

Chariho School Committee In-Person Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – August 10, 2021

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, George Abbott, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, William Day, Gary Liguori, Craig Louzon, Linda McAllister (arrived at 6:21 PM), and David Stall. Absent: Sheila Grover and Lisa Macaruso.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, High School Principal Andrea Spas, High School Dean of Students Ryan Bridgham, Technology Director Shawn Cole, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian, 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 meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho Middle School Auditorium, to order at 6:15 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 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 (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of July 13, 2021 - NEA ESP Negotiation Update); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to litigation (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of July 13, 2021 – Potential Litigation and 2. Litigation Update – Robinson Green Beretta); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices (Approval of Emergency Operation Plans); 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 In favor: Unanimous (McAllister was not in attendance for the vote).

The Committee returned to open session at 6:56 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 litigation (Robinson Green Beretta) remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation (Robinson Green Beretta) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Stall was not in attendance for the vote).

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices (Approval of Emergency Operation Plans) remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices (Approval of Emergency Operation Plans) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Stall was not in attendance for the vote).

3. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes which relate 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 which relate to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) 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, approval of executive session minutes of July 13, 2021 – NEA ESP Negotiation Update, was approved by Abbott, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall and Stall. Abstaining: Callahan. The motion passed with 8 in favor and 1 abstention (McAllister was not in attendance for the vote).

The second vote was approval of the executive session minutes of July 13, 2021 – Potential Litigation, was approved by Abbott, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall. Abstaining: Callahan. The motion passed with 9 in favor and 1 abstention.

Next was discussion of Emergency Operations Plans. The motion was approved by Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall

The fourth vote, approval of home instruction requests, was approved by Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall.

The fifth vote, to close executive session and return to open session, was approved by Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall.

V. Recognition – Please join me in congratulating the following:

1. SkillsUSA National Award Winners: Mitch Daniell (Silver Medal – Electrical), Colby Elwell (4th Place – Marine Tech), Madeline St. Peter, Lysie O’Leary, Madison Chalifoux, Jillian Geer (5th Place – Health Occupations), Mason Paine (10th Place – Automotive).
2. Post-Season Awards: High School Wrestling – James Dougherty – 170 lb. State Champion (1st Team All-State, 1st Team All-Division, Academic All-State); Noah Dinucci (Placed 6th in State Championship – 106 lbs, Academic All-State), Gary Gardiner (Placed 5th in State Championship – Heavyweight, 2nd Team All-Division); Corbin Maraia (Academic All-State); Mitchell Daniell (Academic All-State).
3. (In Attendance) Weeko Thompson – Freshman State Champion – Shot Put; Freshman State Champion – Discus.
4. Performance by CHS Theatre (Freaky Friday). Principal Spas introduced the Theatre Company and advisor Rebecca Burns. We were the only High School in the State able to do two performances each year during COVID. Only 21 actors could perform and they had to stay 6 ft. apart. All dance moves had to be staged and they had to wear masks during their performances. Each member introduced themselves and then presented a scene from Freaky Friday. They were congratulated and thanked for performing this evening.

VI. Public Forum

Chair Lyall stated that this is a chance for the public to share their thoughts on a topic not on the agenda. She will try to stick to the thirty-minutes allotted for Public Forum and asked all to please limit their comments to two minutes. Chris Fee from Charlestown commented that Germany teaches kids History because they want kids to know. It baffles him that people in this country are afraid to speak on history; they want to deny kids access to all of history. We have one of the best school districts in the State yet we have those who want to deny rights to critical race thinking. They want to eliminate public schools. He does not understand how people think this is good; this is history. Thanks. James Sullivan from Charlestown noted that he loved the entertainment. He has been a School Administrator for over 35 years and is definitely against Critical Race Theory being taught in this school system. He distributed to the Committee a copy of a letter he

sent to State Representatives as a concerned citizen. There is a Bill before the House in early fall which was tabled last March that prohibits the State from giving funds to schools that teach CRT. He wants to have community support for the Bill. If parents call attention to it and the School Committee supports it, it will pass. Let it be known how you feel. God Bless America. A Richmond resident was next to speak. She never personally called a person a racist. There are disparities based on race. Systematic racism makes her feel uncomfortable. Social cultural lessons are necessary and she supports the work of the Anti-Racism Task Force and community members. She appreciates trained professionals and asked that barriers not be placed on their work. Goldie Williams from Richmond was prepared to talk about CRT. Diversity is fine but not when you say white supremacy causes mental health. CALA shouldn't exist. They bully and bring drugs. Polly Hopkins from Hopkinton read a letter from a parent. Research information has been presented; CRT is discriminatory and divisive and you refuse to listen. Mrs. Picard claims the District is focused on transparency and equity. That is intentionally dishonest and the First Amendment does not require me to be nice. Vision 2023, the District's Strategic Plan has listed increased cultural competency. He questions the effectiveness of these goals. Chair Lyall informed Polly that her time was up. A gentleman in the audience yelled from the back that she could have his time but the Chair noted that there were other people waiting to speak. Lauren Cacciola from Richmond works as a behavioral teacher in a school and when we talk about critical thinking, we are not talking CRT. Focus on what is most important like the rising COVID numbers instead of CRT. Etta Zasloff from Hopkinton, a retired Chariho teacher, is proud to be living in America – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness yet 245 years later we cannot live up to those ideals. Teach history correctly. This movement is meant to distract and undermine public education. There are many ways to do this without shaming. We are going to feel some of that and we should. It does not mean we are not a good country. Don't cave in. She came here to support the School Committee. Courtney from Richmond questioned why, if CRT was not part of Chariho's curriculum, is it taking up so much time. Education is for all children. It should not be limited to what some white people think. Ryan Bridgham, High School Dean, taught History for 14 years before taking the Dean position. He is completely blown away that this is taking up so much time at these meetings. First thing they teach in History is how to identify bias; all he is seeing is bias. Make informed decisions but for anybody to believe that any staff member would teach History with a bias slant is wrong. We are creating informed, educated students who can make their own decisions. Have faith in the educators. We would not allow this to happen in our classrooms. Thanks. Leslie from Charlestown reiterated Ryan's comments and added 'have faith in our children'. Give them information and let them process it. They are way smarter than us.

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

VOTED: To move Business Item A before Policy. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall and McAllister. Abstained: Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

VIII. Business

A. Mental Health Awareness Club – Superintendent Picard noted that this item was tabled at the last meeting. High School Student Emma Elderkin and Principal Andrea Spas are present to provide an update. She recommended approval of the Mental Health Awareness Club. Craig made a motion, seconded by Catherine, to approve the Mental Health Awareness Club. Andrea thanked the Committee for having them back. She acknowledged Emma and the fantastic job she did at the last meeting. Andrea provided some statistics and Emma gave reasons as to why they want to have a club at the High School; overall to promote awareness. Bill noted that he did not have a problem with the club; it was with the affiliation. Andrea explained that they are getting to that part of the presentation. Emma stated that at the last meeting they proposed a program that they were going to vet under. They have decided to make this a three-year plan. The first year of the proposal they will work on the mission, conduct research and explore programs. The second year will be implementation of the mission and year three they will implement and assess. The question they ask themselves – is there a program – or maybe we don't need a program as

we have clinicians right here. Do we even want to vet a program or bring our own? Andrea added that Emma has potential programs and resources and there is a lot of training from NAMI. She thanked Mr. Day for recognizing the main point; what best meets the needs of their mission and the needs of our students. With the pandemic there is more of a need as mental health problems in young people are on the rise. Emma noted the District's motto "All Kids. All of the Time." We should look at all kids' mental health and safety. Gary thanked Emma for revisiting advocacy; don't limit yourself to the list. There are many resources out there. Work with Ms. Spas and the Superintendent to increase the resources of professional help. Catherine asked if advisors have voluntarily joined the Club to which Emma noted "yes, it is all completely voluntary and Dr. O and Ms. Lefort have offered their assistance. David stated that he appreciates Emma's coming back but he is disappointed in the oversight. Last time they got the presentation ahead of time. The approach tonight was to not present it ahead of time. This does not build trust in him. Mental health is very important but kids may not necessarily use the program. This is an unknown. The people you mentioned are already on staff. Look to increase services if needed. An afterschool club is dangerous. He is as uncomfortable as he was last month. George asked if they had formed a liaison with anyone like Washington County Mental Health to which Andrea responded that this is the plan for year 1 – explore partners. They will look into local resources. Bill stated that being in emergency services he knows how desperately we need this. It would have been nice to see the proposal in front of them but he will put his faith in Andrea, as the administrator, that this will be carried out in a professional manner. We have to incorporate these services in Westerly-Chariho to make this work. Craig thanked Emma for the fantastic job she did. Some people are reading more into this – it is just an awareness club. If we can teach 80% to have compassion for the other 20%, we've done our job. Clubs come and go. It is what you make of them. David commented to Andrea that if he doesn't get the presentation ahead of time and doesn't have time to vet it, he cannot support it. Chair Lyall asked if they will come back in a year to share to which they both noted they would. Ryan complimented them on the great progress they have made. Polly Hopkins felt Emma was doing a great job; blossom something here at school. This could end up being a career path for Emma or other students involved in the club to which Andrea thanked her for just pitching their independent study program.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was
VOTED: To approve the Mental Health Awareness Club. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall and McAllister. Opposed: Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

VII. Policy

A. Attendance Policy (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To approve the revised Attendance Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Attendance Policy Amendment (Deletion) – Superintendent Picard recommended deletion of the Attendance Policy Amendment which was put in place during the COVID pandemic.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To delete the Attendance Policy Amendment. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Bus Behavior Code (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the revised Bus Behavior Code. David stated he has a couple things to address. The first is the Saturday Community Service which is also in the behavior codes for the schools. The only option to miss is for medical reason. Out of respect to Sabbatarians, there should be an exemption in all of the behavior codes. Allow an exemption for religious service. His second comment is on

page four #9 under discipline – “other bias-based infractions”. He read the definition and he is having difficulty with it as he has no idea what it means or how to enforce it or how to define it. People might have different interpretations. He would love to see a change. Donna noted, as far as Saturday Community Service, she did not see an issue with it as they could work around their worship in the church. If a student needs to be disciplined, he/she could do community service babysitting in church or helping the minister. Bias is pretty clear to her. You know when someone is biased. With all due respect, she does not understand these concerns. Ryan agreed that bias-based is a little vague but we can’t document it to the ninth degree. He is fine with the language as it puts due process in place. There is an Appeals process that comes to us or RIDE. Catherine made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to add religious exemption as a reason to miss. Craig questioned if Saturday Community Service is waived due to a religious concern, when do they do the time to which Gina responded “after school.”

Catherine Giusti made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To add religious exemption as a reason to miss Saturday Community Service. In favor: Unanimous.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Bus Behavior Code as amended. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Policy for Face Masks and Face Coverings (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy. Craig made a motion, seconded by Ryan, to approve the revised Policy for Face Masks and Face Coverings Policy. Taylor Rabbitt from Ashaway questioned if mask exemptions will be honored. Superintendent Picard replied that CDC guidance strongly recommends masks. Mrs. Durkin reviews mask exemptions with her team and they look for accommodations. However, there is a federal order that they are required on school buses. If there are any updates to the executive order, the Superintendent will have the ability to amend the policy as necessary. Louise Dinsmore from Richmond has a son in grade 4. She thanked the SC for their service/leadership. The policy is instituted by this SC, not by Governor McKee, RIDOH, RIDE or the federal government. It should be a parent’s choice for the 2021-2022 school year based on data. Chariho elementary schools had low incidences of COVID. The mask issue should be a local decision. You are elected by local people. She does not care what is going on elsewhere. Will you review local data? What is your threshold? It will be helpful to know what those metrics are. Don’t move the goal posts, be transparent. Her son, Jovani, wrote a letter that she read. He was grateful to all his teachers this past year. His letter went on with what he liked and what he didn’t like this past year and wearing a mask was something he did not like. He provided reasons for this. Let all kids who do not want to wear a mask sit near each other and those who want to wear one can sit together. Gina replied that she is happy to talk about metrics. Hopkinton is the highest right now, Charlestown is in the middle. We have had two big events; the Washington County Fair and the Seafood Festival. She will use a similar format as she used last year when there is a COVID case in a school. She was on a call this morning. There is no guidance yet from the Governor so she is not ready to say what will happen day one. She continually looks at the data. David had a comment about medical exemptions in the policy (page 2 – 3rd bullet from the bottom). Masks are required by all on the bus. A physician’s note cannot excuse a medically compromised student. This is confusing/conflicting. How do you determine who is medically compromised? His personal opinion – he is an advocate for schools – masks should be optional for everyone. He does not want students to feel coerced or stressed; pressured by staff or others to wear one. Gina noted that the language comes from RIDOH. We cannot accept a blanket note. We have to understand the need. Gary added that a physician’s note does not imply medically compromised; it is quite different. Cassie Rabbitt from Richmond stated that she did furnish a note from a cardiologist/primary care doctor and it was denied so she pulled her son out and home schooled him. An infected person can infect another person within 27 minutes of wearing a cloth mask. It is ridiculous that kids go six hours wearing a mask. Keep that in the back of your mind. Thank you for your time. Catherine reiterated that

the policy states 'strongly recommended', it does not say mandated. The bus is a federal mandate. Kids will wear a mask on the bus. Our power only goes so far. The federal level will supersede our policy. Mr. Rabbitt commented that if we are going to do what the State says, why have a body. Mr. Stall was proposing something. We deserve to have freedom. Listen to us, we know what is best for our children. Freedom of choice needs to be protected. Polly Hopkins questioned if parents come to you with a doctor's note, who determines what should be fulfilled. You deny a doctor's note but are running vaccination clinics in schools. You are only listening to some doctors. The real issue is if parents bring an exemption, will they be honored? Gina explained that just because a doctor gives a note for an IEP, it does not mean the child gets an IEP. A team reviews it. This process is put in place across the State. Goldie Williams stated that she has a note from her doctor. It is against the American Disability Act to deny it. You ignored my son's IEP. Bill asked Ms. Williams to try to follow the conversation. The policy states 'strongly recommends'; a doctor's note has no impact but when they try to get on a school bus, there is no choice. If we choose to ignore the federal government, they withhold federal money. That comes back to the taxpayers. Cassie Rabbitt asked when the policy changes to mandated, will you honor any medical exemption as she got an email from Ms. Picard that said no medical exemption would be honored. She hopes it doesn't happen this year. Gina responded that they take these case by case. George added that masks reduced the number of viruses – no question about that.

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

E. Secondary Grading Policy (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Secondary Grading Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

F. Standards for Student Behavior - High School/CTC (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. David noted that he will not restate his concern as it is the same as he noted for the Bus Behavior Code.

David Stall made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was
VOTED: To add religious exemption as a reason to miss Saturday Community Service. In favor: Unanimous.

David noted two points of concern. The same bias phrase; he still has an issue with it as it is vague and suggestive. Under Substance Abuse (top of page 8), Possession, Use – 1st violation - possible police contact. This is absurd and illegal. Just remove the 1st violation. The District deserves to be sued if they don't contact police. He will vote 'no' so he is off the hook. Gary noted that while he does not disagree with the rationale, he does not see the word "illegal" in there. David responded that he was correct that the word is not there but it is certainly a reality. Donna agreed with David as she felt police should be contacted. She made an amendment to the policy to remove the word "possible" from the 1st offense. George questioned if a student with a medical would be excluded – wouldn't they ask this first? Gina noted they have due process. Craig asked Jon why it was written this way to which Jon explained that sometimes there does need to be discretion by school personnel. Another district had a smoothie with CBD. In terms of calling the police for that, administration needs to use common sense. Chair Lyall stated that as a former administrator, she would want discretion as an elementary child may bring edibles to school. Catherine noted that Jon made the point she was going to make. If we automatically call the police for the 1st offense, this takes away the rights of administrators. She does not want to tie their hands. Calling police right away is not always the best course of action. Bill added that we

cannot rely on police to come in and solve all our problems. There needs to be consequences for their actions and it needs to be handled in a professional manner. Leave it the way it is. Ryan Bridgham stated that any time there is contraband, this is given to the SRO so police are notified. When a student is under the influence, we never know what they are under the influence of. We do notify the SRO but we do not call police when we don't know. This could be subjective. Polly Hopkins pretty much agreed with Ryan. 1st offense, call the SRO without having to call the police. The 2nd offense is different. She likes having the SRO involved. David commented that this is almost word for word the same conversation we had a year ago. The protocol is we would always notify the SRO so why not put that in – police contact. Leaving discretion here. He will vote no for it.

Donna Chambers made an amendment to the motion, seconded by David Stall and it was VOTED: To remove the word “possible” from the 1st offense. In favor: Chambers and Stall. Opposed: Abbott, Callahan, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall and McAllister. The amendment failed by a vote of 2 in favor with 8 opposed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Standards for Student Behavior – High School/CTC. In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall and McAllister. Opposed: Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

G. Standards for Student Behavior – Chariho Alternative Learning Academy (CALA) (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommend approval of the revisions to this policy. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the revisions to the Standards for Student Behavior – Chariho Alternative Learning Academy (CALA). David noted a concern he had with restorative practice; he does not like the whole section on this and will vote ‘no’ if it remains. It is vague and subjective. He teaches in counseling. What he doesn't love is a new practice in lieu of or in conjunction with. The consequences in the others were specifically defined. This first sentence undermines that. May not use the discipline code we have; why have a behavior code? Ryan asked if he was in opposition to the entire portion or just ‘in lieu of’. David replied if it says “in addition” restorative practice is used that would be OK. Jon was asked to explain this. He noted that some students are there because of mental health disabilities. Conduct is a product of the disability. We cannot impose discipline but we can impose restorative justice. For example, a student with Tourette's Syndrome uses a very vulgar word. He cannot control the use of this word but it would be appropriate to teach him to say “sorry”. David felt this made perfect sense. He understands that but what does it mean for the rest of the discipline code. Jon responded that under federal law you have to look at children on an individual basis. The disability affords administration the ability to address individuals on an individual basis especially at CALA. David stated that the policy as written does not give us all that; it should be more specific based on individual need. Some wording about individual practice. This is very subjective. Someone could decide today to use restorative practice; tomorrow go to the code. Maybe Jon has wording. Jon replied that David's suggestion does not change the wording. Someone will say “What is individual need”. This is all laid out in federal and state law in the special education regulations. If it is a manifestation of a child's disability, we are not allowed to use a child's disability against them to punish them for having a disability. Chair Lyall commented that it sort of does address it in the first paragraph. Polly Hopkins noted that they have this covered in IEPs. Do any of you know what restorative justice is? She has information she will send. It is a whole curriculum/training. A lot of money. A lot more than just a policy change. You are opening the door to a new curriculum. Chair Lyall responded that we have a CALA CAB that has reviewed this and a grant was approved so we have the money to put this in place. Polly questioned how much to which Chair Lyall replied a couple hundred thousand. Polly replied that they like what they are selling but look at the data. Chair Lyall noted that in order to use the money, they had to show research. Polly asked if she could request this item be tabled. Craig replied that any Committee member can request any policy be addressed at any time if we do not feel it is fulfilling

what we expect to do. Polly responded so you are approving it before knowing all the meat behind it? Taxpayers need to know. She continued to speak citing math scores and results of using restorative practice and was ruled out of order. Goldie Williams began speaking off topic and was ruled out of order. George asked if this is to comply with federal policy to which Gina explained that this was part of the community improvement plan and was vetted through RIDE. The federal government provided the funding. George noted that the feds give us very little money but swing a lot of weight as far as our policies go.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the revisions to the Standards for Student Behavior – Chariho Alternative Learning Academy (CALA). In favor: Abbott, Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall and McAllister. Opposed: Day and Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed.

H. Substitute Rate of Pay During COVID 19 (Deletion) – Superintendent Picard recommended deletion of this policy which was put in effect during the pandemic. Donna questioned if there were any concerns about getting subs this year to which Gina responded that the Committee revised the substitute rate of pay in the regular policy. The concern is more with long term subs and certification. There is a meeting planned in the State to discuss this.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To delete the Substitute Rate of Pay During COVID 19 Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

I. Harassment Policy (Revision) – I recommend approval of the revision to this policy (substitute Jane Daly with Michael Comella – page three). Jon has reviewed this.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To approve the revised Harassment Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

VIII. Business

B. Legal Counsel Agreement – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Legal Counsel Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District Committee and Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, LLP from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan and Donna, to approve the Legal Counsel Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District Committee and Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, LLP from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. David stated that he will vote 'no' which should not be a shocker. He was not amused or impressed by Mr. Anderson's approach to legal opinions. Donna noted that she wholeheartedly supports this.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To approve the Legal Counsel Agreement between the Chariho Regional School District Committee and Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, LLP from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. In favor: Abbott, Callahan Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall and McAllister. Opposed: Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

C. 2020-2021 District Annual Report – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the 2020-2021 District Annual Report. She noted that Donna and Katie were instrumental in putting this together and they were thanked.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the 2020-2021 District Annual Report. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Back to School Plan (Draft) – Gina reported that she just had a meeting with RIDE (and the District) so that is why her plan was not included in the packet; it was just finalized. It needs to

be completed by August 27th and they just received the template from RIDE which is requiring full in-person learning. This will need to be updated every six months for ESSER funding. She put a survey out and is gathering questions. She will add any more information that is shared. We are complying with mitigation and there is a one-time self-attestation form for staff and students to complete. Parents are being asked to check their children on a daily basis. She reviewed prevention strategies and noted that we have been asked to hold another vaccination clinic this month. She reviewed the quarantine plan and deleted the travel policy. Buses can be at 100% capacity with masks mandated for all. She believes she will have the plan posted on the website prior to August 27th. There will be some leniency with absences. If a child has COVID symptoms, the absence will be excused.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall requested clarifying questions or items to be pulled. Craig pulled A-1, A-2, A-3. He then acknowledged the donation and thanked the donor.

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

- B. Transfers – Approved the FY21 and FY22 Transfers.
- 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. Propane Bid to Quality Propane for Years 1-3 with the option of renewing for Years 4 and 5 with pricing as noted on the memo from Ned Draper dated August 4, 2021.
 - 2. Custodial Bid Dispenser Items #21-08 - Hand Sanitizer and Hand Soap to Home Depot Pro (pricing noted on the memo from Ned Draper dated August 4, 2021) contingent upon their willingness to supply and install new dispensers to the District.
Paper Towels and Toilet Paper awarded to WB Mason per the pricing noted on the memo from Ned Draper dated August 4, 2021.
 - 3. Richmond School Water Infiltration to Martone Construction (change order) in the amount of \$2,750.00 to address water infiltration issues in the courtyard per RIDE emergency approval.
 - 4. Approved the Facility Use contract with Gnarly Bay Productions (Chariho graduates Dana Saint and Dan Riordan) for use of our facilities (field and CTC) for filming of an L.L. Bean commercial.
 - 5. CHS Steamer Replacement to B & G Restaurant Equipment and Supplies for a cost of \$21,318.
 - 6. CHS Roof Top HVAC Unit Replacement to Trane for a cost of \$28,980.
- I. Home Instruction – Action taken in Executive Session.
- J. Grants – None at this time.
- K. Donations – Accepted the following:
 - 1. Miscellaneous supplies, valued at \$4009.28, from Staples (Westerly store) to the District.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was
VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 13, 2021 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of June 22, 2021 (minutes not sealed). In favor: Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall. Abstained: Abbott and Callahan. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 abstentions.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was
VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 13, 2021 – NEA Chariho Contract Tentative Agreement (unsealed July 13, 2021). In favor: Abbott, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori,

Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall. Abstained: Callahan. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

A-3. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of July 13, 2021. In favor: Abbott, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McAllister and Stall. Abstained: Callahan. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports – None at this time.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Appointment of Assistant Superintendent – Gina introduced Dr. Michael Comella. She reviewed his credentials and noted that he has 29 years in education. He was welcomed.

2. Kindergarten Registrations – The Superintendent noted that the current K numbers are 37 for Ashaway, 65 for Charlestown, 36 for Hope Valley and 82 for Richmond. She is sure that we will receive new applications right up to the first day.

3. Flu Clinics have been scheduled in all schools in October. Bill noted the vaccination clinic scheduled for August 16th. Gina stated that she has notified all Town Managers and they will post this on their sites. A link has been sent out to register.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

George requested a report or discussion on the Facility Improvement Team and when a Building Committee is formed. Craig noted that we still have a Facility Improvement Committee to which George questioned if this was per the Chariho Act.

David noted that he emailed the Clerk and Superintendent a request for the following: 1) Discuss removing the “community” tab and all “non-Chariho School District” organizations from our website; 2) He would like the two resolutions against Critical Race Theory on our agenda or discussion about why we won’t discuss them; and 3) He would like an analysis of the financial impact of a large-scale student withdrawal for homeschooling.

XII. Adjournment

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 9:47 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk