

Chariho School Committee In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – July 13, 2021

Committee Members Virtual Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, George Abbott, Donna Chambers (virtual), William Day, Gary Liguori, Craig Louzon, Lisa Macaruso (virtual), Linda McAllister and David Stall (arrived at 6:04 PM). Absent: Ryan Callahan and Sheila Grover.

Administrators and Others in Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Technology Director Shawn Cole, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian (virtual), Attorney for the School Committee Jon Anderson (virtual) and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair Linda Lyall called the in-person and virtual meeting of the Chariho School Committee 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 Catherine Giusti 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 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 22, 2021 - Administrative Assistants' Contract Changes, 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2021 - NEA Chariho Certified Staff Contract Negotiations, 3. NEA Chariho Contract Tentative Agreement and 4. NEA ESP Negotiation Update); pending litigation (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2021 - Chariho Regional School District v State of RI through Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Department of Administration, Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, Commissioner of Education Kenneth Wagner, Narragansett School Committee, South Kingstown School Committee and Westerly School Committee and potential litigation (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2021 and 2. Potential Litigation Update); 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 Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2021 - Approval of Home Instruction Requests). In favor: Unanimous (Stall was not in attendance for the vote).

The Committee returned to open session at 6:17 PM and Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

III. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Chariho Contract Tentative Agreement) remain sealed until such time as an agreement is reached.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Chariho Contract Tentative Agreement) remain sealed until such time as an agreement is reached. In favor: Unanimous.

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Contract Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Contract Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Unanimous.

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

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was
VOTED: That minutes pertaining to potential litigation remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

IV. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Giusti reported there were 5 votes taken in executive session. The first vote was approval of the executive session minutes of June 22, 2021 – Administrative Assistants' Contract Changes. Abstaining: Stall (should have stated Abbott who abstained). Chambers (virtually), Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister and Giusti voted in favor (Stall was not in attendance for the vote).

The second vote was approval of the executive session minutes of June 22, 2021 – NEA Chariho Certified Staff Contract Negotiations. Abstaining: Abbott. Chambers (virtually), Day Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister, Stall and Giusti voted in favor.

The third vote was approval of the executive session minutes of June 22, 2021 – Pending Litigation. Abstaining: Abbott. Chambers (virtually), Day Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister, Stall and Giusti voted in favor.

The fourth vote was approval of the executive session minutes of June 22, 2021 – Potential Litigation. Abstaining: Abbott. Chambers (virtually), Day Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister, Stall and Giusti voted in favor.

The fifth vote, to close executive session and return to open session, passed. All in favor were Abbott, Chambers (virtually), Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister, Stall and Giusti.

V. Recognition – Superintendent Picard asked all to please join her in congratulating the following:

1. Post-Season Awards: High School Girls' Softball – Shelby Roode (3rd Team All-Division); Ava Rao (Honorable Mention).

High School Boys' Volleyball – Matthew Tiernan (1st Team All-Division), Ethan Cole (3rd Team All-Division).

High School Boys' Lacrosse – Josh Pater (1st Team All-Division – Defense), Jay Nilsson (2nd Team All-Division – Midfield), Charlie Krause (2nd Team All-Division – Attack).

2. Ryan Meade – Division 2 Coach of the Year (voted by the Division 2 Coaches).

VI. Public Forum

Chair Lyall noted that this is an opportunity for people to speak on matters that are not on tonight's agenda. She noted that they will be keeping Public Forum to thirty minutes so all are reminded to please keep their comments to about two minutes so as to give everyone an opportunity to speak. She reminded all to please state their name and town of residence. Cassie Rabbitt was the first to speak. Her son was a student and Chariho refused to honor his medical mask exemption so she pulled him out and home schooled him. She and other parents have started a petition that mask wearing should be decided by the parent. She read the petition and gave reasons why she feels mask wearing was harmful to a child's health. The State or District should not mandate mask wearing and she hopes the Committee takes this into consideration. Next to speak was Jim Sullivan from Charlestown who stated how proud he is of the school district and the country. He would like people to know that the School Committee has many difficult decisions to make but he would like it out there as to how the Committee and administration is feeling about systemic race and critical race theory. He does not want this taught to students but feels they should be taught decision-making skills. He thanked the Committee for their time. Jeremy Palmer from Hopkinton wanted to bring attention to the role people in a position of power play. They

forget who put them there. He would advise Board members to realize the power they have been given and they should not silence the public as they have a voice. Racism plays a part in every community. People on the Board did not wear masks at the last meeting which was contradictory to what they said. Our kids do not need to wear masks and our families do not need this. Scott Bill Hirst from Hopkinton respectfully requested the two Resolutions (Hopkinton Republican Party and RI Coalition for Israel) be put on a School Committee agenda. He was disappointed that the Chair did not respond to his request. According to the Chief of Police, there are no issues of racism in Richmond. He went to a meeting last night hosted by the Charlestown Republican Committee. He requested that when he sends an email to the Chairman of the School Committee, he at least gets a reply. Etta Zasloff, an 18-year resident of Hopkinton and 44 years as an educator, expressed gratitude to each member of the School Committee. She supports their effort to support racism. She has attended most of the Anti-Racism Task Force meetings and she encourages the Committee to work with them to devise curriculum. We need to acknowledge that all humans are imperfect. Teachers can teach age-appropriate truths based on evidence. Michael Colasante noted his experience with critical race theory and racism and provided examples of race problems he has endured. We need to put things in perspective. Black people sold themselves into slavery and 350,000 union soldiers lost their lives to free the slaves. Kedrick Swain from Ashaway commented on how nice it was to see everyone's scowling faces. He was misquoted at the last meeting and clarified his comments. He was curious as to what problems exist that the ARTF was formed to address. Ms. Picard stated that CRT is not in our curriculum. Will the Committee realize that policies in other districts, such as Providence, will not be applicable to Chariho? He will reiterate that he does not feel that current members of the ARTF should be allowed to serve on the next subcommittee. Polly Hopkins reiterated what Scott Bill Hirst said. The School Committee has received Resolutions from two organizations. She would like to see these on an agenda. She was told by Ms. Picard that CRT was not taught in school but the school does have the book "Stamped". She read an email from Craig MacKenzie pertaining to this book and Read Across America. This is an opportunity for alternative text to be selected. This book was used by some English classes and it is not on the State approved book list. Chair Lyall noted the time and before being able to state that she will extend Public Forum, George Abbott requested that it be extended. Robin Woodmansee commented on all the hate and anger she is seeing displayed towards one another. She would like to see us all do better. She is trying not to be emotional. She is not on either side. She is feeling a lot of negativity. Jessica Purcell from Richmond has two children in the District and she voiced her support for teachers, administration, the Superintendent and School Committee. She is confident that her son will develop his own thoughts. Her job as a parent is to be able to learn alongside him. She disagrees with those who are anti-CRT. It is a power play and we need positive progress. She thanked the Committee for providing her the platform to speak. Ashaway resident Paula Jutkiewicz spoke on teaching history from a balanced perspective. Just because there are two ideas that overlap does not mean they are the same. Children see differences whether we talk about them or not. We need to change the fear in the community to curiosity and speaking on behalf of all the community, she asked that all be respectful. Betsy Conway, who was on the School Committee 20 years ago, stated that despite best efforts, it has become difficult to fight on a local level when you have state and federal governments breathing down on you. She read from the Declaration of Independence which she carries with her. She is very concerned about the well-being of children in this community. Kids should be valued not by the color of their skin and wondered what people are afraid of. Joe Reddish, former Richmond Town Council President, quoted Dr. Aaron Beck. We have a responsibility to educate everyone in our community. Don't be afraid of the history we have in this country. We have excellent students. He went to an integrated school in California. We should not be afraid to learn about who we are as a country. There is no such thing in his mind as CRT. Kids need to learn to be able to communicate with others. He respects what the school district is doing. Curtis Raddock thanked the teachers who pour themselves in our kids. We do need to have respect for each other. CRT should not be taught in our schools. No person should be judged on the color of their skin. He wants his kids to be educated in Chariho but it is not the same as the way he was taught. Some things need to be taught in school; others need to be

taught at home. Please get back to teaching the basics. CRT is not part of their preparation and future. Katherine Colasante from Richmond stated that CRT invites every white person in white supremacy. The theory is divisive. She is happy to see Chariho's political policy; we want political balance. CRT does not balance white. She understands people are perceiving hatred but it is rage caused because we love our community. Chair Lyall thanked all for speaking and for being respectful.

VII. Business

A. Mental Health Awareness Club – Superintendent Picard stated that High School student Emma Elderkin and High School Principal Andrea Spas will present their proposal. She recommended approval of the Mental Health Awareness Club. Andrea noted that Emma is entering 12th grade and she and fellow peers feel passionate about this. Emma reviewed the power point presentation she prepared. More people are suffering than most realize. She wanted to promote awareness and provide a safe place for students; community based on acceptance and empowerment. They have 17 students who have committed to this Club along with 3 advisors. She researched programs and reviewed goals. They will monitor topics and work alongside the Chariho Youth Task Force. This is not taking the place of mental health services and she explained how meetings will be structured and resources they will use. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Catherine, to approve the Mental Health Awareness Club. Bill commented that he has been involved for over 50 years in emergency positions and he noted the significant uptick in self-harm during the pandemic. This club may help alleviate some concerns. He did have a concern over the fact that only 22 faculty chose to attend Dr. Harrison's program; he is hopeful this will get more people to take this seriously. It is a long time coming. David stated that he appreciated Emma's bringing this forth and he agrees with all her words but it went south for him with the organization, Bring Change to Mind. He is opposed to any connection with this group. There is racially divisive language on their website. He also checked the blog and he felt it was aggressive; pushing of gender issues. He wishes that Emma would have been directed by Administration or staff to steer clear away from the organization affiliation, along with the connection to the Chariho Youth Task Force. Lisa congratulated Emma for presenting this evening in this audience. When she viewed the website, she saw the home page full of resources. It is critical for the School Committee, when a new club is being formed, to have a structure to model or adapt; parameters. She noted her support for this. She did have a concern that when holding this afterschool, students will come to have a conversation that may trigger concerns. How will students be supported? What will happen is a student is overwhelmed say at 10:00 PM; will there be support? She wants it to go forward but she also wants it to be safe. Emma responded that an advisor can leave with a student and/or the discussion will stop if there is no other advisor. They will have many resources available and will make sure they have someone to talk with. Andrea added that they have to make sure that meeting after school is safe for all. Again, this does not replace mental health services. They do have clinically trained mental health advisors. Emma did her research. Lisa clarified that this is not a support group but more of an awareness group which dovetails Mr. Day's training on how to recognize and support mental health. Donna noted her total support. Emma did a beautiful job presenting and it is relevant to what kids are going through. She also checked the website and it is very well put together. This may even help put kids in career fields. Phyllis Penhallow added her concerns about Bring Change to Mind organization. She does not see this as just mental health (they discuss racial injustice, gender identity) and she commented on the people behind the organization (Demi Lovato, Glenn Close and others). Can we do better? Let the people of Chariho help the children. She asked Ms. Spas if there are semantics here. Did you look at this organization? Take a close look at the best resources to assist Emma. Gary thanked Emma for her presentation and he supports the need for mental health awareness. One concern he has was the \$500 they offered. Is the success of the club dependent on this? There are resources in the community (URI). If this is dependent on an outside affiliation and money, reconsider the organization you align with. Bill suggested they table this item and give them the edict to work with Dr. Harrison or some other Chariho community members. There are lots of ways we can do this in-house. He would

encourage them to come back with our own version of it. David stated he is in full agreement with Bill and Gary. He will vote “no” on this but would ask Emma to come back with a different affiliation. There is a danger in counseling without support. We need qualified professionals there. This district spends a lot on mental health. Look at the “About Us” page and read the blogs. This is about when these things come to this School Committee, it would have been passed without a sense of it and the Administration needs to do a better job with this. Gary stated he would not want to defeat it. Craig rescinded his motion and Catherine rescinded her second.

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

B. GZA Middle School Oil Spill Status Report – This item was requested by Bill Day. GZA Representatives John Spirito and Albert Flori were in attendance to provide an update. John noted what a very impressive student Emma is and he hopes he does as well with his presentation. GZA has been working on this the past 11 years. He briefly reviewed the status of the work that has been done. A decision was made 10 years ago to switch systems which saved about \$600,000. In 2010 they installed a bio vent system which was much more effective. The District had records of fuel oil deliveries (@63,000 gals a year). When the leaks were stopped in 2002, there was an abrupt drop in what was delivered (about 8,000 gal a year) so they assumed this was the rate leak per year or about 108,000 gal. He knows the School Committee wants to hear when they will be done but there is uncertainty as to how much oil was released. He projects they will be finished between 2023 and 2025. They are down to about ½ foot of measurable oil. They went to DEM to close and just monitor and DEM would not agree. They wanted them to continue what they are doing. If there is still any measurable oil, they can’t close out the active system. They did close some wells. This is about 20’ below the building and has no impact on any wells (water). Bill noted that he did not have any questions but this is something that has been going on for about 20 years or more. A couple of School Committee members are not aware of this. He commended Deb Carney from Charlestown as she was on the School Committee and started asking questions. The previous company was just interested in taking money so that is when we hired GZA. This company is doing a fantastic job for the District and saving us money. Eventually we won’t have this. He gave a shout-out to Deb Carney. George asked where the vapors end up; are any vapors detected in the Middle School? John explained that this passes through an activated carbon vessel in a small shed behind the school. The goal is not to draw a lot of vapors out. Initially there was a higher concentration; technically you don’t need treatment. They maintain a vacuum below the building. If anything, they are drawn out of the building not into the building. George asked if air testing in the Middle School had been done for the presence of vapors to which John stated that as long as they are doing what they are doing, there is no reason to test. A typical home would detect some. Gina added that the air quality is tested and we are using hepa filters. George stated that he would like the results to which Ned replied that he will see that he gets them. With COVID, we have done far more testing than in the past. John, Al and Bill were thanked for addressing this.

C. Field Trip Request – High School Girls’ Volleyball Team – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the request of Coach Kathryn McGeehan and Assistant Coach Shawn Cole for twelve (12) students and two (2) chaperones to travel to Horseheads High School, Horseheads, NY October 15-16, 2021 for a High School Girls’ Volleyball Tournament contingent upon COVID guidelines allowing travel between state and attendance at the event. Transportation will be provided by either Ocean State Transit or District vans; insurance documents are already on file. Craig noted that this is the first time in about 15-16 months that they have handled these requests.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and Gary Liguori and it was
VOTED: To approve the request of Coach Kathryn McGeehan and Assistant Coach Shawn Cole for twelve (12) students and two (2) chaperones to travel to Horseheads High School,

Horseheads, NY October 15-16, 2021 for a High School Girls' Volleyball Tournament contingent upon COVID guidelines allowing travel between state and attendance at the event. In favor: Unanimous (Macaruso was not in attendance for the vote).

D. Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) Grant – Chariho Alternative Learning Academy – Katie Kirakosian and Director Brian Tetreault were present to provide an overview. Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit the Comprehensive School Improvement Grant for CALA. Katie noted this is due to RIDE by July 23. The grant is for \$106,252.76 and covers a 12-month period from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. They crafted three goals with five interventions for which funding is needed. She reviewed the interventions. Craig complimented Katie on her presentation and asked if the \$106,000 would cover all she has listed. Katie explained the budget. Bill questioned where they go after the year is over. How do we deal with students beyond this school year? He does not envision the school district being able to continue to provide the support and pay the stipends. Katie noted this is the third request we made. The first one they needed to create a system. Once the system is created, there won't be a need to continue. Brian added that three interventions came together really nice this year. Teachers have developed lessons that will be implemented this year and they will be able to continue this. David questioned the word "diversity" Katie used in her presentation. Why is diversity there? His second question has to do with the stipend for student internships paid out of the grant. How does this work? Katie apologized for the different association that was made with the term diversity. She used it in reference to diverse learners. Our students engage in lessons in diverse ways. We want them to engage in the community. In terms of the stipend, this was proposed by RIDE in another context. We have been applauded by RIDE in using funds in unique ways. As an example, students interned on the Oliver Hazard Perry ship and this was connected to junior achievement work. It is our expectation for our High School students so CALA is part of the High School, it should be expected of them. Funding would come from CSIP money. David applauded Katie for that – he liked that thought. Lisa questioned the number of graduates this year out of potential graduates. Brian responded they had 7 graduates. Out of those considered 12th graders at the beginning of the year, they all graduated. RIDE starts the clock in the freshman year and they have four years to graduate. Lisa noted that this community came together and approved the building in all three towns. They were supportive of this so students would feel connected, respected and valued. They belong in our community and improvement is showing in their academics. Brian stated that they improved in 80% or more of the categories. Lisa asked if the students were feeling valued to which Brian responded that anecdotally, the vast majority came in feeling good. They take a temperature every day of how students are feeling and students are happy to be with caring staff. They have grown since the new building was built. Katie noted that the ESL curriculum (Lions Quest) was a year-long process. They purchased it and can now utilize these funds in a new way.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and Linda McAllister and it was VOTED: To approve submission of the Comprehensive School Improvement Grant for CALA. In favor: Unanimous.

E. NEA Chariho Contract – One Year Extension – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Tentative Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District Committee and NEA Chariho. David Stall had a public comment. This was discussed and he had agreed but will be abstaining tonight because he is not going to vote on anything that has NEA on it (nationally).

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Linda McAllister and it was VOTED: To approve the NEA Chariho Contract One-Year Extension. In favor: Abbott, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained: Day, Louzon and Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 3 abstentions.

F. Request to RIDE for Variance Withdrawal – Superintendent Picard stated that our community input is very important to us. Therefore, upon reflection based on our community feedback, she recommends that the District not move forward in pursuing a newer and fewer plan and withdraw the variance request submitted to RIDE. George suggested that in the future if we tackle a project, they should form a Building Committee. This didn't seem right to him the way it was carried out.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was

VOTED: That the District not move forward in pursuing a newer and fewer plan at this time and withdraw the variance request submitted to RIDE. In favor: Abbott, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall. Opposed: Macaruso. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

G. Chariho Website Community Tab to Include Link to Chariho Youth Task Force Page – This item was on the agenda at the request of David Stall. David stated that this is still linked on a community tab on the Chariho website. He commented that they had BLM donation tips, directions to links on police avoidance apps, how to turn off cell phones so you can't be located, info on wearing disguises; he found the content to be racially decisive, disruptive and dangerous. Who decides the criteria and were any laws broken having this linked through Chariho? Superintendent Picard noted that she received phone calls from community members as it looked like the District created it as it was on our website. These people felt it was misleading and they asked about the history. Mr. Ricci was asked if this could be on the website and he allowed it. Any other links used are not created by us. There were six and we moved them. Anything we did not have control over was moved. The Chariho Task Force originally started over drug abuse. She spoke to legal counsel about a disclaimer; no laws were broken and the disclaimer is fine. David questioned, before the disclaimer, were there any concerns to which Gina replied just the two who called. They felt we had control. David asked if the District acknowledged that it should not have been there to which Gina replied that she was not aware of what was on their site until these phone calls and then it was removed. Bill explained that at one time the Task Force was an intricate part of the school district. If they were doing things like that, the Superintendent should get back in and control it if they are going in a direction the community is not happy with. She should speak with them. George commented – these tactics regarding demonstrations, weather underground, what is their next step? Catherine clarified the comments made by Gina. You got questions from two community members, action was taken and this was moved to a community page. She is a big supporter of the Chariho Youth Task Force. She is glad the two pages were removed. She is happy that the two people who had concerns took them to the Superintendent and she acted on the concerns. This is the way it should work. Gina stated that she felt this helped with clarity; that was the process that was followed. Gary commented on a point made by Mr. Stall. He is not going to say suspend an organization that is off the rails. He believes he said the pages no longer exist. Once they put a link up, we have no control. If we want that oversight, we will have to have a subcommittee go through every link and every page; we have to be thoughtful. Bill stated that his recollection when they started is that they ran programs in our schools. There is a message that has to be delivered. He feels they lost their focus. We have supported them in the past but their mission now is below anything he could support. They were doing good things early on. He believes that is what Mr. Stall is saying. David agreed with Bill to which Catherine again noted that this is the system that worked. We discussed this publicly and things that were inappropriate have been removed. The group needs to hear that they have to be careful about their links. David noted that he would rather see the whole community page go away. It would be cumbersome to monitor. Those we have no control over should be removed from our link. There is a credibility issue that those things were there for months. He wants some accountability – credibility and accountability are key words for him. He made a motion, which was seconded by Gary, to remove the community tab from the Chariho website and all links associated with it. Dan Fitzgerald provided a quick overview of the Task Force and what led to the link on the Chariho website. It was created over a decade ago by a Middle School student. They merged forces with the Tri Town Task Force. Nearly 5,000 people have accessed their

website. There is access to crisis-based resources. When he spoke with Barry it was his intent to get these resources out to the community. He did not realize a link they had to another resource had updated their information. He appreciates the feedback but would hope to continue the connection. Linda McAllister noted her appreciation for all the concern. It has been a positive partnership for a long time; they were a positive contributor. To break this tie without discussing it with them first is not right. Polly Hopkins commented on the 5,000 people who utilized their website; how many were children that saw your links. These are Middle School students. Chair Lyall noted the discussion is whether or not she agrees the links should be removed to which Polly stated that she does not know if irreparable damage was done. She does not feel the school should take on this responsibility. Kevin Travers commented on all the good the Task Force has done. The mission was to promote health/well-being of students but the information on the site is in direct conflict. Some of the stuff was developed by their graphic designer and literature developed in-house should be removed. Ginger Jackson agreed with Mr. Stall; it should come down. It served a good function but has gone off the rails. Gary stated that he seconded the motion so they could continue the conversation. He named the other links – Community 2000, Chariho Rotary, Maddie Potts Foundation, Tri Town Community Action – be thoughtful to what we are doing. A member in his house is a member of the Youth Task Force so he won't speak on that. Dan spoke of the importance but he highly doubts people look for resources on this page. Lisa agreed with Gary. Intelligent people say intelligent things. She is glad he pointed out the others. We need to slow this roll. We had a call for a task force to be unseated; paused on a mental health club – did this once already. This is a good conversation. Make the entire tab an agenda item so Maddie Potts' family can have a say. Don't make the same mistakes we've made. Have a deeper discussion but take more time. We should not be voting about removing this tab. Notify those organizations who we will be removing. David noted his appreciation for the Lisa's comments but we have been thinking about it. We are not creating or killing other organizations. This will get dicey; which ones we do and which ones we don't. We have no voice on these. Dan said another organization changed their links on their site. The best way to avoid this is to not list any. These organizations can thrive without being on the Chariho website. You will have others wanting to get on. He will vote in favor of this. Jon Anderson advised the Committee to look at the agenda. He does not believe Mr. Stall's motion is in scope with the agenda item. He cautioned the Committee about an OMA violation. David noted that this could be read differently; community tab to include the Chariho Youth Task Force. Chair Lyall noted her concern with the word "include"; it is not the same as the word "remove". Gary noted his disagreement with Jon's advice as it is all in the interpretation to which Jon responded that the Rhode Island Supreme Court is strict with interpretations. He just gives advice; the Committee doesn't have to take it. Gary asked if there were any concerns with them playing the role of "gate keeper" to which Jon replied that he is less concerned with "gate keeper" as he is with a violation of OMA. Bill stated that he suggested earlier we suspend this group until we meet with them and get a clearer picture. Jon noted that is up to the Committee. He asked the Clerk to read back the motion to which the Clerk replied, the motion is "to remove the community tab from the Chariho website and all links associated with it". Jon stated he feels this is beyond the scope of the agenda item. Craig suggested they make a motion to table this; they did so with Emma's request.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was
VOTED: To waive the 10:00 PM rule. In favor: Unanimous.

Amanda Blau asked what the appropriate motion would be to which Jon responded that the way it is worded, he cannot think of one. Amanda, commenting on the others that would be removed, suggested they consider links that are donation-oriented be placed under a "Support Chariho Tab". She donates to these and she would like them to stay. You can add disclaimer language. If there is a motion to remove these, consider moving financial resources to this new tab. Chair Lyall noted her concern about getting rid of positive community resources. Maybe they could form a committee to look at these and come back with a recommendation. Take a step back and think about it. George suggested they put in a stipulation that there can be no links that contradict

the Chariho Code of Conduct or law. Catherine noted that she was conflicted. She will abstain from the vote as they are moving too quickly. She supports other links on that page. David asked if she liked the suggestion from Amanda. Jason stated it is a slippery slope when you support something in its entirety. It will require constant monitoring. That is a huge task. Robin Woodmansee commented that we are all learning; we learned we aren't in control of a website. She is not in support of throwing everything out. Maybe have a group to review it. Talk to these organizations. Polly Hopkins questioned the Superintendent – when was the community tab created? Gina replied two weeks ago; only thing questioned was the Chariho Youth Task Force to which Polly questioned semantics. Gina explained when she got the calls, IT took the Task Force link and moved it first. It was the end of school and they got busy. Then they looked at the others and moved them. To be fair, any link we didn't create, we moved. Polly asked if the others were moved after they asked for this agenda item. Gina responded that this was not the way it was handled to which Technology Director Shawn Cole added that the others were removed on June 24th. It was because he was too busy collecting student devices to get to them any sooner. Rich, who works for a big company, stated that if you have an IT department that can filter things out, they can put in key words to take care of it.

David Stall made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was
VOTED: To remove the community tab from the Chariho website and all links associated with it.
In favor: Stall. Opposed: Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon and McAllister. Abstained: Abbott, Giusti, Lyall and Macaruso. The motion failed by a vote of 1 in favor, 5 opposed and 4 abstentions.

H. Creation of Policy Subcommittee – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of a Policy subcommittee. There are lots of policies that need to be revised continuously. The subcommittee would review them prior to them going to the School Committee. Catherine recommended that they not form this subcommittee right now as there are people missing. David stated that he does not like this idea as this is the most important thing the School Committee does from formation; it is a very important process. This is the reason why we come together. Linda McAllister commented that she did not hear that the policies would not come to the full Committee; they will come to them for approval. David asked if they were talking new policies to which Gina replied that it would be mostly revised ones.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by David Stall and it was
VOTED: To table this. In favor: Abbott, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall.
Opposed: Chambers and Macaruso. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed.

VIII. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall requested clarifying questions or items to be pulled. Craig pulled A-1 and A-2; Bill noted he had a question on item H-2. In the memo, it states that the Richmond Building Inspector inspected the Ashaway Elementary School boiler. Ned explained that in preparation for approval by RIDE, we had the jurisdiction inspector look at all equipment. So, Bill stated, the building is in Hopkinton but the Richmond Building Inspector inspected it.

Craig acknowledged and thanked the following:

K-1. Donation from Julia Beasley, Charlestown, RI of the table centerpieces for the Senior Prom.

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

- B. Transfers – Approved.
- C. Bill Review – Accepted.
- D. Budget Summary – None at this time.
- E. Balance Sheet – None at this time.
- F. Personnel Actions – Staff Updates included in FYI.

- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quotes – None at this time.
- H. Permission to Award Contracts – Awarded the following:
 - 1. Chariho High School Domestic Hot Water Tank Replacement to Summit Heating Service, Inc., Coventry, RI, per the memo dated July 7, 2021 from Ned Draper, for a not to exceed price of \$72,500.
 - 2. Ashaway Elementary School Lag Boiler Replacement to Summit Heating Service, Inc., Coventry, RI, per the memo dated July 7, 2021 from Ned Draper, for a not to exceed price of \$62,596.
 - 3. CTC Marine Building HVAC System (to meet updated ventilation requirements due to COVID) to Automatic Temperature Controls (RI Master Price Agreement (MPA) Vendor #136), per the memo from Ned Draper dated July 12, 2021, for a revised estimated price of \$53,750 (funded with ESSER II funds).
- I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.
- J. Grants – None at this time.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 21, 2021 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021 (Minutes not sealed). In favor: Chambers (virtually), Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister and Stall. Abstained (due to absence): Abbott. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 21, 2021. In favor: Chambers (virtually), Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister and Stall. Abstained (due to absence): Abbott. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

David noted a point of clarification for both of the above. It should state minutes of June 22, 2021. The Clerk acknowledged that Mr. Stall was correct and the date would be noted.

IX. Reports

- A. Subcommittee Reports – None at this time.
- B. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. Kindergarten Enrollment Update – Superintendent Picard reported that Ashaway currently has 32 K students enrolled, Charlestown – 59 (which will result in having to add a 3rd K class), Hope Valley – 21 and Richmond – 65 for a total of 177. She is sure we will see a larger bump as we get closer to the opening of school.
- C. Coming Events – Nothing to report.

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

Craig requested that when the discussion on transportation is added to an agenda, he would like elected officials invited. The Superintendent noted that this will probably be on a September agenda.

Bill asked that before they get the EOPs, he would like to have a copy of all drills that were conducted. He also requested that CTC be separated from the High School on the bullying reports as they are two separate schools.

Gary would like an agenda item to discuss onboarding of new member; orientation to process.

XI. Adjournment

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To adjourn at 10:24 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk