

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – July 12, 2022

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, George Abbott, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, William Day, Gary Liguori, Craig Louzon, Lisa Macaruso, Andrew McQuaide, Karen Reynolds and endawnis Spears.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Richmond School Principal Sharon Martin, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Attorney for the School Committee Jon Anderson, NEA ESP President Thomas Pirnie and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair Lyall called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silent meditation.

II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session

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

VOTED: That the School Committee go into executive session and close the meeting to the public under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to collective bargaining (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2022 - NEA ESP Negotiation Update; 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2022 – NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update; and 3. NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to litigation/legal update (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2022 - Luzzi p.p.a. John Luzzi et al. v. Chariho Regional School District et al. – C.A. No. WC-2020-0094; 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2022 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474 and 3) Legal Update – The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for the purpose of discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2022 - All Hazards School Site Safety Survey Reports and School Security) and under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(8) for the purpose of reviewing and/or approving matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (1. Approval of Home Instruction Requests and 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2022 – Approval of Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous.

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

The Committee returned to open session at 7:03 PM and Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:06 PM. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent meditation.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to an individual's job performance or character or physical or mental health of a person or persons (Personnel Matter) remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to an individual's job performance or character or physical or mental health of a person or persons (Personnel Matter) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

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 Ryan Callahan 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.

3. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to litigation (Legal Update - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation (Legal Update - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

4. Superintendent Picard noted that this item was tabled so there are no minutes to seal.

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Giusti reported that the first vote, to amend the executive session agenda and move legal update (#6 before #2), passed unanimously with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of June 14, 2022 – Home Instruction Requests, passed with 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor and McQuaide abstaining.

The next vote, approval of a Home Instruction Request, passed with 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of June 14, 2022 – Litigation/Legal Update (Luzzi p.p.a. John Luzzi et al. v. Chariho Regional School District et al. – C.A. No. WC-2020-0094), passed with 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor with McQuaide abstaining.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of June 14, 2022 – Litigation/Legal Update (The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Lynda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474), passed with 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor with McQuaide abstaining.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of June 14, 2022 – Matter of Security – All Hazards School Site Safety Survey Reports and School Security, passed with 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor with McQuaide abstaining.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of June 14, 2022 – NEA ESP Negotiation Update, passed with 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor and Louzon and McQuaide abstaining.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of June 14, 2022 – NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update, passed with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor and Day, Louzon and McQuaide abstaining.

The next vote, to table Certified Staff Negotiation Update to the next meeting, passed with 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions and 0 recusals with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor and Day, Louzon and McQuaide abstaining. A correction to this – Day voted in favor.

The final vote, to close executive session and return to open session, was approved unanimously with Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears voting in favor.

VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

1. Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition Co-Director Karin Wetherill presented a Certificate of Recognition to Richmond School Teacher Assistant Doreen Reilly for being a 2022 Recess Rocks in RI Champion. Principal Martin nominated Doreen for going above and beyond to provide a safe, active recess environment.

2. Trey Lazauskas won a Silver Medal in Welding at the National SkillsUSA Competition.

3. Erin von Housen finished second in the elite 2-mile race at the Adidas Outdoor Nationals Track and Field Meet on June 18th.

4. Post-Season Awards:

High School Boys' Volleyball – Matthew Beaudry (1st Team All-Division I, 1st Team All-State); Matthew Tiernan (1st Team All-Division I, 1st Team All-State); Tyler White (1st Team All-Division I, 1st Team All-State, All-Tournament D-I).

High School Softball – Ava Rao (2nd Team All-Division I, 3rd Team All-State, Academic All-State); Emma Kocab (Division I Honorable Mention); Team received the Division I Sportsmanship Award.

High School Baseball – Liam Flynn (1st Team All-Division); Ben Fargo (1st Team All-Division); Jack Stevens (2nd Team All-Division); Alan Carpenter (2nd Team All-Division).

5. Superintendent Gina Picard presented Chair Linda Lyall with a certificate from the Rhode Island Board of Education recognizing her graduation from the Rhode Island Association of School Committee's Leadership Academy.

VII. Public Forum

Tyler Champlin from Hopkinton noted that the State budget passed and we will receive \$332,000 more in Transportation Categorical aid than what was budgeted. What will this be used for – can we replace the two teachers? Gina explained that we have three new out-of-district tuitions and the fuel cost is much higher than what was budgeted. She would like to move the Middle School Dean position out of ESSER. Tyler commented, “so we will cut a program to plug holes” to which Gina replied is it how we plug a hole or do you want the School Committee to take action. Tyler stated that he would like to know if the money has to be used for transportation to which Gina explained that if World Language is something the School Committee wants, someone who voted to remove it can put it back on. She cannot reinstate it without School Committee action. Tyler thanked Gina for the clarification.

VIII. Business

A. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) 2021-2022 Annual Report – Superintendent Picard recommended that the Committee accept the SEAC 2021-2022 Annual Report and place it on file. She thanked Committee Members Sarah Algieri, Nicole Allen, Erin Sefranek and Christina Costa for all their work this past year. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to accept the SEAC 2021-2022 Annual Report and place it on file. Andrew McQuaide noted that this Committee has struggled to get membership. Have they seen how they operate in other districts that have more engagement? Lisa Macaruso, School Committee liaison to this Committee,

responded that they have and they have also attended State consortiums. Attendance in Chariho has struggled so we are looking more towards advocacy and advisory. Craig added that teachers have attended as this counts toward their evaluation. Gina noted that SEAC is looking to also add student voice. Lisa noted that through the pandemic they had increased participation and they are hoping the State would allow remote participation. Eight years ago it was all staff then the State charged us to have a parent-led group which staff could support. We want to grow parents as leaders. There is a lot of duplication but we are mandated to have a SEAC. We are looking at ways to increase parent voices and she believes they will find new footing in 2023. They may do a survey. Andrew felt a survey would be important. This is an area he is interested in and he offered his support to which Lisa replied that Andrew could become the School Committee liaison in November.

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

VOTED: To accept the SEAC 2021-2022 Annual Report and place it on file. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Educational School Solutions Contract – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Educational School Solutions, LLC Contract from September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 to provide therapeutic mental health services through licensed professionals for students and professional development and coaching for teachers to expand their knowledge of trauma and increase their toolkit for managing and de-escalating challenging behaviors in the classroom. This has been reviewed by legal counsel. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the Educational School Solutions, LLC Contract from September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Bill stated that he read through this and has one concern with the wording “Board of Education”. He feels this should be changed to District Administration or Superintendent. Jon replied that they can clarify it so it will be clean. Craig questioned if this would be district wide. Gina noted that this is for the Middle and High Schools; elementary already have Dr. Pat. Donna requested an explanation as she thought they were going to seek our own staff. Gina explained that when they did ESSER, they found the largest level of need was for student services and capacity for adult learning. Originally we were going to get our own staff. This company just requires that we provide a space. Their staff will have a small case load and will “train the trainer”. Every school will create their team and then provide professional development for all staff. Donna asked if the District vets the staff. Gina replied this company does that. It is a contract similar to Dr. Pat’s. They monitor behavior and intervention plans. They handle background checks, etc. Donna felt that ninety-six hours seemed like a lot to which Gina noted that the District wanted more. Our staff will be trained to continue when this group is done. Andrew asked if there is any reason why the contract ends in June and ESY is not included. Gina responded that ESY students have IEPs; they have conditions attached. We are finding a higher level of need at the Middle School and the High School. Ryan noted that if “Board of Education” is changed to Superintendent, this should be changed throughout the entire contract. It also states the “Board of Education should pay...”. This should be the “School District.” Jon stated that he will go through the document with the Superintendent and any corrections needed will be made accordingly before signing the document.

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

VOTED: To approve the Educational School Solutions, LLC Contract from September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 with changes as noted. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Request from Ocean State Transit for Permission to Allow Drivers’ Children to Ride as Authorized Passengers – Superintendent Picard recommended approval, per the memo from Ned Draper dated July 6, 2022 and the letter from Ocean State Transit dated May 19, 2022, for Ocean State Transit drivers and/or monitors to bring their children, over the age of three, on routes with them. The new buses are equipped with built-in car seats and Ocean State Transit agrees to defend, indemnify, protect, save and keep harmless the Chariho Regional School District from any and all loss, cost, damage or exposure arising from the negligent acts or omissions of the Contractor in undertaking this contract; the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust has confirmed that liability for this activity will remain with Ocean State Transit. This is currently allowed in other locations and was allowed in Chariho in

the past. Gina noted that they did have reservations about this but because of the difficulty in getting drivers, managers were driving buses last year. Jon is not thrilled but he understands why they are asking. Jon explained the concern he had with this and mentioned a very serious bus accident years ago that claimed the life of an infant. Craig made a motion to approve the request for Ocean State Transit for permission to allow drivers'/monitors' children to ride as authorized passengers with the liability for this activity remaining with Ocean State Transit. Ryan seconded the motion for discussion purposes. Ryan asked Gina to give him a sense of how necessary this is. Gina replied that Ocean State believes it will be difficult to retain their drivers as other districts are allowing them to bring their children so they are leaving. Andrew questioned the length of the longest route to which Gina noted that it is about 45 minutes. Andrew commented that there is no predicting how a three-year-old will be amenable to a forty-five minute ride. How will Ocean State handle this? Gina replied that Ocean State handles all issues now or with Ned involved when there are any issues with their staff. Donna stated that she is not comfortable with this. What assurances do we have that the District has no liability? Jon responded that Ocean State will indemnify, protect, save and keep harmless the Chariho Regional School District from any and all loss, cost, damage or exposure arising from the negligent acts or omissions of the contractor in undertaking this. Rhode Island Interlocal Trust, Chariho's insurance carrier, has confirmed that the liability will remain with Ocean State Transit. From a legal perspective, you are covered but his personal opinion is he is not comfortable with it. Craig asked what if we choose not to allow this. Gina replied we won't have enough buses on the road to cover all the routes. We will have to make adjustments and consolidate runs. Ocean State does a really good job but lack of drivers is making it difficult for them. Our field trips all had to be back before 2:00 PM so the drivers could be on campus. There were no extra drivers to do field trips. Bill stated that he worked for Ocean State Transit for three years but has since left as climbing up and down the stairs as a monitor was getting to be too much for him. He is speaking from his own personal experience. Lil and Michelle, the two managers, were driving so that left no one in the office. On one occasion, they had to pull a driver from East Greenwich. You can add fifteen minutes to a run if the driver does not know where the stops are. He thinks that it is worth giving it a try. We need drivers who drive on a regular basis. Karen noted that while she appreciates Bill's comments, she is concerned about discipline on the bus; who handles that. Gina answered that if it is the driver or monitor's child, the bus company would address this. Other than that, we have a Bus Code of Conduct that we follow for discipline. endawnis questioned what other districts allow this to which Gina replied that she was not exactly sure but many do. When she was in Providence, they allowed this and the students on the bus actually behaved better. Lisa stated that given the fact that they have legal coverage, she will approve this. She has always had positions where she could bring her kids to work. She would be concerned if she did not allow others to have the same support/privilege that she had; it is about trust. They are parents. They will make it safe. If a driver elects to bring a child, they have gone through a thoughtful process that it is safe. She agrees with Bill. Give it a try. Gary added that he was going to say what Lisa just said. Let's not look at extreme cases. We are only allowing 3-5 year-olds so not every driver will have a child in this age group. They need the job and we need the drivers. Gina commented that District Clerk Donna used to drive and was allowed to bring her child to which Donna added that she did speak with Lil and drivers/monitors will be aware that this is a privilege. Lillian mentioned the accident that Jon referred to and the infant's car seat was not properly installed. The new buses have built-in car seats in the seat which is bolted to the floor. This is why the minimum age was set at three.

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

VOTED: To approve the request for Ocean State Transit for permission to allow drivers'/monitors' children to ride as authorized passengers with the liability for this activity remaining with Ocean State Transit. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained: Chambers and Day. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 2 abstentions.

D. Assignments to Subcommittees/School Safety Teams – Superintendent Picard noted that vacancies are indicated in red. Changes can be made to any subcommittees, School Safety Teams

or School Improvement Teams. Andrew was asked if he would like to fill the vacancy on the Charlestown School Improvement Team Selection Committee; Andrew was fine with this.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To nominate Andrew McQuaide to fill the vacancy on the Charlestown School Improvement Team Selection Committee. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew noted that unless someone feels there is a need to file the vacancies on the Marketing and Recognition Subcommittees, he will hold off in case there is another subcommittee that will require his time. All were fine with this but Ryan noted that there is a vacancy on the NEA ESP Negotiation Subcommittee to which Andrew noted that he needs to recuse from both the ESP and Certified negotiations as he is related to people in both unions. Donna Chambers was asked if she could fill the vacancy to which she noted she would.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was VOTED: To appoint Donna Chambers to fill the vacancy on the NEA ESP Negotiation Subcommittee. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained: Chambers and Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 2 abstentions.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall asked if there were any items to be pulled; Craig pulled A-1 and A-2.

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

B. Transfers – Approved.

C. Bill Review – Accepted.

D. Budget Summary – None at this time.

E. Balance Sheet – None at this time.

F. Personnel Actions

1. Rescinded the non-renewal of the contracts for the following:

First Name	Last Name	FTE as of 9/1/21	Condition(s)
Katherine	Kent	1.0	
Samuel	Pascale	1.0	
Jennifer	Wimmer	1.0	RESCIND .4 ONLY

G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quote - None at this time.

H. Permission to Award Contracts – None at this time.

I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

J. Grants – None at this time.

K. Donations – None at this time.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2022 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained: McQuaide. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 14, 2022. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, Reynolds and Spears. Abstained: McQuaide. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports – There was no report.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Kindergarten Registration Update – Superintendent Picard provided an update (with the last update given in June): Ashaway has 21 (up 4); Charlestown has 31 (up 7); Hope Valley has 36 (up 6) and Richmond has 56 (up 6). Families can register now for Kickstart but the child must already be registered for Kindergarten in September.

The Superintendent thanked Jim Palmisciano, Richmond Town Council Vice President, for advocating for the allocation of ARPA funds from the Town of Richmond for Richmond School safety. Richmond Town Council met this evening and they have approved \$86,050 for enhancements to Richmond School. The entire Richmond Town Council was thanked.

The State budget passed and we received all of the money that was allocated for Transportation Categorical Aide. Rep. Brian Kennedy and Senator Dennis Algieri were thanked for all their work. We anticipated receiving \$200,000 to \$300,000 and budgeted for this. The additional funding will be needed for higher than anticipated fuel costs and additional tuitions for out-of-district placements that were not anticipated.

C. Coming Events

The Superintendent asked all to hold the tentative date of August 14, 2022 for the Maddie Potts Field House Opening Ceremony.

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

Bill requested that the Bullying Report break out the CTC numbers from the High School as they are two separate buildings. Gina explained that this is not how the numbers are reported to the State. We have over 700 students who may attend a class at CTC. We can filter by classroom but not by student. Bill stated that his concern is about how this is being handled by CTC to which Gina replied that all disciplinary action is handled by the two Deans as students move from building to building. It is not handled by the CTC Director. All referrals go to High School Principal Andrea Spas.

Craig stated that he is on the Transportation Subcommittee and wondered by the item pertaining to drivers/monitors bringing their children on routes with them was not first sent to this subcommittee. It was noted that this subcommittee usually hears appeals regarding bus stops. Chair Lyall stated that she will research this. She is going to review all subcommittees and present at the next meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 8:04 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna Sieczkiewicz, District Clerk