

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – July 11, 2023

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Catherine Giusti, Donna Chambers, Tyler Champlin, Kathryn Colasante, Polly Hopkins, Clay Johnson, Craig Louzon, Linda Lyall, Larry Phelps (arrived at 6:51 PM), Patricia Pouliot and Karen Reynolds. Absent: Andrew McQuaide.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian, Hopkinton Town Council Vice President Scott Bill Hirst, Richmond Town Councilor Helen Sheehan, Marcum Representative Jim Wilkinson 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 6:45 PM. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session

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

VOTED: That the School Committee go into executive session under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for the purpose of discussion regarding the matter of security (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 13, 2023 - ALICE Training) 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 (Approval of Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous (Phelps was not in attendance for the vote).

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

Chair Giusti reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM and 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 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 pertaining to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Chair Giusti reported the first vote, approval of executive session minutes of June 13, 2023, was unanimous with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

The next vote, approval of a home school request, was passed with all in favor with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds voting.

The next vote, approval of another home school request, passed with Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor and Champlin recusing.

The next vote, approval of another home school request, was unanimous with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

The next vote, approval of another home school request, was unanimous with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

The next vote, approval of another home school request, passed with Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor and Champlin recusing.

The last vote, to return to open session, was approved by all with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor.

VI. Recognition

Superintendent Picard asked all to join her in congratulating the following:

1. High School Boys' Tennis Division III Undefeated State Champions – Philip Abby, Joshua Bolek, Maddox Burdon, Ryan Edenbach, Nicholas Feisthamel, William Fritz, John Grissom, Zachary Lerner, Travis Liese, Jack Loring, Noah Malloney, Christian Resinger. Head Coach – Dan Hansen. Assistant Coach – Briana Clift.
2. The Crystal Apple Awards are an annual award that seeks to recognize public school educators who have made a positive impact on the lives of their students. The award is presented by Horace Mann for excellence in education. Chariho winners are: High School - Pattee Dipollino, Middle School - Gianni Petteruti; Charlestown School – Christy Sheehy, Richmond School – Danielle Teoli, Ashaway School – Patricia Pearce, Hope Valley School – Alison Ward and Kayla Patten.
3. High School Junior Erin von Housen established a state record in the 2,000 steeplechase at the New Balance Nationals Track and Field Meet in Philadelphia. She turned in a time of 6:56.63, good for 10th in the event, running in the second of three heats just before midnight due to a rain delay.
4. Postseason Awards: High School Gymnastics – Randi Swenson (1st Team All-State and 1st Team All-Division II) and Brooklyn Vacca (1st Team All-Division II). Both qualified for New Englands.

VII. Public Forum

Chair Giusti noted that they have reached the Public Forum portion of the meeting. She thanked those who signed up and stated that per policy, she will allow four minutes for each person to speak. After four minutes are up, we will ask for your closing remarks. First on the list is Scott Daigle. Mr. Daigle stated that he is a resident of Richmond and stepfather to a special needs child in Chariho High School. As I am sure all of you remember from my speech at last month's Public Forum, I am here this evening to update all School Committee members on a meeting held June 19th stemming from a despicable incident that took place at the High School which violated my son's privacy at the hands of another student in the boys' restroom and the heinous disregard for the boy's safety at the hands of both Central and High School administrators. Present at the meeting on June 19 was Superintendent Picard, Principal Andrea Spas, Special Educator Director Jenn Durkin and Transportation Director Ned Draper and Ocean State Transportation Manager Lillian Benoit. As I stated last month, the High School administration refused to accept responsibility for the bus change that jeopardized my son's safety and disregarded an official school safety plan put into place by school administrators to ensure my son would be safe from the boy that had violated him. The June 19 meeting that Superintendent Picard would prove to be eerily similar to the meeting with the High School administrators – unproductive, deceitful and disrespectful. Ms. Picard proved to be unprepared to meet with us as she had no new information. She reported that she had phone logs which revealed that no calls were made from the Superintendent's office to the Ocean State Bus Company on Friday, June 2nd giving permission for my son's assailant to be transferred to his special ed bus, but she failed to pull logs from the High School, Special Ed Director's office or the Transportation Director's office. It seems to me that a woman with her experience, education and knowledge, not only as a Superintendent but as a North Providence School Committee member, she would understand the basics of an investigation and if, for some reason with all that experience, she was still unable to properly investigate, the School Committee has a lawyer with such experience and knowledge that she could have conferred with to make sure the proper investigation was executed. This was not done. Ms. Picard touted her innocence in this whole debacle but again we were not there to hear Ms. Picard separate herself from the guilt. We were there for the answers she had promised to give. After three weeks, Ms. Picard offered nothing new; no resolution or guarantees of my son's safety. She did, however, manage to call me a bully as I was reminding her administrators that I had warned them that I was not going away and for them to show up to a meeting unprepared only emboldened my resolve to use my skill set to get me answers, seek change and the accountability for those responsible. Now I've addressed the unproductiveness and the disrespect at the meeting but please allow me to address the intentional deception perpetrated by

your administrators, your administrators; the ones you hired. Superintendent Picard stated that the policy and procedure prevents the school from requesting a bus change without an email authorization, without an email authorization. The administrators present at the meeting concurred with Superintendent Picard's statements. Each administrator present at the June 19th meeting agreed that verbal authorization has never been used when a student's bus is changed for any reason. When I asked Ms. Benoit if this was true, her answer was "no". That's right, no. Her answer was no. Verbal authorization had in fact been given in the past by school and district administrators with email authorizations or paperwork sent after the verbal consent. Chair Giusti informed Mr. Daigle that he was at four minutes so if he could give closing statements that would be great. Mr. Daigle continued. You know, as a taxpayer I have a right to a meeting with all of you during executive session. Contrary to what you have been told, I have not filed a lawsuit, I have not consulted with an attorney nor do I plan to litigate but I am not going away ever till I get what I deserve – what my son deserves. You will meet with me during executive session. It's my right. I'm a taxpayer and you will hear the truth. Yes? So I'm seeking answers; I'm seeking an appropriate change to make sure this never happens again. All Kids, All the Time. All Kids, All the Time. All kids? You are about to hear speakers up here today who will refute the moniker that you hold on your website. It's all kids, except mine. I look forward to your invitation, prompt courteous invitation. Thank you.

School Committee member and Richmond resident Kathryn Colasante was next to speak. She stated that almost everything we read in education talks about involving the community, all our stakeholders, and certainly our parents. And tonight we have aggrieved community members, including parents. As a School Committee member, with the intent (she is certain the same as the rest of her fellow Committee members) of serving this community, she would like to say that she thinks it is in order and in the spirit of serving the community that the School Committee meets to discuss, in a special closed meeting, with the aggrieved parties and appropriate members of the administration to work towards a happy and welcome resolution of this matter. She understands the Chair and Superintendent would need to request this special meeting and an appropriate number of members would need to agree to attend. She hopes that, again in the spirit of community and with the goal of achieving a happy resolution, this could take place. At the end of this meeting, she will place her request formally under Agenda requests.

The next speaker was James Borcuk, currently employed as a bus driver for Ocean State Transit. Mr. Borcuk distributed a copy of a letter which was signed by 23 employees of Ocean State Transit. He will read the letter for the public. He stated that prior to driving a bus, he was a Battalion Chief at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, CT. He is here tonight with other employees of Ocean State Transit to show their support for Mrs. Michelle Pelchat, who has been the Assistant Manager for over nine years. Michelle started as a driver in 1999. She then became a driver trainer, and then nine years ago, was promoted to Assistant Manager. Michelle has been in training for many of these years to someday transition into the Manager's position when Mrs. Lillian Benoit retires. The Chariho Regional School District is used to a smooth-running operation from our company and most probably think it's just business as usual when things run smoothly. That COULD NOT be more wrong. There are circumstances that happen numerous times each week personnel-wise that cause changes to happen with driving positions and monitor positions. Mrs. Benoit and Mrs. Pelchat work together as a team to make adjustments to schedules so that students are transported safely and in a timely manner without anyone in the District even knowing that there was an issue that was remedied. Mrs. Benoit is planning on retiring soon and has prepared Mrs. Pelchat so well that everything is in place for a smooth transition. The District, and more importantly the students, would not see any difference in the day-to-day operation at Ocean State Transit. However, at the end of this school year a miscommunication between the school department and Ocean State Transit took place. Errors happen in life because humans are not perfect. Our priority is always to keep our students safe at all times and we have an admirable record of doing so. It seems that this record of safety and service to our students has been forgotten. Rather than use this incident as a lesson learned where procedures leading to an incident are reviewed to see where improvements can be made to these procedures, Mrs. Pelchat has been removed from her involvement with the Chariho School District, despite the fact that a breakdown in communication most often involves more than one person. The consequences of this action could have a grave effect on this District. With Mrs. Pelchat gone and

Mrs. Benoit retiring, we will have individuals managing Ocean State Transit who have NO EXPERIENCE in any of the day-to-day operations or procedures that make this whole system function like a well-oiled machine. The situation was resolved as soon as it was evident that something was wrong. If there are instances where information regarding the safety of students being near each other are in place and the bus company is NOT NOTIFIED of this, how are we to know that a safety issue exists? The bus company does not need to know the reason for these conditions. We understand privacy laws. However, we do need to know that these conditions DO exist in order to prevent a situation from occurring. Apparently this is a lesson that we have hopefully learned due to this incident. The employees of Ocean State Transit in this District were all set for the managerial change and welcome it. We are grateful for the years Mrs. Benoit has given to ensure EVERY YEAR was a safe, smooth-running year, and we were ready to wish her well in her retirement. At the same time, we all feel confident that as Mrs. Pelchat takes over the new school year, it will also be a successful year, as they always are. The District and the students will be the ultimate casualty of this decision if it is not rescinded. The amount of knowledge pertaining to this District that will be lost will affect the safety and efficiency of our transportation system. It may take years for the system to run as smoothly as it has for many, many years. As I stated, in my past occupation I was a firefighter who retired as a Battalion Fire Chief. Whenever there was an error in communication, it was an opportunity to learn; we would correct the cause of the error and be sure it didn't happen again, then move on. It was not a time to place blame on one party. All of us are capable of being part of an unfortunate incident, but we correct it as soon as it is discovered. The employees of Ocean State Transit are here to tell you that WE STAND WITH MICHELLE. We ask that you take into consideration all the circumstances and the past record. Michelle has served the Chariho community for over 24 years and poured her heart and soul into making every day run smoothly as the Assistant Manager so that the children of this District are transported safely and efficiently EVERYDAY. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please do the right thing for EVERYONE'S benefit. The employees of Ocean State Transit Chariho.

Next on the list were Jolene Wallinton and Marjorie Aubee who both stated that they signed up to speak in the event that Mr. Borcuk needed more time. They have nothing more to add.

Louise Dinsmore from Richmond stated she had a question about a document on tonight's Consent Agenda – page 56 of the Status Report – the detail budget ending June 30, 2023. It was noted that a SC Member could pull this item at that time so that discussion can take place. Polly noted that she will pull Item D from the Consent Agenda.

School Committee Member and Richmond resident Clay Johnson was next on the list. Clay stated that he is not a fan of having people sign up to speak during Public Forum so he signed up to surrender his time if someone else needed more time. He has nothing to say.

Richmond resident Goldie Williams wanted to know why a teacher that just got hired in Charlestown is getting hired when she just got out of school with a Masters in Special Education – is she prepared to deal with the special ed kids and I also want to know what's happening with the bullying in the Middle and CALA and I got this from the students, not from anybody else and for Mr. Daigle, I had to do the same thing for my son, my older son – to have 8-10 meetings in the Middle School and 8-10 meetings in the High School and he finally had a mental breakdown in his junior year and took him to Butler and then to the CAD program for a month and then he got well when he was at Kingston Hill. Then they put him in the RYSE program where he was bullied every day and he was also bullied by that director. I can't name, which I won't name and he still has side effects from being bullied in that RYSE program. He should have graduated at 21, not 18. The Director told him if he wanted to graduate at 18 he could, he was an adult and I was there the day of graduation and I said "no" and she still gave him his diploma. Thank you.

VIII. Policy

A. Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy, as requested at the last meeting, to include a title change to Health and Wellness Policy. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Linda, to approve the revisions

to this policy along with a title change. Larry questioned why the word “parents” was removed and replaced with the word “families”. The Superintendent explained that this was discussed at the last meeting and the word parent/guardian was put back in the policy as requested in places where approval is being sought or when being informed of something. We have requirements to follow so where the word “family” remains, that is because this is what is recommended. Larry then asked that on page 5, his/her be put back in to which Gina noted that this was another request at the last meeting. Chair Giusti explained that the revisions noted are a result of requests made at the last meeting. Goldie Williams asked about kids who have sensory issues with the texture of some foods. Gina stated that this policy is per State law but we do not force kids to eat what they don’t like.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was
VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy which includes a title change to Health and Wellness Policy. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Phelps. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 1 opposed.

IX. Business

A. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) 2022-2023 Annual Report – Superintendent Picard recommended that the Committee accepts the SEAC 2022-2023 Annual Report and places it on file. She thanked Committee Members Sarah Algeri, Nicole Allen, Erin Sefranek and Christina Costa for all their work this past year.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was
VOTED: To accept the SEAC 2022-2023 Annual Report and place it on file. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Champlin Grant: Focus on Health, Community, Entrepreneurship and Conservation – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit a grant request to the Champlin Foundation in the amount of \$97,355.79 for renovation of the High School cafeteria with a focus on health, community, entrepreneurship and conservation. She noted that Katie Kirakosian is present if there are any questions. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Linda, to submit a grant request to the Champlin Foundation in the amount of \$97,355.79 for renovation of the High School cafeteria with a focus on health, community, entrepreneurship and conservation. Louise Dinsmore asked Katie when is this due to which Katie replied July 1st. Donna noted how comprehensive this is and thanked Katie for doing such a great job. Linda added that the District was notified that it received the big grant (under Reports for this evening) and she thanked Katie as well.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was
VOTED: To submit a grant request to the Champlin Foundation in the amount of \$97,355.79 for renovation of the High School cafeteria with a focus on health, community, entrepreneurship and conservation. In favor: Unanimous.

C. 2023-2024 School Calendar Revision – Superintendent Picard recommended that this item be tabled as the State is still moving the goalpost so we do not have a final copy to approve. She noted that there is a Draft Copy online which should be close to what the final copy will look like.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was
VOTED: To table this item. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Discussion Regarding Marcum LLP – This item is on the agenda at the request of Tyler Champlin and Chair Giusti. Jim Wilkinson was in attendance to answer any questions or address concerns. Tyler made a motion, seconded by Craig and Karen, to rescind award of the Annual Audit and agreed upon procedures to Marcum LLP per School Committee action of March 14, 2023 meeting and per the engagement letter of June 13, 2023 which states: “We (Marcum) acknowledge your right to terminate our services at any time and you acknowledge our right to resign at any time (including instances where, in our judgement, our independence has been impaired or we can no longer rely on the integrity of management), subject in either case to our right to payment for all direct and

indirect charges including our-of-pocket expenses incurred through the date of termination or resignation or thereafter as circumstances and this agreement may require, plus applicable interest, costs, fees and attorneys' fees." Tyler stated, in light of recent action taken by the SEC which he understands does not have a lot of bearing on what Marcum does for us, he looked back on previous years and found that Jim Wilkinson has been the partner on the District's audit for 18 years. He has been a CPA on the tax side more than the audit side and, in a public company setting, there is a need to change the partner every five years. Eighteen years is a long time; it leads to complacency. This is a major part of why he brought this up; that should have changed long ago for no other reason than to not become complacent. Linda noted that she is learning this whole world that Tyler is involved with and agrees. She will approve going the route for a different auditor. Donna asked Tyler if Marcum made an adjustment and also switched auditors, would he be OK with this? Tyler responded that when he looked at this it comes down to a reputation issue and also an issue with a member town. He would not be comfortable with the adjustment. Craig noted that he seconded the motion and asked Ned, in the auditing world for schools, how many businesses are out there? Ned explained that the audit process has to go through the Auditor General. The first approach is to present the School Committee with an RFP. The Auditor General reviews the RFP and we then send it out. For this RFP, we received two responses. We also receive feedback from the Auditor General who keeps an eye out on the pool. Craig wanted to make sure they were not 'cutting off their nose to spite their face' to which Ned replied because there is another qualified bidder, they would only need an exception in order to hire the next qualified bidder. When they prepared to go to bid last September, the process took about six months. Chair Giusti stated that she has been involved with this process for a number of years. Mr. Wilkinson has done a great job; this is not about him. Louise Dinsmore asked if the contract with Marcum was \$52,500 and has the School Committee paid anything? Ned replied the District has not paid anything yet toward the bid of \$52,000 but we will be responsible to pay for the time they have involved already.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and Karen Reynolds and it was VOTED: To rescind award of the Annual Audit and agreed upon procedures to Marcum LLP per School Committee action of March 14, 2023 meeting and per the engagement letter of June 13, 2023 which states: "We (Marcum) acknowledge your right to terminate our services at any time and you acknowledge our right to resign at any time (including instances where, in our judgement, our independence has been impaired or we can no longer rely on the integrity of management), subject in either case to our right to payment for all direct and indirect charges including our-of-pocket expenses incurred through the date of termination or resignation or thereafter as circumstances and this agreement may require, plus applicable interest, costs, fees and attorneys' fees." In favor: Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Chambers.

Tyler made a motion, which was seconded by Craig Louzon, to request the Rhode Island Auditor General permit Chariho to award the Annual Audit and agreed upon procedures to the next qualified bidder, Hague Sahady, per Chariho bid 23-02. Louise asked if there was a ballpark of the cost for this auditor. Ned responded that they bid \$40,000 but we could run into delays shifting over to another auditor so this could impact the total cost. Donna asked if this new firm was ready to go to which Ned replied that he will talk with them tomorrow. We have to have permission from the Auditor General for them to proceed. Donna asked if this firm has been previously approved by the Auditor General? Ned explained that the process we use has been approved by the Auditor General. This is the most amount of activity we can do; then the Auditor General must confirm.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To request the Rhode Island Auditor General permit Chariho to award the Annual Audit and agreed upon procedures to the next qualified bidder, Hague Sahady, per Chariho bid 23-02. In favor: Unanimous.

E. Bullying/Harassment Policies and Procedures – This item was requested by Clay Johnson. Clay stated that he would like to table this item as his original request was a follow-up to Polly's request regarding Mr. Daigle's concerns. He recommended they defer this discussion.

Clay Johnson made a motion, seconded by Patricia Pouliot and it was VOTED: To table this item. In favor: Unanimous.

X. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Giusti asked if there were any items to be pulled. Polly pulled Item D. Craig acknowledged the donation and thanked the donor.

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

A. Minutes – Approved the following:

1. Executive Session Minutes of June 13, 2023 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2023 (minutes not sealed).

2. Executive Session Minutes of June 13, 2023 – Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and Chariho Education Support Professionals (minutes unsealed June 13, 2023).

3. Regular Session Minutes of June 13, 2023.

B. Transfers – None at this time.

C. Bill Review – Accepted.

E. Student Activity Fund Balance – As per enclosed.

F. Personnel Actions – None at this time.

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

1. FY24 IRS Section 125 Cafeteria Plan RFP

2. Custodial Supplies Dispenser Items Bid

H. Permission to Award Contracts – Approved the following:

1. FY24 Copier Lease Agreement – Renewal Option with Innovex for a five-year period per the attached memo from Ned Draper dated June 20, 2023 and back-up documentation.

I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

J. Grants – None at this time.

K. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Susan Rogers, Richmond, RI, of one (1) recumbent bicycle, valued at @ \$350.00, to be used by the High School students in Cheryl Lightfritz' class.

D. Revenue/Expenditure Account Status Report – Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Polly and Karen, to accept the Revenue/Expenditure Account Status Report. Craig questioned if the public has access to all Consent Agenda documents to which the Chair responded, "yes". Louise Dinsmore noted a concern she had on page 56. She thanked Ned for being responsive to her questions. She asked if there are any items still to be paid out for 2023 as it looks like there is a \$2.1 million surplus. Ned explained there are two pieces to the puzzle. On the revenue side, we are \$6.5 million short of budget. There are entries still to be done against expenses in 1) healthcare, 2) incurred but not realized and 3) entries for audit, based on when something is received. He will approach the School Committee in September or October with finances that are committed and capital commitments. Louise asked if all instructional teachers' salaries have been paid out to which Ned replied that most have been but there are some that are spread out. Louise then asked when Ned anticipates the books will be closed to which he responded that the true numbers won't be known until we do the audit. Louise noted a question on page 58 of 88 – what is Housing Aid? Ned explained that this is what RIDE refers to the money districts receive from the State on capital projects. Chariho receives 61% in housing aid reimbursement. Using the Middle School boiler as an example; the project cost is \$500,000 so the District expects to get about \$300,000 housing aid reimbursement paid back by the State.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Polly Hopkins and Karen Reynolds and it was VOTED: To accept the Revenue/Expenditure Account Status Report. In favor: Unanimous.

XI. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports – None at this time.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. District Yard Sale – The Annual Yard Sale will be held on Thursday, July 13th (8:00-10:00 AM) with district-wide government agencies and non-profits given first option. A list of items for sale is available on the district website. A second yard sale will be held on August 3 to include the items on the list that was included in the packet.

2. K Registration – The Superintendent reported the following enrollment numbers to date:

Ashaway 38	Classes of 19/19
Charlestown 44	Classes of 22/22
Hope Valley 30	Classes of 15/15
Richmond 61	Classes of 15/15/15/16

3. Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant – At the May 23, 2023 Meeting, you approved submission of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant for up to \$500,000 over three years (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026). We were notified by RIDE that we will receive \$424,995.75 (15% lower than what was requested for year 1) – thanks to Katie Kirakosian and Dr. Comella for this work on the grant. Our funding request focused on securing a clinician for two of our elementary schools. Katie, Dr. Comella and I will be working on a revised budget with a submission deadline of Friday.

C. Coming Events – None at this time.

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

Kathryn Colasante requested that the Chair or Superintendent call a special closed meeting with the School Committee, aggrieved parties and administration to work towards a happy and welcome resolution of the issue raised in Public Forum. She understands that an appropriate number of members would need to agree to attend.

Tyler asked that the School Committee and administration look at implementing a budget freeze for FY24 like was done for FY23 back in September.

Clay noted that they tabled the Bullying discussion; does he need to request this again to which the Chair replied “no”.

Louise Dinsmore commented that a request was made at the last meeting about Mr. Anderson's contract. Will that be put on a future agenda? The Chair noted that it would.

XIII. Adjournment

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was
VOTED: To adjourn at 7:53 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk