

Chariho School Committee Meeting  
Regular Session – June 18, 2024

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Catherine Giusti, Vice Chair Karen Reynolds, Kathryn Colasante (arrived at 6:04 PM), Polly Hopkins, Craig Louzon, Linda Lyall, Andrew McQuaide, Larry Phelps, Patricia Pouliot and Jessica Purcell. Absent: Donna Chambers and Tyler Champlin.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, CALA Director Brian Tetreault, CALA Teacher Danielle Bruneau, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian, Middle School Principal Greg Zenion, Ashaway School Principal Jeff Scanapieco, Hope Valley School Principal Joe Gencarelli, STEM Specialist Susie Scanapieco, Assistant Special Education Director Mary Markovitz, Senator Elaine Morgan, Hopkinton Town Council Vice President Scott Bill Hirst, Attorney Jon Anderson 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 and close the meeting to the public under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section (a)(1) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to an individual's job performance or character (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 14, 2024 - Pre-deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to collective bargaining (Memorandum of Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Pertaining to Article 12A – Non-Teaching Duties) 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. Appeal of CTC Admission Denial; 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 14, 2024 - Home Instruction Requests and 3. Approval of Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous (Colasante was not in attendance for the vote).

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

Chair Giusti reconvened the meeting at 7:10 PM and thanked all for their patience. She then asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (Memorandum of Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Pertaining to Article 12A – Non-Teaching Duties) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (Memorandum of Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Pertaining to Article 12A – Non-Teaching Duties) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Unanimous (Colasante was not in attendance for the vote).

2. 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 Linda Lyall 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 (Colasante was not in attendance for the vote).

3. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Appeal of CTC Admission Denial) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was

VOTED: That minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Appeal of CTC Admission Denial) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

#### V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Reynolds reported there were five votes taken in executive session. The first vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 14, 2024 – Pre-Deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts, passed with 8 in favor and 1 abstention with Giusti, Hopkins, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds voting in favor and Louzon abstaining.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 15, 2024 – Home Instruction Requests, passed with 9 in favor with Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds approving.

The third vote, approval of Home Instruction Requests, passed with 9 in favor with Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds approving.

The fourth vote, pertaining to additional review of a CTC admission, passed with 10 in favor with Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds approving.

The last vote, to return to open session, passed with 10 in favor with Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds approving.

VI. Recognition – Superintendent Picard stated she was delighted to see so many recognitions and asked all to please join her in congratulating/thanking the following:

1. Charlestown Town Council for including \$150,000 in the Charlestown Town Budget for a new playground at Charlestown Elementary School and the voters for approving this funding. They plan to have the new playground ready for the start of school in September.

2. 2024-2025 – Retirees: The Superintendent provided a brief statement about each of the following: Certified Staff - Barbara Kelly, Sandra Laub, Bryan Lucas, Laurie Nayman, James Provuncher, Edward Rose, Elizabeth Stearns and Mary Ellen Sposato. Support Staff - Christopher Caldarone, Deborah Dawkins, Marybeth DiMella, Ellen Hoxie, David Kennedy, Pamela Panciera, Patricia Renner, Joseph Souza and Lisa White. Administrators: Nancy Pirnie and Donna Sieczkiewicz.

3. High School Girls' Lacrosse Team – Division II Champions (and Postseason Awards): Kaydence Fusco, Alexis Comella, Evelyn Campbell, Maija Brundage, Lola DosSantos, Lillian Grandolfi, Gabrielle Macaruso (3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-Division and All-Academic), Jezelle Rios (All-Academic), Kylie Hoffman (All-Academic), Aubrey Currier, Lily Jackson (All-Academic), Eiley Simmons, Alexis Korus, Cassidy Petrangelo, Rosie Sposato, Kayden Jaillet (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-State and 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division), Dylan Whitman, Juliana Almeida, Olivia Maderia, Megan Ballard (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Division and All-Academic), Madeline Bayles, Madalyn Burdick, Emily Ballard (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division and All-Academic), Hayden Norris, Genevieve Ogren, Makayla Hill, Ava Laird, Kya Perrin (Sportsmanship Award and All-Academic) and Chaia Elwell (Chaia scored her 200<sup>th</sup> goal on Senior Night (she finished with 214 goals in her High School career) and was named Cardi's Furniture & Mattresses Hometown Sports Hero this week. Postseason Awards: Division II Player of the Year, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division and All-Academic). Head Coach: Brittney Godbout (Division II Coach of the Year). Assistant Coaches: Michael McGuire and Dan LaBelle.

#### 4. Middle School Science Olympiad Winners – Advisor Trisha Whipple

Titus Castrataro and Ian MacInnis	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place in Dynamic Planet
Sean Dorgan and Angelo Guido	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - Fossils
Luke DeFedeale and Cameron Coggeshall	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place for Fast Facts
Luke DeFedeale	Gold for the Science Bowl
Team of: Angelo Guido, Ava Bertrand, Titus Castrataro, Cameron Coggeshall, Brett Creamer, Preston Davis, Sonia Dropek, James Haxton, Tucker McGlinsey, Louis Dancause, Luke DeFedeale, Ian MacInnis, Sean Dorgan, Noah Vandever and Keelan Velander	5 <sup>th</sup> Place at States

5. Chariho Middle School Band - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students Sophia Cotton, Christopher Cubina, Luke DeFedeale, Owen deMelo, Aiden Dugas, Madeline Dutra, Garrett Furlong, Elizabeth Kona, Liam Lafazia-Kennedy, Alexia McCabe, Abigail Nunn, Everett Spencer, Keelan Velander; 7<sup>th</sup> grade students Alaia Biurrun, Madison Brucker, Fiona Buckley, Ashley Collett, Chace Conley, Gabriel Corah, Tynan Cutting, Cody DeFedeale, Allyha Desomma, Anna England, Mindy Evans, Brianna Garcia, Connor Gwaltney, Yoyatche Harris, Zach Hedderich, Sophia Lafond, Sawyer Lyons, Ian MacInnis, Deven Meece, Evan Pariseau, Jack Rapoza, Kellen Smith, Mason Thorp, CJ Vieira, Mia Vieira, Camdyn Ziegenfuss; 6<sup>th</sup> grade students Caylee Durning, Robert Kenyon, Skye McCabe, Emily Nunn, Willow Piermont, Emma Tutko; 5<sup>th</sup> grade students Evan Biurrun, Clare Cutting; Taps: Ian MacInnis and Kellen Smith) participated in both the Hope Valley and Carolina Memorial Day parades and did a wonderful job. Thanks to Band Advisor Chuck Johnson, Assistant Advisor Ian Rondeau, parents and teachers – it was a true effort by all who participated in these back-to-back events.

6. Chariho Middle School Baseball – Southern Division Champs (undefeated). They won the Tournament Opener but were defeated in the quarterfinals. Team members: Domenic Andrade, Jameson Aptt, Colin Calner, Tanner Cassidy, Leo Clarke, Riley Conroy, Mason Costa, Michael Dachowski, Preston Davis, Brody DeVoe, Drew Gordon, Parker Gray, Jacob Holland, Ethan Jeannenot, Daniel Kocab, Lucas Lindsay, Owen McKeen, Sean O’Leary, Evan Pariseau, Logan Pepler, Joseph Stracuzzi, Camdyn Ziegenfuss. Head Coach Mike Dachowski; Assistant Coaches John Pellegrino and Jensen Orewiler.

7. Jackson Nickerson finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the shot put and turbo javelin; Reid McCann took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the turbo javelin; Leo Haxton finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 3000 and the Middle School Boys’ Team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Middle School State Track and Field Championships at Johnston High School.

8. Meriden Alge finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 400 and 800 (setting a pair of personal bests); Lily McCann took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 800; Lily McCann, Aila Grant, Claire Toscano and Meriden Alge finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4x400 relay and the Middle School Girls’ Team finished 6<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School State Track and Field Championships at Johnston High School.

9. Hope Valley students participated in the Math Olympiad for Elementary and Middle Schools (MOEMS). Hope Valley’s team consisted of the following: Grade 2 – Lydia LaPlume, Rowan Porter, Bowen McGuire, Adrian Pettigrew; Grade 3 – Jocelyn Vandever, Brody Lynch, Reid Palumbo, Cole Woodard, Hailey Lucas, Peyton Lemery, Dillon Stracuzzi; Grade 4 – Sebastian Sherzer, Billy Clarke, Owen LaFountain, Caden Cahoon, Abby Howland, Maggie Roland. They competed against students from across the country in monthly math contests from November to March. After completing the contests, they received scores on how their students performed. The statistics listed below are based on national percentages:

Top 20%	Sebastian Sherzer (highest scorer on the HVES team)
Top 30%	Billy Clarke, Owen LaFountain, Caden Cahoon, Abby Howland, Maggie Roland
Top 40%	Brody Lynch, Cole Woodard
Top 50%	Bowen McGuire, Adrian Pettigrew

While all of these achievements are outstanding, it is impressive to note that two 2<sup>nd</sup> graders (Bowen and Adrian) ranked in the top 50% of student who participated. Traditionally, MOEMS participants are 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. We are so proud of how hard these students worked.

10. High School Freshman Adrianna Jeannenot recorded her 200<sup>th</sup> strike-out of the season in the May 20, 2024 9-1 Division I victory over Smithfield. She finished with a total of 260 strike-outs for her freshman year.

11. High School Softball advanced into the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Division I Tournament Winners' Bracket with a 2-0 victory over Coventry. They were defeated by East Greenwich 1-0 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the winners' bracket. Postseason Awards: Adrianna Jennerot (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division and 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State), Maddie Dorgan (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Division), Emma Kocab (3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-Division) and Kaitlyn Daniels (Honorable Mention).

12. High School Boys' Lacrosse Postseason Awards: Nate Ballard (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division Attack and Academic All-State. He holds the record for the most Chariho goals in a career with 128 goals. He finished his career with 184 points which is also a new school record), Jackson Hernandez (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Division Offensive Midfield and Academic All-State), Grayson Snyder (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Division Defense and Academic All-State); Cole Jennings, Evan Harley, Shea O'Brien and Hudson Juenger (Academic All-State).

High School Baseball Postseason Awards: Darren Clarke (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-League, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Division); Gavin Apice (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-League); and Adam Carpenter (3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-League).

13. Ian Dunham and Jesse Desarro both won their individual matches in the top two positions with 3-over-par 39s on the front nine at Point Judith Country Club to share medalist honors in a Southern Division Tri-Meet. Ian Dunham shot a 2-over-par 73 on the first day of the State Golf Championships at Cranston Country Club. He was tied for third, one shot behind the leader. He finished 15<sup>th</sup> in the State. At the Division II Championship match at Winnipaug Country Club, Ian was the medalist winner shooting 3 under par with Chariho finishing in third place out of twelve teams.

14. At the High School Girls' Junior Varsity State Track and Field Championships at Conley Stadium in Providence, Allison Cole finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the triple jump and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the long jump; Lindsay Maine won the high jump and Lidia Taber placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100.

15. High School Girls' Track and Field: The team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall at the Class B Championships at West Warwick High School. Erin von Housen won two events and her 1<sup>st</sup> place time (4:38.04) in the 1500 broke the previous meet mark set by Portsmouth's Nikki Merrill in 2019 (4:38.46). Emily Brown won the high jump, placed second in the 300 hurdles and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 hurdles. Jules White was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the javelin and Lily Baxter finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the triple jump. Lily Baxter, Lidia Taber, Sonja Beasley and Erin von Housen finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4x400. Weeko Thompson was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the shot put, Elle Clark took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the long jump; Sonja Beasley and Lily Baxter were 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in the high jump.

At the Mt. Pleasant Invitational Girls' Track and Field Meet at Conley Stadium Emily Brown won the 300 hurdles and Erin von Housen took the 800. Lily Baxter finished fifth in the triple jump and Lidia Taber, Sonja Beasley, Allison Cole and von Housen were 5<sup>th</sup> in the 4 x 400 relay.

Chariho Girls' Track and Field Team finished fifth overall with a pair of school records set at the State Championship Meet at Conley Stadium. Erin von Housen won two individual events, breaking her own school mark in the 800 (2:13.54) and was 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1500. Emily Brown set a school mark with her 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the 300 hurdles (45.71) breaking the mark held by Mary Serdakowski (45.8) set in 2002. She also was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 300 hurdles and 5<sup>th</sup> in the high jump. Sonja Beasley set a new school mark in the high jump (5-4) and she, Lidia Taber, Emily Brown and Erin von Housen finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the 4x400 meter relay for their best time of the season. Elle Clark placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the 100 hurdles.

16. High School Boys' Track and Field: The team finished 8<sup>th</sup> overall at the Class B Championships at West Warwick High School. Eli Sposato won the 200 in a time of 21.95 that broke the previous state mark (23.00) set by Lincoln High's Aiden Fletcher in 2021 and Eli finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 400 with a time of 48.58 that broke the mark (50.71) set in 2021 by Portsmouth's John Madeke. Eli is the first in school history to break 50 seconds in the 400 and he has accomplished that several times this spring. Jared Peltier took 4<sup>th</sup> in the 800.

Chariho Boys' Track and Field Team finished eighth overall at the State Championship Meet at Conley Stadium. Eli Sposato won a pair of state titles. He set a new school and state mark in the 200 (21.44) and set another school mark in the 400 (47.85). Ethan McCann, Tom Golas, Isaac Graham and Jared Peltier finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 4x800.

17. High School Track and Field Postseason Awards: The Girls' Team finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the State which is the highest scoring finish in school history. Sonja Beasley (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State in the high jump with a new school record of 5'4"); Emily Brown (earned All-State honors in the 300 meter and 100 meter hurdles – she set a new school record in the 300 hurdles with a time of 45.71); Erin von Housen (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State 800 meter and 1500 meter run); Eli Sposato (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State in the 200 meter dash and 400 meter run).

## VII. Public Forum

Chair Giusti stated it is time for our Public Forum and because we ran a little late, she would just like to explain the process to everyone so no one misses their opportunity. One of the reasons we ask you to put down what you're speaking about is to make sure it is not an agenda item so Public Forum is for things that are not on our agenda. Mr. Pearson, you are talking about the Health Curriculum that's on our agenda so she asked him to wait on his comments until we reach that agenda item and then he will certainly have an opportunity to speak. The procedure here is to have a person sign their name if they wish to speak at Public Forum. Is there anyone here who would like to speak but did not have an opportunity to sign up? Seeing no hands, she continued. Our policy states you will have between 2-4 minutes to speak. We have had that policy broken in the past and she apologized for this; she should not have allowed it and will not allow it this evening. Each person will be given 2-4 minutes as the policy states for your comments. She has asked Mrs. Reynolds to keep time so she will let you know when you have about 30 seconds to end your comments; then when your 4 minutes are up so that someone else will have an opportunity to speak. Chris Kona from Richmond is first.

Mr. Kona introduced himself and stated that he wanted to speak about the rising threat from Moms for Liberty of Rhode Island. These people have been coming up to School Committee meetings espousing fear over some concerns that change from year to year. Their arguments are based on misinformation and threatening tactics. They are trying to bully the town members and School Committee members. They are way too vile in their discussions; they are trying to scare you. He wanted to remind the Committee that the goal of Moms for Liberty is to undermine and destroy the effectiveness of School Committees. They are a conspiracy designed to take away the ability to protect Chariho School students and support the Chariho parents in the kind of education we want our children to get. He wanted to reinforce that their values and goals are not shared by Chariho parents. Those of us who have children in Chariho Schools want them to be educated in a safe environment and he would encourage the School Committee to not be distracted by potential liberty speakers and their intent to destroy what our kids presently have – one of the best educations they can get in Rhode Island. Thank you.

Dianne Tefft from Hopkinton was next on the list. She chose not to speak at this time so the next person, Sean from Cranston, was called to speak. He stated he has two jobs; he works as a neuroscientist and cultural anthropologist. He is here because a lot of School Committees, specifically now, are trying to understand how cowards operate in a school system and how people respond to them. One of the things you can do for yourself is to not take his word for it but, if the topic comes up like Chris talked about – when someone is trying to explain things that are going on in your schools (i.e. gender identity, race or things like that), he would urge them to do what he would do as an anthropologist. He would go and do field work. Go and sit with the kids. See how they talk to each other. See what they think and then come back and have a discussion about it. Sure, bring in any statistics because that is what he does as a neuroscientist so he understands. But what makes this community a real community is that you listen to each other. He urged all to do that; listen to each other. Thank you.

Louise Dinsmore from Richmond introduced herself and stated that she is also the President of the Forgotten Taxpayers locally in the community. So during the bond debate, there was a mailing that went out to voters in Richmond with a picture of an elementary classroom with water on the floor. There was a caption in that mailing that said something to the effect of "kids don't deserve to learn in puddles" and she couldn't agree more with that statement. The voters were informed that Richmond Elementary School had a flooding problem so on May 17<sup>th</sup> she sent an email to

Superintendent Picard and Ned Draper asking for a meeting with them along with Clay Johnson and herself as they, too, believe that students and staff deserve dry learning spaces. The day before she sent the email, Richmond also experienced considerable rain and she was concerned that the students and staff may be subjected to flooding and a disruptive learning day. So in the email to Superintendent Picard, she asked, “was there flooding that took place at Richmond Elementary School the day prior, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and what was the short-term plan she might be addressing to the School Committee to address the Richmond Elementary School flooding issue. Why does the flooding problem exist? What steps have been taken to mitigate the problem and, if the problem still exists, what’s the approximate cost to fix it and the timeline to fix it? Her email went on to say that Clay Johnson and she intended to run for School Committee in the fall and they said, or she said in the email “We seek a partnership to move Chariho forward; a partnership that balances the best interests of the District, its students and faculty and administration while also representing what’s fair to the local Richmond taxpayers. There has to be a non-divisive, happy medium in defining what a partnership looks like for the future. We’re reaching out to seek that happy medium.” The Superintendent wrote back and said, “Louise, we would be happy to address your questions during Public comment” so that is why she is here tonight asking that question. She also heard, in the past, the Superintendent say publicly that she would be willing to meet with anyone and that her door is always open. So in an email that she sent to – she sent a Public Records Request following that and she asked the following questions. What were the dates, since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, that Richmond Elementary School had experienced flooding in the classrooms and she was told December 29, 2023 (due to rain), January 10, 24 (due to rain), April 12<sup>th</sup> (because of a water line leak). She also asked if there were any messages received in email or written communication to any member of the Chariho School administration from any current School Committee members inquiring about flooding or safety issues or safe, warm and dry issues in Richmond Elementary School and she was told that these records were exempt from being shared in accordance with a general law – she won’t read the number of the law because she is time-limited, and that correspondence of or to elected officials with or relating to those they represent or correspondence to or from elected officials in their official capacities were exempt from being shared. She also asked in the Public Records Request if there were any messages received in email or written communication to any member of the administration from any current School Committee member asking about next steps relative to mitigating the flooding issues at Richmond Elementary School and the response she received back was (Karen Reynolds noted she had 30 seconds remaining) the same thing that this couldn’t be shared. So she guesses she is asking, at this point, if there are any current Richmond School Committee members that would be willing to share with them and the public, in the spirit of transparency, if they have submitted any correspondence to the Superintendent, Mr. Draper, Sharon Martin inquiring about the status of flooding or the status of cost to repair Richmond Elementary School so the flooding could be mitigated and she noted she was finished. So she doesn’t know if the current School Committee members could answer that question here or if they can’t answer it here, she would love to have that information so she will share her email address which is [ldinsmore16@yahoo.com](mailto:ldinsmore16@yahoo.com). She would just be interested to know if any of the Richmond School Committee members had taken a leadership position on this issue. Thank you.

Goldie Williams from Richmond wanted to talk about the curriculum. She was wondering if Chariho has any pro-Palestinian or anti-Israel in its curriculum. Do you have any illegal immigrants, she can say this because both her parents came here legally, in our schools that we’re paying taxes for? If Mr. Kona’s worried about the school, why didn’t he stop the bullying in the RYSE program when her son was here? Thank you.

Robert Chiaradio from Westerly – before his time starts – wanted to congratulate Donna. It’s a long way from the Pleasant View House in 1976. He is here this evening as part of his statewide mission to speak at all 36 School Committee meetings to inform the Committee and everybody here and watching at home that no district is obligated to comply with RIDE’s misleading and untruthful Transgender Guidance Policy or the illegal hijacking of Title IX. RIDE’s guidance is not law. This Committee knows this yet it continues to support a policy which discriminates against 99% of this District’s population. Under this guidance, boys identifying as girls are allowed to use the same bathrooms and locker rooms as girls, compete against girls athletically and room with girls on

overnight field trips. Teachers are compelled to utilize pronouns as per the student's social identity and there is no mandate that the school inform parents should their child decide to socially transition in school. This must change and it is beginning to. Just last week the American College of Pediatricians issued a statement calling on all major medical associations to and he quotes "immediately end promotion of social affirmation, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgeries for children and adolescents who experience distress with their biological sex." You can see the full statement and video on [acpeds.org](http://acpeds.org). Numerous other countries have already stopped these barbaric practices. Your Title IX Policy is inaccurate. It parrots the current administration's hijacking of this law. Title IX was adopted in 1972 to protect women from discrimination based on sex, not men who identify as women. That is not the same thing. Nowhere in Title IX is gender or sexual identity mentioned. Not only did the Biden Administration's illegal rewrite and hijacking of Title IX, as well as RIDE's current guidance not prevent discrimination based on sex, they mandate it. Boys do not belong competing with girls athletically. It is unfair and unsafe for our girls. Both of these policies put all of our young people, especially our girls, in uncomfortable and unsafe situations. He hopes that Chariho parents will not accept this. Twenty states are currently suing the Biden Administration over Title IX, ten successfully thus far with six more yesterday, and citing the exact reasons he mentioned earlier. And many, if not all of these, will win. Others will join. Those who don't and districts that don't will doubtlessly be sued by their own residents and families. Your choice. And every single one of these families, with kids affected by your Trans and Title IX Policies, will have standing in court. One cannot legally seek to protect a segment of the population while simultaneously discriminating against the other, in this case, the remaining 99% of Chariho students. The Westerly School Committee's new policy will right the wrongs he mentioned earlier. Your new policy must do the same. To be clear, no matter how much a boy acts like a girl, wants to be a girl (Karen Reynolds noted he has 30 seconds remaining), thinks he's a girl, he will never be a girl. Same with girls identifying as boys. This is not an indictment of these kids; this is fact. Following Westerly's lead in writing your own policy would make certain that Chariho's kids get the safety and privacy they all need and deserve. Get this on your agenda within the next thirty days and draft a new policy. We will hold this Committee and this District's leadership accountable. God Bless the families of Richmond, Charlestown and Hopkinton and God Bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

Scott Bill Hirst from Hopkinton introduced himself and noted he is a graduate of the Chariho Class of 1971. He wanted to salute Donna – she was a few years behind him in school and that class also produced Ronnie Newman who served a couple of terms on the Richmond Town Council. His concern is the Chariho Act in regard to the elementary schools. The elementary schools are leased to the Chariho School District for a dollar and the Chariho Act requires the School District to maintain them. In the talk about returning Hope Valley School to the Town of Hopkinton, he is very concerned, specifically, because of the condition of that building and what work the Town of Hopkinton will have if that building is turned over to them. He expects the Chariho Act to be complied with in spirit and the Town of Hopkinton spends 79% of its town tax dollars on Chariho. Our neighboring town of Richmond spends 80% and Charlestown much less. So we have to start following the Chariho Act, the spirit of the Chariho Act, and he would also hope that they work together more. We won't agree on everything. And before he sits down, he will say that they did make a motion to adjourn in honor of the Chariho Class of 2024 at their Town Council meeting as well as all graduates from Hopkinton including home schooled. He was there at graduation and he salutes the class. He is proud to be a Chariho graduate but he doesn't agree with a lot of stuff that goes on over here. He is here out of respect to his community that elected him as a leader and also as an alumni of Chariho. Thank you.

Kim Coulter was next on the list; she passed. Abby McGuire from Hopkinton stated that she just wanted to ask, she doesn't think it is possible this year but to consider in future years, a possible evaluation of incoming kindergartners. She knows other districts do this the first three or four days of the school year, evaluating them for any behavioral or academic needs. She thinks this could possibly help with teacher burn-out and also to help level out the classrooms a little. Chair Giusti thanked all.

## VIII. Business

A. CALA Presentation of Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) and Allocation – Superintendent Picard stated that Brian Tetreault and Katie Kirakosian will provide an overview. She recommended approval to submit the Comprehensive School Improvement Grant for CALA to RIDE’s Office of School Improvement in the amount of \$138,661.70 for the period August 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew, to submit the Comprehensive School Improvement Grant for CALA to RIDE’s Office of School Improvement in the amount of \$138,661.70 for the period August 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Brian wanted to let everyone know that all 15 eligible seniors at CALA all earned a diploma. He presented a power point that highlighted CALA’s priorities and initiatives. He noted his appreciation to the staff who find ways in which to engage all students and what is important to each one. He shared testimonials from parents and Gina also shared just one of the many she receives. Brian stated that CALA today is not what it was four years ago. The stigma has changed and it is amazing to see what happens there each day. He was excited to announce the new clinical service model and the collaboration with New England Psychological Solutions. He then reviewed growth data and noted the numbers are on the rise. Katie reviewed the CSIP allocation and the budget that was provided in the packet. Andrew stated he had two comments. The first was the very notable work CALA is doing on project-based learning and best practices for all students. His second comment is that he would like to recommend that this be done across the District. We need to advance CALA’s learning models in our other school. These set students up for success and there are many educators across the District who could use these strategies. CALA is clearly out in front so please find this opportunity for other educators. Linda noted that she has had the honor of working with the dedicated CALA staff. They have become a model for all schools across the states. Chair Giusti echoed the praise. We are very fortunate to have CALA and she is proud of the work the staff and students have done. Seeing 15 student walk across the stage at graduation was rewarding. A lot of good is being done at Chariho and she hopes it is being noticed by our community. Brian thanked all but stated the credit goes to the staff and students.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was

VOTED: To submit the Comprehensive School Improvement Grant for CALA to RIDE’s Office of School Improvement in the amount of \$138,661.70 for the period August 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Grant Requests – Superintendent Picard stated that Katie Kirakosian will present the following grant requests and she recommended approval of both:

1. Champlin Foundation - Renovation of the Chariho Middle School Library – Katie stated that it was a pleasure working with the Middle School librarian. The focus of this grant will be a teen center where they can bring in STEM classes as well as ELA so they can give back to the community. They would like to connect science in creative ways (i.e. a grow tower).

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was

VOTED: To approve submission of a grant request to the Champlin Foundation for renovation of the Middle School Library in the amount of \$86,037.46. In favor: Unanimous.

2. Department of Energy’s Renew America’s Schools Prize – Gina noted that she is proud to say that Chariho was one of the ‘lead by example school districts’ at the State House. Jessica wanted to confirm that there was no cost to the District to which Katie explained that Phase I is 100% covered with no cost match. Polly asked if this will overlap with the campus bond to which Gina explained that the bond is to access funding so we don’t defer things that need to be maintained. Grant funding must be specific to the grant. We have to show how we are spending the money. Ned added that the initial prize provides technical capacity research (i.e. projects we want to do like replacing boilers at the Middle School). This grant will be used for the higher up front cost for technology. The advantage is that we can discuss/research new technology without the cost. Karen asked if this is across the District or just the campus to which Ned noted it is for the District.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve submission of the Department of Energy's Renew America's Schools Prize grant, in the amount of \$300,000 for FY25 Phase I, to assemble a project team and facility portfolio for potential energy improvements to our school facilities. In favor: Unanimous.

C. USDA Project SCALES (Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems) Grant Conflict of Interest Policy – Superintendent Picard stated that Katie Kirakosian presented this Grant, in the amount of \$149,043 (over 27 months) at the February 15, 2024 Meeting and it was approved. The Goals of this Grant, inspired by Susie Scanapieco's CALA Entrepreneurship Students, are to increase locally grown foods in school meals, increase space efficiency in cafeterias, decrease student food waste and increase student nutrition security. Both she and legal counsel recommend that you approve adoption of this policy to apply only to this grant.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To adopt the USDA Project SCALES (Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems) Grant Conflict of Interest Policy which applies to this grant only. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Better Climate Challenge – United States Department of Energy (USDoE) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval for the District to partner with the USDoE. USDoE will provide technical support in the identification of resources to reduce energy/greenhouse gas from our operations and costs. Specifically, this collaboration is an opportunity for the District to enhance our grant applications for both federal and private funding by learning the proper alignment of our needs to the goals of USDoE and others that may provide grant funding. There is no cost to the District for this service. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. Linda requested an example of how this would work. Gina noted this is similar to the one for electricity – they are offering more assistance by providing us with support and resources. Katie added this is a benefit to us for having applied to other grants. Gina and Ned will attend workshops. Gina stated that not only are you maintaining your facilities but you are doing an excellent job at it. Polly commented that she didn't like this grant. How much of the commitment can we meet? The way it is worded – she is not excited about it. It appears there are a lot of hoops to jump through. Katie noted that Polly is referencing the previous grant. There is no money involved. Polly then clarified that this one has a lot of data collection. Kathryn wanted to ensure that this did not tie them to a commitment. Katie replied there is nothing punitive if we don't reach the benchmark to which Gina added that they are looking to help us better use tax dollars. Ned stated this is really getting us in a position for other funding sources; technical expertise in place. There is no obligation and it is financially good for us.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To grant approval for the District to partner with the USDoE. USDoE will provide technical support in the identification of resources to reduce energy/greenhouse gas from our operations and costs. In favor: Colasante, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds. Opposed: Hopkins and Phelps. The motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed.

E. K-12 Health Curriculum Revision – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to the K-12 Health Curriculum. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew, to approve the revision to the K-12 Health Curriculum. Susie Scanapieco thanked the team she worked with on this revision and reviewed a few of the differences between the old one and the new one. The new one is now outlined by grade and she reviewed the standards for all grades; we will follow all eight standards in one way or another. Kathryn stated that she reviewed the plan with Dr. Comella and asked if a family is interested in more concepts, can they get lesson plans. Dr. Comella explained that the family can reach out to the teacher and get a design of their plan but there are no "lesson plans". Gina explained that everyone is given the plan. Lesson plans are not serving students; they are serving paper. Karen asked if there is still an 'opt-out' form for families. Gina replied that letters are sent out to families (and are located on the website). Parents are given options for every curricula so it is not really an 'opt-out'. Jessica stated that she liked the essential questions,

critical thinking and how it was done grade by grade. How did you determine what is age appropriate (i.e. puberty in 5<sup>th</sup> grade – she feels this is a little late)? Susie explained that they work with the school nurses and if they need to bring this topic up sooner, they will. There are singular situations and the nurse will take care of those. Goldie questioned sensory integration/texture avoidance to which Susie noted this is just a sample. There are units about healthy eating and disorders. Eric Pearson from Richmond noted his youngest graduated in 2008. He was on the District Curriculum Review Committee and he voted against this. While this revised document is much better organized, it does not explain how sensitive issues would be discussed (i.e. sexual activity). He felt the curriculum needed to be more explicit. He congratulated Susie on all her work. Susie explained that this is a straight-forward document – age appropriate. Teachers have shown Mr. Pearson that this is based on science. Teachers will tell students, if a conversation on perspective comes up, “that is a discussion for home.” Kathryn asked if there was anything in the policy that states this to which Susie responded that they stick to the standards for that class. Gina added that they remain neutral and just state the facts. Kathryn commented that Dr. Comella did state this and she thinks that is wonderful. She is happy to hear it but would be happier to see it written. Gina noted that she has never received a concern from any parent about what is being taught. Our teachers are very good with sticking to the curriculum. Chair Giusti added that there are things happening in other places so people assume it is happening here. She always asks those people who “hear something” for an example and she doesn’t get a response. Louise Dinsmore had a question for Susie. She referenced Tiara Mack (pleasure based sex education). She doesn’t think this bill passed. Is there anything that you feel is age inappropriate material? Susie replied that based on reading the standards and the curriculum that goes with it, she feels it is age appropriate material. Students do bring this up but it is because they have more access to information on social media now than ever before. It is amazing to see how our teachers diffuse these situations. The material is standards-based and age appropriate.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was

VOTED: To approve the revised K-12 Health Curriculum. In favor: Unanimous (Hopkins was not in attendance for the vote).

F. Consolidated Resource Plan – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit the CRP, which includes Title I, Title II, Title IV and IDEA. Jess requested more detail for the public so Dr. Comella reviewed each component and what the funding is allocated for. Gina noted that it is important that we follow the guidelines for this funding or the federal government will take the money away.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was

VOTED: To submit the Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP) which includes Title I, Title II, Title IV and IDEA. In favor: Unanimous.

G. Review and Authorization to Pay Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton Special Election Bills – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to pay Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton Special Election Bills and Attorney fees totaling \$20,355.01 which is over the \$15,000 that was budgeted for the Building Committee with the additional amount of \$5,355.01 (over the \$15,000 that was allocated) coming from fund balance. The Building Committee has initially approved those bills which were received before their last meeting on May 16, 2024. As they have no legal charge, you will need to approve them. Andrew made a motion, seconded by Craig, to approve payment of these bills. Larry asked if the Building Committee was kaput to which Gina replied “yes”. Building Committees are only involved with new buildings, not renovations. Kathryn asked if the fee was over because of the mail ballots and early voting. Gina felt that this was the main reason for the increased cost. Louise Dinsmore reviewed what each town submitted and questioned the discrepancy in each town’s total. Gina explained that the Richmond Clerk took the responsibility of posting the ad in the paper and the others each assumed different things like the printing of ballots. Louise asked if, in the future, the District will say to the towns you only have ‘X’ amount to spend so don’t go over. Gina responded that the District does not have the ability to tell the towns what they can spend. We can’t tell them how many poll workers to hire. Louise suggested a letter be sent to the towns to which

Gina explained that she has the ability to pay bills before the School Committee approves them but she wanted the Committee to approve these so they are aware of what the cost was. The towns run the election and they don't always know how many mail-in ballots they will have to send or how many people will choose to take advantage of early voting. Louise felt the towns have more specificity when putting this forth. Gina replied, in fairness to them, there was no background for them. This was new. The Towns of Richmond and Hopkinton have submitted bills to the District for the All-Day Referendum; Charlestown has never submitted a bill. Unlike the All-Day Referendum, this election included mail-in ballots and early voting which added to the cost.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was  
VOTED: To authorize the District to pay Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton Special Election Bills that were submitted for payment. In favor: Unanimous.

H. Rhode Island Department of Education Memorandum of Agreement School Construction – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and the Chariho Regional School Committee/District for approved school construction projects which include renovations and repairs to the High School, CTC and Middle School. Approval is needed so the District may receive Housing Aid Reimbursement. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Linda, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. Larry noticed that the amount is the same amount as the \$15 million plan you put forward to which Gina explained this is the same one – the \$15 million bond. There are no changes to which Chair Giusti added this is the next step. Polly asked for clarification as there was some misunderstanding. Chair Giusti stated that she hasn't heard there was any misunderstanding so she is not sure what needs to be clarified. Gina informed all that if they go online to the Capital Improvement Plan, this is what this is. This was built into the first bond that didn't pass. This has to go to RIDE so that we can get Housing Aid reimbursement. The bond is allocating dollars to meet the needs of the District for maintenance.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was  
VOTED: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and the Chariho Regional School Committee/District for approved school construction projects which include renovations and repairs to the High School, CTC and Middle School so the District may receive Housing Aid reimbursement. In favor: Unanimous.

I. Review of Past Capital Planning Initiatives and Direction on Next Steps as they Relate to Elementary School Planning and the Phase-Out of Hope Valley Elementary School – Gina provided an overview of the facility planning the District has done. She went back to 1975 and provided slides of all the projects the District has put forth for approval. The slides will be on the website after tonight. In 1975, the elementary schools were run by the towns. There was overcrowding in the Jr. Sr. High School. In 1976 the State began to intervene and threatened to remove accreditation. The three towns were in disagreement and in 1977 the District moved to double sessions and lost its accreditation. Transportation costs doubled. In 1982 an attempt was made for a bond for \$5.5 million to alleviate the overcrowding and Charlestown began looking at ways to remove itself from Chariho. Other options were reviewed and everything had higher costs than the \$5.5 million. In 1986 the District was fully regionalized K-12. In 2003 a Building Committee determined that Hope Valley School would be returned to the town but this did not pass. Phase II included a complete renovation of the High School at \$42 million. As part of this review, the Town Councils would create town committees to discuss elementary options. She cannot find where this ever occurred. From 2005-2008 Barry Ricci had a plan for three new lower elementary schools for \$57 million. Gina shared the "Quick Facts" that promoted the plan but this did not move. Next was the Campus 2010 plan which separated the bonds; one was for the High School plan, one for the Middle School plan and one for RYSE (now CALA) at a reimbursement rate of 56%. Voters approved the High School and Middle School plans but rejected the RYSE plan. In 2015 RYSE was rebranded CALA after the bond for a new building was approved. The District wanted to ensure that misinformation was not getting out to the public. There were never any elementary school bonds that were approved yet the voters in each town, Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton, approved the bond for the State funding

of construction projects. In 2019, a newer/fewer concept was revealed. She was not here then. Ryan Callahan was Chair and Craig and Catherine were both on the Committee. The Necessity for School Construction Committee reviewed three options; one large school, one elementary school in each town, and renovations to existing schools. They met with Town Councils for feedback. The architect put forth the one school option which would provide more efficiency but this became known as “the factory in the field” to some community members. Many were not in favor of one large elementary school. We were then involved in litigation with the architect so the process never proceeded and COVID hit. In January 2023, we were up and running again to hopefully take care of the aging elementary schools. A bond was put forth in May and was defeated. We are not doing anything new. The bond that is being put forth now is to access dollars for the campus facility needs. We have to pay the architect to do a five-year capital plan. We heard people were more interested in doing renovations so if the bond passes, we can use local dollars for the elementary schools. Thanks to the support from Rep. Cotter, Rep. Spears, Rep. Kennedy and Senator Gu, we were able to get the bond through on the last day. If we are looking for a November vote in 2026, it is important to get the conversation going so she will put this item on each agenda to keep it moving. We can’t be more transparent than that. Hope Valley is old and does not have the footprint for expansion. We have the room at Richmond to build around it. Please think about the elementary schools. State law calls out who can be on the Necessity for School Construction team so this will be on the next agenda. In FY2026 Hope Valley School will not have any first grade or kindergarten unless the School Committee chooses to ask for something different. Her recommendation is a slow phase-out but if the budget needs to be at zero, the School Committee may have to move quicker. She is not looking for any decisions, she just wants to get the discussion going. Andrew thanked her for setting the table.

J. Budget Transfers – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Transfers for June 18, 2024.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was  
VOTED: To approve the Transfers for June 18, 2024. In favor: Unanimous.

K. FY24 Budget Update – The Superintendent acknowledged Ned for putting together a wonderful memo. Ned noted that the situation hasn’t changed much; healthcare is still trending up – he was hoping it would stable out but it didn’t. Kathryn questioned what the capital improvements are that are noted on pages 1 and 2 to which Ned responded HVAC and repairs - \$30,000 allocated to each school. RIDE won’t allow this anymore (i.e. we submit a piece of an HVAC project at \$30,000 – this is not allowed so we have to identify each project). Kathryn asked if Ned could email them with what each one is. Gina stated that she can add this to the Friday update.

L. Memorandum of Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Pertaining to Article 12A – Non-Teaching Duties – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho pertaining to Article 12A – Non-Teaching Duties.

Linda Lyall made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was  
VOTED: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho pertaining to Article 12A – Non-Teaching Duties. In favor: Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds. Abstained: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

#### IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Giusti asked if there were any items to be pulled. Kathryn pulled E-1 as she needed to recuse from voting on this. Craig acknowledged the donations and thanked the donors.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was  
VOTED: To approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. In favor: Unanimous.

A. Minutes – Approved the following:

1. Executive Session Minutes of May 14, 2024 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of April 9, 2024 (minutes not sealed).
2. Executive Session Minutes of May 14, 2024 - Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and Chariho Education Support Professionals pertaining to the June 19<sup>th</sup> Holiday (minutes unsealed May 14, 2024).
3. Executive Session Minutes of May 14, 2024 - Revision to Articles 13 and 14 of the Certified Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement (minutes unsealed May 14, 2024).
4. Regular Session Minutes of May 14, 2024.
5. Regular Session Minutes of May 21, 2024.
6. Regular Session Minutes of June 3, 2024.

B. Bill Review – Accepted.

C. Personnel Actions – Approved rescinding the non-renewals of the following:

First Name	Last Name	FTE as of 9/1/23
Diane	Paolino	0.5
Susan	Prior	1.0
Tina	Noble	1.0

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

1. RFP for Floor Refinishing in the CTC Automotive Shop
2. FY25 Water Quality and Well Operations Services for Public Water Systems
3. FY25 Architecture and Design Services – RIDE Stage II, III and IV - \$15M Campus Projects

E. Permission to Award Contracts – Awarded the following:

2. CTC Building Sections A and G Roof Replacement to Commercial Roofing and Contracting, Putnam, CT in the amount of \$344,000 which does not include abatement.

F. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

G. Grants – None at this time.

H. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Riverhead Building Supply, Richmond (Kevin Muse) of \$423.31 in supplies; donation of paint supplies and wood stain, totaling \$65.00, from Ace Hardware, Wyoming RI and donation of two gallons of paint from Sherwin Williams in Westerly, RI for the Richmond School Teachers' Room remodeling project.
2. Anonymous donation of \$150.00 to Richmond Elementary School student lunch accounts for families in need.
3. Donation from Earth Care Farm, Charlestown, RI for their "in kind donation" of \$552.00 (Discount of 20% for 30 yards of raised bed mix) to the Richmond Elementary School Gardens and Greenhouse projects.
4. Donation from WE DIG/Wilcox Construction (Paul Wilcox), South Kingstown, RI of \$350.00 (they waived their delivery fee of the raised bed mix from Earth Care Farm) to the Richmond Elementary School Gardens and Greenhouse projects.

E-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was

VOTED: To award the FY25 Contract for Paving of Lower Bowl and Pavement Repairs on the Main Campus to D'Ambra Construction per Rhode Island Master Price Agreement (RI MPA) #381 vendor contract and work order addressed to Jason Sullivan in the amount of \$99,500.00 (if the work is performed all at one time). In favor: Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot, Purcell and Reynolds. Recused: Colasante. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 recusal.

X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Building Committee met on May 16, 2024. The minutes from this meeting were included in the packet.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Graduation was held on Friday, June 7, 2024 at the URI Ryan Center. She thanked the team as it was meticulously planned and congratulated all.

2. District Transportation Update – A reminder will go out to all families letting them know that they have to register yearly for transportation. Parents who register late may not get transportation for up to two weeks after they register if it means rerouting buses.
  3. Kindergarten Registration and New Registration Update – We have 40 registered for K at Ashaway (2 classes of 20 each); 51 registered for Charlestown (3 classes of @17 per class); and 75 registered for Richmond (4 classes at @18 or 19 per class) for a total of 166 K registrations. We are right where we thought we would be. We have worked on requests for voluntary transfers.
  4. FY24 Yard Sale will be held on June 28, 2024 (8:00-10:00 AM) with district-wide government agencies and non-profits given first option. Attached is a list of items for sale.
- C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Jessica requested beginning the discussion on social media in schools (i.e. social media free zones).

XIII. Adjournment

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was  
VOTED: To adjourn at 9:52 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

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Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk