

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes - September 13, 2022

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

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian, High School Principal Andrea Spas, High School Assistant Principal Jean Bradanini, CTC Director Gerry Auth, Richmond School Principal Sharon Martin, Coach Bill Haberek 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 6:17 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 August 9, 2022 - NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update and 2. 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 August 9, 2022 - Legal Update (Perrin v. Town of Richmond, et al.); 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 August 9, 2022 - Emergency Operations Plan) 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 Executive Session Minutes of August 9, 2022 – Approval of Home Instruction Requests; 2) Approval of Home Instruct Requests; and 3) Rescinding 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 7:06 PM and Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:08 PM. She apologized for the late start and asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent meditation

VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated/thanked:

1. Danielle Bruneau, Chariho's 2022 Educator of the Year. Danielle was in attendance and Superintendent Picard shared all that Danielle has done and continues to do for the staff and students at CALA. She added that Danielle, and all RI Teachers of the Year, have been invited to Providence Waterfire on September 24th for recognition. Public is welcome to attend. Chair Lyall presented Danielle with a token of the Committee's appreciation.
2. Amanda Palmer and Wendy Gillam, Chariho's 2022 Education Support Professionals of the Year. Amanda was present and Superintendent Picard provided background information on Amanda and the reasons she was chosen as ESP of the Year. Chair Lyall presented a gift to Amanda and noted the Committee's appreciation. Wendy was not in attendance but the Superintendent commented on Wendy's role as CALA secretary. She was congratulated and thanked.

3. Distinguished Educators: Mark Carson, Suzanne Krause, Michele Gauthier, Michelle Laurie, Patricia Moore, Jill Cuddy and Cheri King.
4. Choral Director Lynn Dowding and students Virginia Keister, Regan Clark, Rachel Lindelow, Lucie May, Maisie Datson, Sarah Wojcik, Kathryn LeBlanc, Abigayle Fadgen, Michaela Mogavero, Josh Simone and Norman Stanley for greeting staff with their beautiful voices at Convocation.
5. Students Abigail O'Brien and Dylan Fisher (MS Auditorium Sound & Technology Assistants) and Julianne Manlove (MS Auditorium Lighting & Technology Assistant) for their help during Convocation.

VII. Public Forum

Chair Lyall asked if there was anyone interested in speaking on something that is not on this evening's agenda. Goldie Williams from Richmond, in response to a request from Donna Chambers at a previous meeting for a definition on bullying, shared a definition she found. She commented that this is what happened to her son. When she was a member of SELAC, there were barely any parents on the Committee; it was mostly staff. There is a rule that it is supposed to be equal. When all are elected in November, will there be masking at that time to which Chair Lyall replied that the District will follow the policy that is written.

VIII. Policy

A. Academic Requirements for High School Graduation (Revision) – Superintendent Picard stated that they have been holding this policy while they wait for the State. The State has not completed their review so this policy may come before the Committee again but there are things that need to be implemented now. Bill commented on the State's review to which Gina replied that it was supposed to be ready by the start of school. Bill wanted to ensure that the State does not come out with something that will blow this policy out of the water. Gina noted that most of the feedback the State received came from parents and educators. She recommended approval of the revisions to the Academic Requirements for High School Graduation Policy which has been reviewed by legal counsel. Ryan made a motion, which was seconded by Catherine, to approve the revised policy. Catherine questioned the addition of the Graduation Project. Andrea stated that the Committee approved the change from a graduation portfolio to a project last May. We have reached out to the Department of Education and are following their requirements. Catherine apologized as she was not at the meeting in which this was discussed. Andrea explained that the change will occur with the incoming freshman class. The other three classes will continue with the graduation portfolio. Any work students have done on their portfolio will be included. Donna stated that she really likes the graduation project as it will involve the community and gets more in-depth. She questioned who students will present to. Andrea replied that this is a cumulative event in front of faculty and community members. There will be a panel of people, similar to the portfolio. The theme is "What Inspires Me" and students are excited. Gina noted that this goes to our vision of re-engaging the whole community. Donna asked if the incoming freshmen have been counseled as there is a lot of planning on the students' part. Andrea responded that they have shared the handbook with them and have been discussing this in advisories. It is more personalized. Donna requested that the High School staff share with the Committee as this evolves. Andrew commented on language referencing "students with significant disabilities not participating in the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment System...", which was noted in a few places. Does this back up to a definition to which Michael replied that he does not see anything specific to that in the RIDE language.

Andrew McQuaide made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To change the sentence, which is noted in several places, from "students with significant disabilities not participating in the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment System..." to "students not participating in the Rhode Island Alternate Assessment System...". In favor: Unanimous.

Craig questioned if outside influences can play a role in the project, such as Eagle Scouts. Andrea noted that one aspect of the project is to connect with a community member/mentor, so this certainly is an important aspect. Catherine commented on the statement, "Students must successfully complete and present their Graduation Project to participate in senior activities (e.g. senior prom, awards presentations, etc.). She noted the same is required of the Portfolio. She feels that a lot of what we do in education should be proactive, not punitive. We should be helping students achieve success. Andrea stated that a lot of this was written before her tenure. Students are required to complete and present before attending any activities. Karen asked how many students did not complete their portfolio to which Andrea replied the number was low; she does not know off-hand and does not want to quote the wrong number. We want to be proactive. We meet with students and parents to get students back on track. If a student struggles with presenting, we accommodate them. Supports are in place. Our goal is not to punish. We try to start working with students early. Catherine stated that she would think if a child gets to this point, they and the parent should be made well aware that this requirement has not been met. Lisa agreed with Catherine. This is an important conversation. When Dr. Erardi spoke on Sandy Hook, he commented on students who have been isolated. If they haven't completed this, we do not want to isolate them from all these events. We want them to be part; social isolation is an issue. We do need to think this through – what is the intent of this proposal? Especially with the data that is coming out of COVID and the mental health issues of our students. Is this what we want? Andrea noted that this is the first time this has come to their attention. She would like to think about it. Gina stated that they have had this conversation so we have contracted with students. She does think they could be clearer and find ways to balance it. This would be a good conversation to have at a SIT meeting. Donna stated that she never saw this as a privilege. She thinks it suggests that students have to stay on track. As long as there are people supporting this effort to keep them on target; all hands on deck before they get to their prom. Gina noted that they will monitor this to which Donna added that it would be a great idea to revisit it. Ryan commented that it sounds like they will be taking another look at this. Should he pull the motion, which includes the amendment, or do you want to move this now. Gina suggested they move forward with the motion (including the amendment) and they can bring this back if revisions are needed. Catherine explained that her line of thinking is that of when students didn't pay their lunch bill, things got taken away. It is not the student's fault if the parent didn't pay. We need to be mindful of the way things are today. Chair Lyall recommended they take this to a vote knowing that they will be revisiting it.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve the revisions, with the amendment as noted, to the Academic Requirements for High School Graduation Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Use of School Facilities (Revision) – The Superintendent recommended approval, per the memo from Ned Draper dated September 6, 2022, to incorporate rental of the Maddie Potts Memorial Field House in this policy and increase rental fees to help cover the increased costs of heat and maintenance. She noted that Dan and Stephanie Potts were in attendance. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the revisions to this policy. Catherine wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Potts Family for donating a million dollar plus building that our students and community will have use of. She understands there are people in the community who do not support this. Bill noted there will be a cost but there was always a cost with the porta-johns. Many people are enthusiastic about indoor plumbing at football games. He feels the cost to maintain the building will be a wash on what was spent in the past for the porta-johns. Donna noted that she just got back from the Cape and while there, she wore her Maddie Potts sweatshirt. People recognized this and she just wanted to say thank you to the Maddie Potts Foundation for all they have done.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To incorporate the rental of the Maddie Potts Memorial Field House in this policy and increase rental fees to help cover the increased costs of heat and maintenance. In favor: Unanimous.

IX. Business

A. Field Trip Request(s) – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the following contingent upon compliance with policy:

1. Request of Coach Bill Haberek for 31 students and 7 chaperones to travel to the Manhattan College Invitational in Van Courtlandt Park, NY from October 7, 2022 to October 8, 2022. Craig made a motion, seconded by Catherine to approve this field trip. Craig commented on the chaperones who are assisting and spoke about the impact Coach Hab had on his children. He helped make them better people and he will always have a place in their hearts. Karen thanked Coach Haberek and congratulated him on his induction to the RIIL Hall of Fame. Coach Haberek thanked all for their very nice comments. He noted that when they travel, people recognize Chariho and the community. This is powerful.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To approve the request of Coach Bill Haberek for 31 students and 7 chaperones to travel to the Manhattan College Invitational in Van Courtlandt Park, NY from October 7, 2022 to October 8, 2022. In favor: Chambers, Day, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McQuaide and Reynolds. Abstained: Callahan (as he is connected to the trip). The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 1 abstention.

B. School Committee Meeting Schedule – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the change to the meeting date in November from November 8, 2022 to November 15, 2022.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the change to the School Committee Meeting Scheduled from November 8, 2022 to November 15, 2022. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Perkins Grant – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit the Perkins Grant. Director Auth is in attendance if there are questions or concerns. Craig made a motion, seconded by Ryan, to approve submission of this grant. Chair Lyall thanked Gerry as she knows this is a lot of work. She asked if this is for one class to which Director Auth replied it is a federal grant that supports all CTE programs. Our allocation was reduced to \$57,000 so he is requesting funding for auto, criminal justice and health careers.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve submission of the Perkins Grant. In favor: Unanimous.

D. LEA Capacity Building to Support Youth Mental Health Grant – Superintendent Picard noted the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), through a partnership with the RI Department of Health, is offering support to districts in both Youth Mental Health First Aid and Teen Mental Health First Aid Training. RIDE has a total of \$1,000,000 to support local efforts. Last summer the Nathan Bruno grant was passed. She recommended approval of the submission of this grant to RIDE (in partnership with RIDOH) in the amount of \$45,953.87. Katie Kirakosian is in attendance to answer any questions. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve submission of this grant. Craig stated that the language under Youth Mental Health confuses him to which the Superintendent replied that this language is from RIDE. Chair Lyall commented that they train the trainers. Craig noted that it is the way in which it is worded. Bill stated that he sees that training is planned for fall of this year. Does the State have a date when this will go forward? He would like some assurance that it will move forward in an expedient manner. Gina noted that work began last spring; this was free. Now this will help us continue to

build our capacity. Bill commented, "So we can control it and not the State." Lisa asked how many people have been trained to which Gina replied that all staff have been trained. The High School has one liaison as does the Middle School (a mental health professional). They will run the trainings. Lisa asked if the other fourteen have been identified. Gina responded that there has been a lot of interest. Katie added that they have a chart and have reached out to those who are interested. Lisa noted that she is one of the instructors for URI. Training the trainers has been highly successful. It will cost less and less and increase the mental health of our District more and more. Gina noted that the curriculum is for grades 6-12 but all staff get trained. Lisa suggested that once the trainers are trained, they should offer this in Adult Ed to the community. Donna commented that this was a terrific idea. She complimented Katie on the beautiful job she did on this grant. When you maximize the effect of this money, this is a good thing. This is a way to attack the problems schools are facing today. She would love to assist. We should train as many people as we can.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To approve submission of the LEA Capacity Building to Support Youth Mental Health Grant. In favor: Unanimous.

E. Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) School Supplemental Funding Grant – The Superintendent noted that Chariho is eligible for supplemental funding in the amount of \$92,763.00 for the 2022-2023 school year. She recommended approval to submit this grant. Katie can answer any questions. Chair Lyall thanked Katie for all her work.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To approve submission of the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) School Supplemental Funding Grant. In favor: Unanimous.

F. Commitment of FY22 Funds – Superintendent Picard recommended that the Committee commits, retroactively to June 30, 2022, the funds noted on the memo from Ned Draper dated August 30, 2022.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To approve commitment of the FY22 Funds, retroactively to June 30, 2022, as noted on the memo from Ned Draper dated August 30, 2022. In favor: Unanimous.

G. Blue Light Station Upgrades – Superintendent Picard stated, per the memo from Ned Draper dated September 2, 2022, discussion/action is needed on upgrades to the two CodeBlue stations on the main campus. It is her understanding that the blue lights were put in around five years ago. While they haven't been used, we were notified that they need to be upgraded as technology is moving from 4G to 5G. These lights are on campus for emergency purposes. We were not anticipating this expense but we should think about upgrading them. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the upgrades to the Blue Light Stations for a cost of \$14,000+. Ryan stated that he has no problem supporting this as there are likely a large number of students on campus who do not have access to cell phones. Catherine asked where are the lights located to which the Superintendent replied there is one by the Middle School and senior parking lot and the other is outside the football field/Maddie Potts Memorial Field House. Bill commented, in case anyone hadn't noticed, we are out in the middle of nowhere. There could be someone going down Switch Rd in distress. He supports this and wondered if they could reach out to Cox, as they created the problem, to see if they can help support the upgrades. Andrew stated that he supports this as well. He added that they should consider how the District communicates this to people as they may not know how to access them. Gina replied that they have had conversations on how to make students aware to which Linda added and we need to make sure the community knows as well. Donna noted that it is too bad they are outdated in such a short amount of time but, for peace of mind, she fully supports the upgrades.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the upgrades to the Blue Light Stations for a cost of \$14,000+. In favor: Unanimous.

H. United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Opportunities – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the submission of the grant applications to FEMA per the memo from Ned Draper dated August 12, 2022. Chair Lyall thanked Mr. Draper.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve submission of the grant applications to FEMA per the memo from Ned Draper dated August 12, 2022. In favor: Unanimous.

X. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall asked if there are any items to be pulled. Craig pulled A-1 and A-2. He recognized the donation and thanked the Ricci family.

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)
Sarah	Doyon	1.0	Effective 8/30/2022
Anna	Maldonado	1.0	Effective 8/30/2022

- 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 – Accepted the following:
 - 1. Donation from Lisa, Christopher and Michael Ricci of \$500.00 to the Barry J. Ricci Library.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 9, 2022 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of July 12, 2022 (minutes not sealed). In favor: Unanimous.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 9, 2022. In favor: Unanimous.

XI. Reports

- A. Subcommittee Reports – Nothing to report.
- B. Superintendent's Report
 - 1. School Opening Updates – We have had a rather smooth opening. She has shared the Welcome Back flyer with parents. She will be hosting a virtual Town Hall on Thursday, October 6 prior to the High School Open House. She has received overwhelming positive feedback from parents on the K Jumpstart Program; she read some of the comments. RIDE has shared virtual learning requirements. This will require a different plan that will be worked on and then presented to the Committee first. We can have up to five (5) inclement weather days if the plan is approved.
 - 2. Kindergarten Enrollment – Ashaway is at 33 (up 2); Charlestown is at 43 (up 3); Hope Valley is at 44 (up 1) and Richmond is at 71 (up 2).

3. Flu Clinics: Middle School – Tuesday, October 4th from 4-7 PM; Hope Valley School – Thursday, October 6th from 4-7 PM; Ashaway School – Tuesday, October 11th from 4-7 PM; Richmond School – Tuesday, October 18th from 4-7 PM; High School/CTC – Thursday, October 20th from 8:00-10:30 AM (Staff and Students only); Charlestown School – Tuesday, November 1st from 4-7 PM. Forms can be accessed online.

C. Coming Events were highlighted including school Open House dates.

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

Craig stated that he and Gina have talked and he would like to see, since the creation of Katie Kirakosian's position, how much grant money has been generated. Donna asked if Katie is full-time to which Gina replied she is part-time.

Andrew requested discussion on the memo from Ned Draper that was included in FYI. He feels this is very important information.

XIII. Adjournment

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To adjourn at 8:14 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk