening, it will be posted on the District Website tomorrow as the NEA ESP Union has already approved it.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and Chariho Education Support Professionals pertaining to custodial overtime (Articles 7.1 and 7.5). In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Opposed: Abbott and Day. Recused: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed and 1 recusal.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall requested clarifying questions or items to be pulled at this time. Craig pulled A-1 and A-2; Bill noted he had a clarifying question on H-2. He has no idea who Kathy is and what is being replaced/repairs at Central Office. Gina explained that Kathy is Ned's secretary. Her office is the one you see when entering the Administration Building. Her office and one other in Central Administration have no windows. For COVID and increased air flow, windows are being added. At the Middle School, skylights are being replaced. Bill suggested they use a person's title and not their name as he had no idea who Kathy was.

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.

- B. Transfers – None at this time.
- C. Bill Review – Accepted.
- D. Budget Summary – As per enclosed.
- E. Balance Sheet – As per enclosed.
- F. Personnel Actions – Staff Updates included in FYI.
- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quotes – None at this time.
- H. Permission to Award Contracts – Awarded the following:
 - 1. Medical and Dental Services Bid to Wood River Health Services for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for the amounts noted on the memo from Ned Draper dated November 2, 2021 contingent upon the Physician of Record position being assigned to Dr. Lisa Menard-Manlove.
 - 2. Windows Bid (ESSER II Funding) to Martone Service Co., in the amount of \$115,680, for the removal/replacement, upgrade and installation of new operable sash windows for the Middle School and Administration Building per the memo from Ned Draper dated November 4, 2021.
- I. Home Instruction – Action taken in Executive Session.
- J. Grants – None at this time.
- K. Donations – None at this time.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 26, 2021 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 10, 2021 (minutes not sealed). In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained (due to absence): Abbott. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 1 abstention.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 26, 2021. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained (due to absence): Abbott. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 1 abstention.

X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports – None at this time.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. US News & World Report Rankings – The Superintendent stated that she takes great pride in reporting that our District did extremely well in the first ever US News & World Report K-8 rankings. Of 180 elementary schools ranked, Ashaway was #6 (top 5%); Charlestown #7 (top 5%); Hope Valley #10 (top 10%) and Richmond #27 (top 25%). Three of our elementary schools ranked in the top 10. The Middle School ranked 14th (top 25%) of 66 Middle Schools ranked. She is so proud of the work of our students, teachers, administrators and staff.

2. Text Messaging Opt-In – There is an additional opportunity to opt in to receive texts. There is also an opportunity to opt out by texting "Stop". This is just another way to message parents in the event of an emergency (i.e. bus running late, etc.).

3. Vaccination Clinic – We will be hosting a clinic on Friday, November 12th starting at 3 PM at the Middle School for children. Early Monday morning all 300 spots were filled. She spoke with RIDOH and they added another 120 spots. We are the host site; we are not running the clinic.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Bill requested a report on SAF accounts/activities.

Craig noted that he has three requests: 1) A presentation on mental health and awareness, 2) School Committee subcommittees – how long should they remain dormant (he realizes that some are required), and 3) The feeling of taxpayers is that we took them out of the process but we do have an Appeals Policy. He would like to put this on an agenda so the Committee can discuss it.

XII. Adjournment

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna Sieczkiewicz, District Clerk