

Chariho School Committee Virtual Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – May 25, 2021

Committee Members Virtual Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti (joined at 7:01 PM), George Abbott, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, William Day, Gary Liguori (joined at 6:05 PM), Craig Louzon, Lisa Macaruso and Linda McAllister. Absent: Sheila Grover and David Stall.

Administrators and Others Virtual Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Jane Daly, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper (joined at 6:36 PM), Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, High School Assistant Principal Andrea Spas, Middle School Assistant Principal Mary Beth Florenz, NEA ESP President Thomas Pirnie, Attorney for the School Committee Jon Anderson, Charlestown Town Council President Deb Carney, Westerly Sun Reporter Matt Gouvin and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz (and other community members).

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

Chair Linda Lyall called the virtual meeting of the Chariho School Committee to order at 6:01 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)(1) for the purpose of discussions and/or action pertaining to the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons (Discussion of Superintendent's Contract); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to pending litigation (Civil Action File Number PC-2019-10870 - Town of Barrington et al. v. State of Rhode Island et al.) and 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 (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 11, 2021 - Approval of Home Instruction Requests and 2) Approval of Home Instruction Request(s)); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous (Giusti and Liguori were not in attendance for the vote).

The Committee returned to open session at 6:57 PM and Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

III. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to pending litigation (Town of Barrington et al. v. State of Rhode Island et al.) remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining pending litigation (Town of Barrington et al. v. State of Rhode Island et al.) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Liguori was not in attendance for the vote).

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to potential litigation remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to potential litigation remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Liguori was not in attendance for the vote).

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

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Liguori was not in attendance for the vote).

IV. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Ryan Callahan reported there were four votes taken in executive session. The first vote, with respect to legal strategy, passed unanimously with 9 in favor with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister voting in favor.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 11, 2021, Approval of Home Instruction Requests, passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions and 0 recusals with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Macaruso and McAllister voting in favor and Abbott and Lyall abstaining.

The third vote, approval of a Home Instruction Request, passed with 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 recusals with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister voting in favor and Abbott abstaining.

The fourth vote, to close executive session and return to open session, was unanimous with 9 in favor with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister voting in favor.

V. Recognition - The following were congratulated:

1. Post-Season Awards: High School Girls' Volleyball – Jasmine Babbitt (1st Team All-Division), Casey Mastin (2nd Team All-Division), Jenna Loring (3rd Team All-Division).

VI. Public Forum

Chair Lyall explained the format to follow for anyone interested in speaking; raise your hand and she will make you a panelist. Please state your name and town and keep your comments to two minutes. It would be much appreciated. Seeing no hands, Chair Lyall moved to Policy.

VII. Policy

A. Policy for Face Masks and Face Coverings – COVID 19 (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy. Donna made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve the revisions to the Policy for Face Masks and Face Coverings. Donna stated, that from reading this, does a decision need to be made as to whether or not we retain the policy? Gina noted that the policy is more about flexibility; modified based on current parameters. Donna wondered about the new guidance that requires no mask if someone is vaccinated. She knows of people who are going out and are not vaccinated. Before going to in-person meetings she wants to make sure that everyone who is not vaccinated is wearing a mask. The Superintendent responded that masks at school is not ending; they are still required whether a person is vaccinated or not. It is an honor system at social events but masks are required inside of schools. Ryan clarified that the revisions would give the Superintendent the authority to make any changes to this policy without coming back to the School Committee when new guidance is received.

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Policy for Face Masks and Face Coverings. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Graduation Dress Code Policy (Revision) – Superintendent Picard noted that this was revised by the Anti-Racism Task Force and they are here to speak on it. Dan Fitzgerald presented the revisions to the policy that was originally adopted in 1999. The practice of the District is clear and concise to students and families while making it enforceable if needed. The biggest change is objects of cultural significance and he acknowledges current federal and state laws. Donna thanked Dan. She did

think the revised policy was clear and inclusive. She asked for an example of something a Native American student might wear to which Dan replied “Eagle Feathers”; they have cultural significance. Donna noted that they have included a sash which is allowed in colleges so this is not just limited to Native Americans. Bill asked for clarification from Jon. If attire is disruptive, who makes this decision? This is an area that could be challenged. Jon responded that Bill hit the civil issue on the head. He cannot recommend approval of this policy as written as it is putting the Superintendent and High School Principal in a tenable situation. They are the ones who will need to determine what is disruptive. Beauty is in the eye of the holder. A religious symbol could be hurtful to someone else at Chariho. This is hard work for the Task Force but we must treat students uniformly; green or white gown. Part of the policy is well done but he does not want to put the Superintendent in that position. Bill stated that he has no recollection of any problems here. If Jon can come up with a solution to #8; is there any way they can tweak it? We have never had to turn anyone away; this could end up in court. Lisa stated that they knew this would be a complicated conversation. Jon did review the policy and provided feedback; some things were reduced, others were not. She advised all to please watch the meeting of the Anti-Racism Task Force when this was discussed. The world we see through our lens is not the world on record. She feels that the old policy put more burden on the Superintendent (i.e. a person could not show up in sneakers). The ARTF was trying to make it better by not having to turn away kids. It is entirely cultural vs. religious items. Some of these cultural items are also religious in nature. There is a federal law that protects religious rights of indigenous people. By including this in our policy we are educating our community. She compliments the non-gendering of this policy and the fact that they helped socio-economic people who were challenged. They did good work. Give students at this graduation the opportunity to wear indigenous items. Ryan noted that his take is the same as Bill’s. This would need a rewrite and attorney/counsel support because he can support it. Donna agree with Lisa’s comments. She does feel this is an opportunity for students to wear what they are proud of. If a student wants to wear Eagle feathers or a stole, have it pre-approved – she would support this but not for all who just want to wear what they want. It has to be their culture/religion and appropriate. There would be no consequences if it was pre-approved. Craig agreed with Donna. He thinks the Task Force did a great job but he has to agree with Jon. He would welcome “pre-approved” items if this language was added. Gary felt they did a great job. URI has never had a dress policy and has never had a problem. He has been to about 60 or 75 graduations and controversies were minor, inconsequential. Let a student celebrate who they are. He does, however, have concerns with Item E. The two statements are not consistent with each other. Appropriate attire is subjective. He is in awe of how they decorate their caps. So what if they want to wear Feathers. Catherine agreed. If we have a pre-approval process, who is doing the pre-approval? We need to trust students a little more. It is a tricky policy. She is not comfortable because Jon is uncomfortable. We should ask Jon if there is something that can be removed. Jon noted that he does not support pre-approval; you are just moving the timing of a problem. It would be helpful if the Committee gave guidance in general terms tonight and he will try to craft something. Pawtucket has two High Schools that are very different; one is less diverse and people wear what they want. The other, by contrast, is more diverse and is very traditional. People wear gowns and the do not decorate anything. It is a ceremony; not a celebration. What is the School Committee looking for? Chariho has a ceremony; it is very traditional. As Catherine correctly indicated, items chosen that may be of cultural significance to them, may be offensive to others. It is not the Superintendent’s place to say she likes one culture but not another. Give him guidance and he will sit with a few School Committee members and the Superintendent and craft something. He is not prepared to wordsmith tonight. Lisa made an amendment to strike all the “black” language of “C” as well as the second sentence of “E”. Lisa was informed that there is no motion on the floor. Lisa offered a motion to adopt the Dress Code for Graduation Ceremony with the exception of the black-typed language in “C” and the second sentence of “E”. Donna seconded the motion and noted she is comfortable with Lisa’s motion but would be uncomfortable with any political signage (i.e. confederate flag, etc.). Let this fly for this year and amend it next year if we have a problem. Dan stated that he is merely a representative of the Task Force. They have given this thoughtful consideration and the sentiment of this being a ceremony or celebration – members said it really is a celebration for our indigenous students. It is a very significant event for all students in an institution

that hasn't been as celebratory in the past for these students. Gary was going to suggest a motion to just suspend the Dress Code. He requested a clarification on #C in black as it is already crossed out. Are we adopting everything in red with the exception of E – item 2 – 2nd bullet? Another question, are the students purchasing caps and gowns or does the District provide them? Lisa replied that the student purchases green or white gowns as suggested by the District. Lisa withdrew her motion and Donna withdrew her second. Gary made a motion to adopt the policy (all in red) other than Item E and change the word in the second bullet under B from “provided” to “suggested”. Linda McAllister seconded the motion. Jon stated that he will continue to recommend that the Committee not adopt the policy as it still is making the Superintendent the person who is determining what is appropriate. Catherine and Bill said it well. The Committee is doing exactly what they are trying to rectify what was done in the past. He would keep “E” in as it is part of the Dress Code. He has an issue with the language where Gina, Craig and Andrea are the school censors. If Gina calls him with a problem with a person with a stole that is the confederate flag, we will have to let that student wear it. We can't single this student out. Leave “E” in. He does not want anyone on the School Committee to complain if she allows someone to go through with something offensive. He does not like drafting something as important as this so quickly. We have 17 days. The School Committee can meet a week from today with a document in front of them. Someone's religious or cultural item may not be recognized. We have to be consistent. Table this tonight and give him 7 days to come back. The way URI does it does not get you into legal problems; this policy gets you into legal problems. Bill asked Dan if he knew of any personal situations where someone was discriminated against as he has no personal knowledge of any issues. He is not saying they have been perfect but he does not believe that anyone was denied graduation because of attire only because they did not meet the criteria for graduation. Catherine noted that she would prefer to see no policy as we are raising students to be independent adults. Ryan noted that he is leaning toward where Catherine is. He does think they need some language. If you look at the cleaned up version, keep “A”, strike the first half of the 1st bullet, get rid of “C” and “D” and keep “E”. Linda McAllister liked what Catherine and Ryan had to say. Keep it simple. Andrea Spas commended the Anti-Racism Task Force. A lot of time went into this and she would like to share her perspective. She likes the removal of gender specific and allowing graduates the right to choose their color. She supports Jon's recommendation specifically around letter “E”. George questioned if the Student Council had been asked their opinion to which Andrea responded that this was not brought to the level of students; it was brought to the School Committee first. Caleb Grant from Hopkinton felt the Task Force was doing great work. He supports a move towards simplicity and this being a jump year. He would defer to Jon's legal expertise but liked Gary's suggestion to address inappropriateness after the fact. If we are moving towards a permanent ARTF, there will be more opportunity to discuss this. Thawn Harris apologized for checking in so late. He thanked the Committee for keeping an open mind. We are not lawyers; our goal was for students to have the best experience as possible. He did graduate from Chariho and did have Eagle feathers and his wife had beadwork on her gown. But his brother graduated a few years after and was told this was not allowed. The Eagle feathers hold a significant, important role in their daily life; they have so much meaning. He does not see a problem if the language is more vague. Maija Hill stated that Thawn touched on exactly what she wanted to get across as did Dan and Lisa. Please go back and watch the ARTF meeting or you won't understand the importance this is to them. It is a celebration to them; not just a symbol. Her son graduated from Chariho and his feather was taken from his cap and he wasn't allowed to wear it. She wants to prevent this from happening to future generations. Carla Harris noted that she is OK with simplifying the policy. The original policy was vague. The issue was not with the policy but with the practice. They have to sneak their culture in. This is not fair to any child. George asked if the Narragansett Tribal members were consulted about the changes to which Chair Lyall replied “yes, members of the Tribe have spoken.” Lisa called for a point of order. Thawn Harris can speak to that. Thawn stated that they have spoken about this with the Tribal Committee; that is where the idea of the stole came from. So few youth were graduating so that is how this idea came to be. We are in constant conversations with the Tribe Government and they are aware of their position here. Donna noted that this has been a very long conversation; a compelling case in honoring indigenous people with examples as to why objects of cultural significance should be allowed. She asked Gina and Andrea if they would be

willing to say that students could wear stoles and feathers and they won't be removed to which Gina replied that her concern is if there are 300 individuals, they would need to have a list of names of who is allowed to wear these items. But to Jon's point, we do not want to do anything that is offensive to anyone. Donna suggested they allow this to be exercised at this graduation. Gina thought that maybe less is more. Donna added that they could communicate with staff to not remove anything a student is wearing and communicate to students to come to graduation with dignity. Ryan felt Jon's suggestion was the best course of action. Set up an additional meeting. He cannot support this as it is; he would rather see the language cleaned up. Abandon the policy altogether for this year. He agrees with Jon; table it. If not, he will be voting against it. Have Jon come back a rewrite and only have this item as the topic for another meeting. Chair Lyall asked if they needed to move Gary's motion to accept the policy as is without item "E" and change the word "provided" to "suggested". Jon stated that someone could make a motion to table this. Donna made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to table this until Jon can change the language and revisit it at a special meeting within seven days. Lisa insisted that the policy not be crafted for them without them. Members of the Tribe have to be included. Bill asked if there is supposed to be discussion on an item when a motion is made to table it to which Ryan replied "no". Chair Lyall apologized for allowing discussion.

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was

VOTED: To table this item until Jon Anderson can change the language and revisit it at a special meeting within seven days. In favor: Unanimous.

VIII. Business

A. Update and Approval of School Improvement Teams' (SIT) List of Members – Superintendent Picard noted that enclosed in the packet is a list of School Improvement Teams for each building. Per your policy, you shall review the membership composition of each SIT. Should you determine that the membership selected by the school is not representative, you shall direct the principal to reopen the application process and appoint additional members to achieve proper representation. She recommended approval of the list of members for each building. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Donna, to approve the School Improvement Teams' List of Members. Bill asked if Craig MacKenzie's name should be removed (on the 2nd page) before they vote as he will be leaving the District and we have appointed Andrea Spas as principal. It was explained that Craig's name needs to remain as when the SIT met, Craig was and is still the Principal. Craig Louzon commented on the number of members on Charlestown School's Team. He was glad to see so much community involvement.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was

VOTED: To approve the School Improvement Teams' (SIT) List of Members. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Approval of Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit the CRP, which includes Title I, Title II, Title IV and IDEA. Jane is available for questions.

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

VOTED: To approve the Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP). In favor: Unanimous.

C. Agreement with Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval, per the memo from Ned Draper dated May 25, 2021, of the agreement with Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) for Substance Abuse Prevention. This was reviewed by legal counsel.

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

VOTED: To approve the Agreement with Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS). In favor: Unanimous.

D. 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. This was also reviewed by legal counsel.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan 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. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained: Day. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

E. School Committee Rules of Conduct – This item was requested by Donna Chambers, Catherine Giusti and David Stall. Jon stated that he felt it was healthy to have this on the agenda to remind the public and School Committee of what is expected. Essentially this is a set of by-laws, reviewed periodically by the Committee, set forth as a way to make meetings more efficient – expectations for what the meetings will be. The Chair has a very important position. The Chair can limit someone's speaking time and works with the Superintendent to develop the agenda. The purpose of Public Forum is to allow someone to speak on an item that is not on that evening's agenda. It is OK to have a brief response to a speaker, but the Committee is under no obligation to respond. This is up to the Chair to decide. He reminded all externally they speak for themselves, not for the body. He works for the body, not individual members. When it comes to a member's request for a legal opinion, this requires a majority vote in favor of the request. He reminded all that they have to follow the Open Meetings Act and to not engage in email chains. If a member has a concern about an employee, the member should speak to the Superintendent as the Superintendent is the person hired to run the District. If a member violates the rules, the Superintendent will notify the Chair. You can censure a School Committee member but he does not recommend censoring motions. The Code of Basic Management Principles was promulgated by General Assembly and applies to every School Committee in the State of Rhode Island. The duty of the Chariho Regional School District Committee is to act in the best interest of students. Preparing policy has become much more important over the last three years. The other duties of the Committee include the budget and hiring/firing of the Superintendent. While there are varying opinions, he recommended that the Committee consider/listen to the Superintendent's recommendations. This does not mean you have to agree with them. Same with legal counsel but the decision ultimately is the Committee's to make. There is a professional development requirement of RI School Committees and that is 6 hours per year. This discussion can count towards that. He advised each member to work with each other and attend as many meetings/events as possible. You should strive for a harmonious working relationship even if you disagree. He again clarified that the Chair is responsible to lay out the agenda in a certain manner; it is not personal, she is just doing her job. Donna thanked Jon for his overview. In the course of her experience on the Committee, there have been a number of violations of this Code/Chain of Command. If a member speaks of an employee in a derogatory manner, can we call them out on it? Jon replied that a point of order can be called and a statement made to the effect that there is a person speaking derogatory about an employee and this matter should be referred to the Superintendent. There are three people who work for you; the Superintendent, legal counsel and the clerk. Donna noted that she plans to laminate these pages and bring them with her to every meeting. Craig was glad that Jon elaborated on the duties/role of the Superintendent and the Chair. When someone requests a "Future Agenda Item", it does not mean it has to be on the next agenda. There are no guarantees that it will be depending on the amount of business that needs to take place. Jon noted that Craig is absolutely correct. Business necessary to make schools work is more important and Chairs have taken this very seriously. Ryan thanked Jon as well. These documents should be provided to new members. Ryan stated once concern on 1D – Rules of Conduct. If a motion is made to move a previous motion, it needs a second and 2/3 vote to move it. There is no debate to move a motion. It is right for the Chair to eliminate someone's right to speak. Jon provided the story behind this. About 8-10 years ago, if someone did not want to hear from a

School Committee members or public, a motion to move would be made. You can't use parliamentary procedure to shut up someone. People should be given two bites at the apple. Catherine appreciated the recap. They look at these at least once a year. It is important for the public to know what the rules are. We are a policy-making board. If we get into a robust conversation during Public Forum, we run the risk of violating OMA. Chair Lyall thanked Jon for his guidance and sage wisdom.

F. ESSER Funding and Next Steps – Ned Draper provided an update and noted that the District did get slightly less in ESSER II funds than anticipated. The ESSER III draft is out. It will be close to July before we see that allocation.

G. Update on Richmond Elementary School Windowsills – This item was requested by Bill Day. The Superintendent noted that she, Ned, Jason and a representative from Martone went to Richmond School to inspect the windowsills. There are 66 of them; six 4' ones and six 8' ones need to be replaced; the remaining will be primed. The cost for replacement is around \$5,250 and with priming the total cost will be around \$19,110.00. She recommended a change order be created so the District can move forward with this project. Donna made a motion, seconded by Ryan, to create a change order in the amount of \$19,110.00 so the District can move forward with this project. Bill questioned the time frame to which Gina replied a few weeks. Bill commented that he had heard they were waiting until they do the roof project and he does not want to wait that long.

Virginia Stracuzzi, from Hopkinton, commented that she had her hand raised and was brushed off for two topics. He heard School Committee members get two chances to speak. She did not know if this was a real rule or not. She wanted everyone to be aware that she had her hand raised. Chair Lyall apologized. It is hard to see everyone; it was her fault.

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To create a change order in the amount of \$19,110.00 so the District can move forward with this project. In favor: Unanimous.

H. Superintendent's Contract – Chair Lyall reported that the conversation in executive session was robust and focused on Gina's contract for the 2022-2023 school year. All are very pleased with her performance and the Committee has agreed to provide Superintendent Picard with a 2.5 % increase with her salary for 2022-2023 at \$159,013. Gina was thanked for the great job she is doing and Gina then thanked the Committee for their continued support.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was

VOTED: To provide Superintendent Picard with a 2.5% increase with her salary for 2022-2023 to be \$159,013.00. In favor: Unanimous.

I. Discussion of In-Person and Virtual Meetings – This item is on the agenda at the request of David Stall and Bill Day. The Superintendent noted that equipment is trickling in and she feels they may be ready to do both in-person and virtual meetings as early as the June meeting if the executive order stands to run both. Bill clarified that the plan is to meet in the High School Library on June 22nd. He is hoping there will be more civility in how members work with each other. He hopes everyone sees fit to meet us there. George noted a concern he has with parking for School Committee members and public especially if there is a sporting event. No one seems to want to address this.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall requested items to be pulled or clarifying questions. Craig pulled A-1, A-2 and A-3; Bill pulled H-1.

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 – Approved.
- C. Bill Review – Accepted.
- D. Budget Summary – None at this time.
- E. Balance Sheet – None at this time.
- F. Personnel Actions (Staff Updates included in FYI)
- 1. Rescinded the non-renewal of contracts for the following:

	First Name	Last Name	FTE as of 9/1/20	Condition(s)
a.	Jacob	Desmarais	1.0	
b.	Grace	Fitch	1.0	RESCIND .4 ONLY
c.	Alexandra	Romano	1.0	RESCIND .2 ONLY
d.	Jennifer	Wimmer	0.8	

- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quotes – None at this time.
- 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 May 11, 2021 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of April 13, 2021 (minutes not sealed). In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained (due to absence): Abbott and Lyall. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 abstentions.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 11, 2021 – NEA ESP Contract Ratification (minutes unsealed May 11, 2021). In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained (due to absence): Abbott and Lyall. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 abstentions.

A-3. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was

VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of May 11, 2021. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained (due to absence): Abbott and Lyall. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 abstentions.

H-1. Permission to Award Contracts – Gina recommended award of the following: Boiler Preventative Maintenance and Repair Bid to Summit Heating Service, Inc., Coventry, RI per the attached memo from Ned Draper dated May 12, 2021. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve this award. Bill questioned if this was once-a-year boiler preventative maintenance or monthly to which Ned replied it is for annual service that occurs each summer plus on-call service. Bill noted a concern with the fact that the CTC cost is the same amount as Charlestown, Richmond, the Middle School and the High School yet the size of the boilers differ. Ned explained that included with the bid is a list of equipment and variations of equipment and pricing. Bill wondered by the CTC would be charged the same as it has the newest boiler; this makes no sense to him as the other four have significantly larger boilers. Ned noted that this was a valid concern but from past district experience and discussion with Mr. Sullivan, this was acceptable so there was no reason to question it.

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

VOTED: To award the Boiler Preventative Maintenance and Repair Bid to Summit Heating Service, Inc., Coventry, RI per the attached memo from Ned Draper dated May 12, 2021. In favor: Unanimous.

X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Anti-Racism Task Force met on May 18, 2021. Enclosed in the packet was a copy of the approved minutes of their meeting on May 5, 2021.
2. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) met on May 13, 2021; a copy of their draft minutes of this meeting was included in the packet.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Kindergarten Enrollment Update – The Superintendent stated that the following are recent registration numbers for K: Ashaway-23; Charlestown-32; Hope Valley-12 and Richmond-53. This will be ongoing until the first day of school.
 2. Spring Events Update – RIDOH and RIDE have provided updated spring event guidance (which includes prom and graduation). We are holding weekly planning sessions for graduation.
- C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Bill wanted to remind everyone that Joe Erardi is coming this Friday to Chariho to discuss school safety; a topic that is near and dear to his heart. It is his personal feeling that all should try to attend the presentation.

George asked if there would be upcoming discussion on whether or not there is any new federal stimulus money for use in our budget or building plans. Chair Lyall asked if George wanted this put on the agenda for discussion or just a report provided. Gina commented that the School Committee will be kept updated on ESSER II and ESSER III funding. ESSER II focuses on curriculum needs. George asked if this would include any building or bond proposals to which Gina responded that it is her understanding the this funding is for COVID mitigation needs – HVAC Systems only.

Craig questioned SIT Teams and the fact that the School Committee does not hire anymore so why are they still responsible for giving pink slips? Jon replied that Unions were willing to give Superintendents more power but not willing to make it easier to give out or take back pink slips.

XII. Adjournment

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To adjourn at 9:35 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk