

Chariho School Committee Meeting  
Regular Session Minutes  
April 25, 2023

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

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Chief Elwood Johnson (exited at 6:45 PM) 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 6:00 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 Andrew McQuaide 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)(1) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to an individual's job performance or character (Review of Superintendent's 2023-2024 Goals and Evaluation); 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 (NEA Certified Staff Contract Negotiation Update); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for the purpose of discussion regarding the matter of security (1. Discussion with Richmond Chief of Police Johnson on School Security/Alice Training and 2. Discussion on the 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 March 28, 2023 - 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 7:05 PM. All were asked to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. The Superintendent's Goals and Evaluation item was tabled so there are no minutes to seal.
2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Contract Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Contract Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Lyall, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Louzon and McQuaide. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 2 abstentions.

3. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes regarding the matter of security (Discussion with Chief Johnson and Discussion on the MOU Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: That minutes regarding the matter of security (Discussion with Chief Johnson and Discussion on the MOU Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

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

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: That minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

#### V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Chair Giusti noted the first vote, to move item #3 before (should be after) items #4 and #5, was unanimously approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of March 28, 2023 – Home Instruction Requests, was approved by all with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

The next vote, approval of home instruction requests for this evening, was approved by all with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

The next vote, to table item #6 (should be to table item #3), was unanimous with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

The final vote, to return to open session, was unanimous with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Lyall, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

#### VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated/thanked:

1. Post-Season Awards: High School Wrestling – Corbin Maraia (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-State, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division 195 lbs); Noah Dinucci (5<sup>th</sup> Team All-State, Academic All-State); Ryan Currier (4<sup>th</sup> Team All-State).

High School Gymnastics – Randi Swenson (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division, MVP); Brooklyn Vacca (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division, Leadership Award); Lillian Baxter (Coaches' Award).

High School Boys' Indoor Track and Field – Ian Clark (All-Division 55 meters and 300 meters); Elias Sposato (All-Division and All-Class B 600 meters).

High School Boys' Hockey – JD Abbott (Hobey Baker Award for Sportsmanship/Character Excellence); Ryan Cormier (Academic All-State).

High School Boys' Basketball – Jeremiah Graham (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State – ProJo; 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-State – RI Basketball Coaches Association, Division II Player of the Year, 1<sup>st</sup> Team Division II Group D); Chris Niziolek (1<sup>st</sup> Team Division II Group D); Riley Reed (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Division II Group D); Kyle McGovern (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Division II Group D).

#### VII. Public Forum

Chair Giusti noted there were three requests to speak; all School Committee members. She asked that they please speak from the podium. The first was Tyler Champlin. Tyler wanted to address the FY24 budget process. He thanked all of the Committee for their work and the public for sitting through the process. On September 27, 2022, the District implemented a budget freeze effective October 1, 2022. According to the minutes of September 27<sup>th</sup>, Andrew questioned what a budget freeze would look and the scenario was provided. He does not feel the District can work this way. He would like to start FY24 under the same proposal (budget freeze). He does not want transfers as they need to know where the budget shortfalls are. It is not fiscally responsible to operate that way and he hopes administration takes this request to heart.

Donna Chambers was the next to speak. She stated that many people saw the article in *The Providence Journal* on April 3 (In the Hot Seat). A local church, Westminster Unitarian Church, sent a letter to Committee members that was based on this article. She read the letter and asked that it be part of the minutes. *Dear Chariho School Committee Members: We are members of the Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich writing to voice our concern about the Monday, April 3 article "In the Hot seat" which outlined the educational and political issues that are dividing some of the Chariho parents and School Committee members. The core issues here seem to be an unwillingness of some to recognize the diversity that exists within their own student body. Our schools should be safety zones for our children – places where they are accepted and encouraged to grow into full personhood without expectations of fitting into a particular stereotype or identity. To think that we live in only a strictly binary world of male/female is to deny the existence of the children and teens who identify themselves as outside that narrow construct, placing them in the position of needing to defend themselves against discrimination. Growing up is difficult enough without forcing kids to live inauthentic lives. Regarding the issue of race, we need to recognize and appreciate ALL our history. The legacy of slavery cannot be discounted, nor its impact on Rhode Island's history and the generations of people here today. The risk of not understanding that history can relegate us to repeating the discrimination against anyone else who we think is 'different'. They are cautionary tales worthy of the telling and a history our children need to understand. We hope these issues will be resolved, but it will take some hard conversations and a willingness to hear and learn. We hope the adults in the room are up to the task of honoring and respecting all the kids in the Chariho school system as well as the historical foundation of Rhode Island. If they can make that happen, it's a win-win for all. Sincerely, Members of the Social, Economic, Environmental Justice Committee, Westminster Unitarian Church, 119 Kenyon Avenue, East Greenwich, RI 02818, 401-884-5933.* Donna noted that the letter was signed by thirty members of the church. Polly asked if any of those who signed were from one of our three towns. Donna replied that she believes one or two were from Charlestown but questioned why that mattered. Craig noted that he called the preacher and thanked him for the letter.

Andrew McQuaide spoke last. He wanted to share the recent actions of the Charlestown Town Council at their meeting last evening. Community member, Anne Mulhall, came out with an idea on how we could better engage students in Charlestown town government and so he, Mrs. Carney and Ann had the opportunity to talk about some of Anne's ideas and connect with the administration – thank you to Superintendent Picard and High School Principal Andrea Spas. He wanted to share with everyone as well as the broader public that on May 8<sup>th</sup> May 22<sup>nd</sup>, as an outcome of the Town Council's vote, two students from Charlestown (four students total) will start the Town Council meeting at 6:15 PM. This is an opportunity for Charlestown seniors to share an adapted version of their senior portfolio with the community and a variety of experiences that Chariho students have. He thinks this was an excellent idea by Anne and he thanked her, the Charlestown Town Council and our administration for making this happen. He invited all to join the meetings at the Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, to support our seniors who are graduating. Thank you.

#### VIII. Business

A. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and the Town of Richmond Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and the Town of Richmond Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer for 2023-2024.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was VOTED: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and the Town of Richmond Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer for 2023-2024. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and Stage I/Stage II Requirements for School Building Projects Discussion and/or Action – Superintendent Picard stated that Colliers Representative Derek Osterman is in attendance to explain the process and address any questions or concerns. There will be an expectation from RIDE that the Committee will review the Capital Improvement Plan as well as consider a new school plan before they accept any plans from the District. Tyler asked, in light of other issues, how careful do they need to tread. Gina replied that the District has to submit the capital plan as it is a requirement. They will ask if we have taken a look at the infrastructure here. Craig noted there are two of them left who were on the previous Necessity for School Construction Committee (he and the Chair). The “factory in the field” never went to an official vote; it failed miserably in the discussion phase. We have to address transparencies with the community. It will be wonderful to see what the taxpayers want. He knew the first proposal was not sellable; he was not in agreement with it. We could invite all three Town Councils and every taxpayer who wants to come to a meeting to see what they want. There is a possibility of the District getting close to 80% reimbursement so we do have to decide before this money goes away. Gina noted that over the next five years, there is a \$2 million investment without anything breaking. This is just based on the current condition of the elementary buildings and the CTC roof. When we submit the capital plan, there will be discussion. Andrew added that they are in the process of developing the next District Strategic Plan. This will come before the Committee in May for review. Tonight’s conversation will be constructive to the Strategic Plan. We have committed to continuous improvement and state of the art facilities. We do need a robust conversation with the public and everyone needs to spend some time in the elementary schools. This School Committee needs to get serious about what we want to do with these schools. The public needs to know the state of our elementary schools. Derek noted that he works for Colliers and is responsible for much of the staff in New England. He will take the Committee through basic information; set parameters. You are required to submit to the State of Rhode Island your capital improvement plan – what you plan to spend on your facilities to address health and safety concerns. The other reason he is here is there is a flurry of legislative activity which affects when the end of the bonus period in Rhode Island will be. He will be sensitive to what the District’s needs are. The past few years all the District’s funding from the State has come through for emergencies because the District does not have a Stage I or Stage II plan. State participation in your plan is limited; you need to submit a broader plan as the State I plan has aged. The legislature is currently considering bills that will elevate the base housing aid for 18 Districts currently entitled to 35%. This will elevate to 40%. The deadline to start the process is the end of this year (June 30). The State could ask us to resubmit Stage I by the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline with Stage II submission due by February 15, 2024. The District’s baseline entitlement is 61%. You will likely have to do a Stage I and a Stage II plan. Linda clarified that the best we can get from the State right now is 61%. What do we need to do to get 80% to which Derek explained the bonus categories that will get the District the extra 20% reimbursement. Consolidation or a new build will probably get you to the 80% contingent upon the House approving the bills. The clock is at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Ned noted the financial context – roughly \$25 million over 5 years which is about \$5 million a year we need to spend. If we receive 60% in reimbursement aid we are looking at needing \$2 million from the budget each year. Even if we get a good year or two it won’t matter with a number this large. If we want to go after larger investments, we will have to explore consolidation or an investment in new buildings. So the direction we need to decide on is do we maintain our current elementary schools or do we have a deeper expectation of what our District would look like. Polly asked if this should go out to vote to which Gina replied “no”. Polly asked if they should really be pursuing new schools. Should we give them what they want – new schools in each town? Andrew stated that there was little interest in having one big elementary school. What was not considered was looking at enhancing our community elementary schools. What do we want to do with the existing elementary schools? Craig noted that the Necessity for School Construction Committee came out with five different proposals and chose to put forward one large school. We could choose to do nothing but then we would not be doing our job if we kick the can down the road. Gina stated that she and Ned came in at the tail end of the last building plan. Community input was minimal and then COVID hit and people were dealing with the pandemic. We have held parent meetings and they liked the option of new elementary schools; they did not like the one large school. It was too much too late so we needed to reset.

She did hear from parents that the buildings are old. We could just maintain them for health and safety concerns; that is an option. Other options include building one brand new school for each town, enhancements only or do nothing. The community must be involved and we will need to form a Building Committee per the Chariho Act. We had a Necessity for School Construction Committee which is required by RIDE. Ned and I need direction. Tyler felt it was paramount to make a decision. They need to move forward as band-aiding only lasts so long. We have to get the Town Councils, parents, taxpayers and community involved. We can't put the cart before the horse. What is our community looking for? We need to get public input to move forward but we have to move forward. Kathryn asked if they were talking new buildings as opposed to rehabilitating what they have to which Gina responded it could be either. We can put people on school buses and see what other school projects look like. The last committee only brought one proposal forward; they did not bring any of their other options to the community. Chair Giusti felt they should start the process all over again; start from scratch. The message was not clear last time and there were liberties taken outside of the committee's discussion. We do not have much time. What does our community want and the funding options need to be presented. As representatives of our communities what do we want? Gina noted that they do not want to be rushed; this needs to be a careful walk. Craig added that the clock is ticking; they only have ten months for Stage II to which Derek noted they may or may not have already missed the deadline. September 15, as of right now, is the last deadline. You are looking at spring of next year to go through the process. The process will not be possible if the deadline is not extended. There is a slight chance they can sneak in under the radar for additional money but this would depend on legislation. More than half of the State gets 35%; they would welcome 61% so you should plan to move forward even if the bonus money is not available. Preparatory work is likely to be required anyway. Stage I identifies the problem; some of that work is done. We have until September 15 but this will require a full team of vendors. Stage II, the earliest they can get everything together would be for the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The State then has to agree to provide the funding. Craig asked if it would help if they have people reach out to politicians to which Derek replied, because the extension is tied to the lifting from 35% to 40%, he believes that Middletown has initiated this. You could testify in support of it. There are at least three bills in the House and Senate in reference to this. Clay noted that they all want community involvement so what if they did a survey to which Craig added they could also have a meeting (on the idea of an Omnibus Meeting) with the Town Councils and the public. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Donna, to have a meeting (sort of like an Omnibus Meeting) with the three Town Councils and the public with the School Committee. Tyler did not disagree that they need a meeting but he feels they will have a hard time going to the community with no idea of a plan or the cost for any one of the options. Clay is on to something; put out a survey and see what truly is the appetite of the community. He does not want to get ahead of themselves. Craig agreed but we have about ten months. Andrew noted that he is not opposed to taking a multi-prong approach. Start early with our Town Councils so they understand the process. Make sure these bodies are on the same page. We have timelines we have to consider. This is a version of an Omnibus Meeting but we have to agree on the context. Tyler asked if this was an accelerated timeline just for the 80¢ on the dollar to which Gina explained the current deadline is December 2023 but the 61% would still be available. Donna agreed they need to start the face-to-face process right away. This will have a budgetary impact – should we consider construction or continue putting money in the old buildings. Linda noted her agreement as well. Are we just interested in maintaining health and safety or do we have an appetite to do enhancements or new buildings. Do they need to form a Building Committee? Gina stated that they have to first update Stage I and explore our options. This will allow the community to see the needs. We can move forward with a plan. Linda felt they should look at each site and see if they can maximize. Ned commented that obviously \$2 million is too far to go on top of our normal budget request. We would need to see out a bond so regardless of the option we will have to do a Stage II either way. Karen noted that Exeter did a community-based survey and received a lot of feedback. She thinks that is a good place to start and also she believes they do need to talk to the Town Councils as well so an omnibus type meeting is a good idea. Kathryn felt vagueness was a problem. What enhancements? We can't give a dollar amount and can't give input. Extending the timeframe reduces the State giving us money. We are asking for direction without specifics. Gina replied that Hope Valley is our highest

need. We can look at separating this. One example is it is not ADA compliant which requires us to move classrooms. We can take people to the schools and talk about safety. There are plenty of plans out there with costs so we can get an idea/approximation. We can look at our priorities. You can get pricing it just might not be on Day 1. Andrew suggested an amendment that, in addition to an omnibus-type meeting, they include the development of a community-wide survey. Craig seconded the amendment. Donna asked if they were only focusing on elementary schools to which Gina responded they have to have a capital plan for all schools. Tyler asked Derek if he had seen these surveys to which Derek replied he has and feels it makes great sense to take this on yourself. Communities that are successful are those that include everyone on the same page. When you have elected leadership on the same page projects are wildly successful but if they aren't on the same page, projects can be very challenging or fail. Craig asked Andrew if the motion fails, does he want the amendment to be a stand-alone to which Andrew responded that he would like this to be multi-prong.

Andrew McQuaide made an amendment, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To develop a community-wide survey. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew asked if any recommendations needed to be incorporated in the motion. Derek responded that his perspective is this is probably enough. It is sending you on a path. Submit Stage I by September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are attempting to go after bonus points, we will know this summer. Gina stated that at the next meeting, they will need to add another School Committee member to the Necessity for School Construction Committee as there is a vacancy. Polly commented that a lot of community members are visual people. They need to go through our schools and see the condition to which Tyler stated they almost need an Omnibus meeting at every school. Andrew suggested a second amendment to schedule something like an Open House at each elementary school to provide an opportunity for the community to see our schools. Craig seconded the amendment. Tyler asked if this would be in addition to the "Omnibus" meeting to which Andrew replied "yes". Gina noted that she could set up a QR code people can scan for the survey. Tyler suggested they ask each principal to be there. Jessica Purcell suggested that pre-survey information be given. Make it a live document with an FAQ just like the budget. Ann Marie Louzon recommended they do not call these "Open Houses" as people will confuse them with an actual Open House. Call it a tour or something else to which Gina suggested they call them a Facility Site Walk.

Andrew McQuaide made an amendment, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To schedule Facility Site Walks at each of the elementary schools to provide an opportunity for the community to see the schools. In favor: Unanimous.

Clay stated that they could also put the Jacob's Report on the website. Gina noted they could link this plus the previous documents from the last building plan.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To schedule a Joint Meeting of the four bodies (three Town Councils and the School Committee) with all community members invited, develop a community-wide survey and schedule Facility Site Walks at each elementary school to provide an opportunity for the community to see the schools. In favor: Unanimous.

Derek was thanked for attending.

C. Substitute Pay Increase/Personnel Management System Policy Revision – Superintendent Picard recommend approval of the increase to the daily stipend for Substitute Teachers from \$120.00 to \$150.00 effective immediately in an effort to attract more subs and remain competitive with surrounding Districts and, if approved, she recommends the Personnel Management System Policy be revised to reflect this change (page 5 of 6). Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew, to approve the \$150.00 daily stipend for Substitute Teachers effective immediately and revise the Personnel Management Policy to reflect this change. Andrew explained that the

Policy Subcommittee met prior to this meeting as this item was on both agendas. Members Chambers, Lyall, Hopkins, Colasante and he voted unanimously to approve an increase to \$150.00 and not the \$140.00 that was recommended to potentially draw subs from nearby districts. Polly added that there was more attractiveness with the \$150 mark. It was noted that if the District does not get more subs at this rate, the School Committee can revisit this. It was felt that \$150 per day would better position our District. Chair Giusti clarified that the initial recommendation was for an increase to \$140 per day but the Policy Subcommittee is recommending an increase to \$150 per day. Gina added that the District is in a place where it is getting harder and harder to get subs this time of year. We walked our sub pay back after COVID; other districts did not. They are paying anywhere from \$140 to \$165. We cannot prolong this increase as we are paying teachers coverage for picking up a class. Chair Giusti noted that she is 100% in favor of this as her husband is a principal and is having the same issues finding subs. Kathryn questioned what the cost is to have teachers cover to which Gina explained that teachers are paid overages based on their daily rate. It looks different for each teacher. The other issue with having teachers pick up this extra is that they then do not get their planning time or any break. They are being asked to cover a class that they have not planned for and is causing them to burn out from no break. Kathryn asked if it is not a savings to use teachers who are already employed by the District. She doesn't understand. The budget was level funded and this is affecting the line item negatively. Tyler explained that we budget for a certain number of absences and you figure you will get subs to cover these absences. If we can't get subs, we end up paying more because each teacher is paid to cover a block. Using the High School as an example, there are four blocks a day so if we need to use teachers, we are paying a teacher to cover one block; their rate is not for the entire day. There is no clean way to do it as this is one of the best guess line items. Ned added that coming out of COVID they are starting to get some kind of "normal". Donna stated that as a member of the Policy Subcommittee, she know the difficulty of finding subs and \$140 was the low minimum. We are look to recruit subs so we have to have some appeal. The right decision is to offer \$150 per day. Karen reiterated that when teachers cover, they do not get a break; this is their planning time to which Pat responded that she understands this but when does it become a bidding war. Gina commented that some districts, such as Providence and Pawtucket, pay around \$225 per day and have been doing that for years. We are having a hard time finding day-to-day subs, not as hard a time finding long-term subs.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was  
VOTED: To approve the \$150.00 daily stipend for Substitute Teachers effective immediately and revise the Personnel Management Policy to reflect this change. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Formation of a Budget Subcommittee – This item was recommended by Tyler Champlin and requested by Andrew McQuaide. Andrew asked Tyler if he was OK with Andrew speaking first. Tyler was fine with this. Andrew stated, for the sake of time, he is making a motion to establish a budget subcommittee for the purposes of 1) debriefing the budget process, 2) exploring and making a recommendation to the full School Committee and 3) ongoing review of the budget with the intent that when items #1 and #2 are completed, the budget subcommittee would continue on with #3. Tyler seconded the motion. Polly asked if this will help them; you weed out the garden and here are the flowers. Tyler stated that he feels the budget process is broken; members aren't making motions. He hopes to get a proposed FY25 budget in a few months. Ned has a great spreadsheet that justifies everything. Hopefully next year we can come forth with the best budget with the Committee making additional cuts. This will cut out time that is not needed. He commented that he likes the fact that the budget will be presented at a regularly-scheduled School Committee meeting and not a separate meeting. Andrew asked if Tyler was in agreement to add a 4<sup>th</sup> task to the motion: work on FY25 budget. Ned noted that they can do different levels. Right now we have the five-year projection and they can dig into details later on. Tyler felt the subcommittee should report regularly to the full School Committee. He was OK with adding a 4<sup>th</sup> item but not putting a year in just in case this subcommittee continues. Andrew added to his original motion item #4 – work on current and future budgets. Kathryn asked if everyone was welcome to attend even if they are not on the subcommittee to which it was noted that they would be public meetings. Pat wondered about the size of the subcommittee; should there be

representatives from each town. Polly felt there should be at least one from each town to which Andrew noted the School Committee can decide this. Chair Giusti asked if the subcommittee is approved, would they be appointing members this evening. Superintendent Picard responded that they could appoint this evening.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was VOTED: To form a Budget Subcommittee with the purpose as follows: 1) debrief the budget process, 2) explore and make recommendations to the full School Committee, 3) ongoing review of the budget with the intent that when items #1 and #2 are completed, the Budget Subcommittee would continue on, and 4) work on current and future budgets. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Giusti asked if anyone would like to volunteer. Andrew, Tyler, Karen and Clay all said they would.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and Pat Pouliot and it was VOTED: To appoint Andrew McQuaide, Tyler Champlin, Karen Reynolds and Clay Johnson to the Budget Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

#### IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Giusti asked if any items need to be pulled; none were pulled. Craig acknowledged the donations and thanked the donors.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To accept all of the Consent Agenda items. In favor: Unanimous.

A. Minutes – Approved the following:

1. Executive Session Minutes of March 28, 2023 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of March 14, 2023 (minutes not sealed).
2. Regular Session Minutes of March 28, 2023.

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 – Rescinded the non-renewals of the following:

First Name	Last Name	FTE as of 9/1/22
Jacob	Desmarais	1.0
Joshua	Noury	1.0
Stephen	Tranghese	1.0
Jonathan	Sayer	1.0
Katherine	Kent	1.0
Paige	Leddy	1.0

G. Permission to Issue and Award Bid

1. Protective Vests and Helmets – Permission granted to issue and award the Protective Vests and Helmets Bid so long as the bid comes in within the amount budgeted in the ARPA Grant.

H. Permission to Award Contracts – Awarded the following:

1. Electricity Supply Agreement per quotes from three vendors NRG, Beacon Energy and Novo Energy Services with permission to lock in electricity at the best rate possible during the month of May per the memo from Ned Draper dated April 3, 2023.
2. Clinical Services (Initiative #1) and Consulting Services (Initiative #3) Bid Extension to CSSS (Community and School Support Services) to provide services to the Chariho Regional School District including the Chariho Alternative Learning Academy for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 as outlined in the attached proposal.
3. Clinical and Consultative Services to Developmentally Disabled (DD) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Programs (Initiative #2) Bid Extension to Patricia Meinhold, Ph.D. to provide



services to the Chariho Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 as outlined in the attached proposal.

I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

J. Grants – None at this time.

K. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Staples, Westerly of 10 boxes of miscellaneous school supplies to Chariho Elementary Schools and 8 boxes of binders to the District.

2. Donation from Earth Care Farm, Charlestown, RI of twelve (12) bags of their raised bed mix (black gold) for CALA's raised beds located in the campus courtyard.

## X. Reports

### A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Health and Wellness Subcommittee will meet on May 9, 2023 at 4:00 PM in the High School Library.

### B. Superintendent's Report

1. Artessy Update – Artessy was a great success. Families were excited to attend; the attendance was outstanding. She shared the feedback she received from many community members.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Chair Giusti had a request of School Committee members. If they do not find it burdensome, she would like an email sent to her after any requests that are made at a meeting so that she can ensure the item being placed on an agenda is clear and concise.

Polly requested they form a subcommittee to review the curriculum. There is a lot of stuff that is not included on the curriculum that is posted online. Gina noted that everything in the curriculum is posted online and there is already a subcommittee for curriculum. The School Committee could join this subcommittee if they wanted to. Kathryn stated that parents are invited to attend a meeting when electing to home school their children but when she decided to home school hers, she also attended a curriculum fair. She feels what she found online is bare bones. Chair Giusti asked Kathryn to hold her thoughts until the item is on an agenda for discussion.

Tyler formalized his Public Forum request for a FY24 budget freeze from Day 1.

Karen asked if administration could put together, for the School Committee, a sample of RICAS tests so the Committee can see what the kids are being tested on.

## XII. Adjournment

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:57 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

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Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk