

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – December 13, 2022

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, Donna Chambers, Tyler Champlin, Kathryn Colasante, Polly Hopkins, Gary Liguori (exited at 7:55 PM), Craig Louzon, Andrew McQuaide, Larry Phelps, Patricia Pouliot and Karen Reynolds.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Attorney Jon Anderson, High School Assistant Principal Jean Bradanini, CALA Director Brian Tetreault, Middle School Principal Greg Zenion, Middle School Assistant Principal Mary Beth Florenz, Charlestown School Principal Jennifer Poore, Richmond School Principal Sharon Martin, Ashaway School Principal Jeff Scanapieco, Hope Valley School Principal Joe Gencarelli, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien 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 5:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silent meditation.

II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session

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

VOTED: That the School Committee go into executive session and close the meeting to the public under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to collective bargaining (1. NEA ESP Staff Negotiation Update/Ratification of Contract; 2. NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update with Mediator Oliverio; 3. Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Certified Staff Pertaining to Article 12B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement - Graduation Portfolio Presentations); 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 November 15, 2022 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474); 2. Legal Update - Superior Court CA No. WC-2020-0213 – Kelsey Zell v. Chariho Regional School District et al.; C.A. No. PC-2019-10870 – Town of Barrington, et al. v. Barrington School Committee et al.; C.A. No. WC-2022-0349 - Scott Perrin, Individually and as Executor of the Estate of William Perrin v. Town of Richmond et al.; C.A. No. PC-2021-06474 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall; 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); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to potential litigation 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 November 15, 2022 - Letter from Hall Law & Associates); 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 November 15, 2022 - Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and the Town of Richmond Pertaining to the Funding for a School Resource Officer) and under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(8) for the purpose of reviewing and/or approving matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (1. Approval of Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous.

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

Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting at 7:08 PM and apologized for the late start. She asked all to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommend that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Liguori, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and Chariho NEA Certified Staff) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (Memorandum of Understanding Between the Chariho Regional School District and Chariho NEA Certified Staff) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Liguori, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

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

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA ESP Contract Negotiation Update/Ratification of Contract) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Liguori, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

4. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: That minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

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

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation/legal update (The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall – C.A. No. PC-2021-06474) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Giusti reported the first vote, approval of executive session minutes of November 15, 2022 – (The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation), was approved by Chambers, Hopkins, Phelps, Liguori, Louzon, Reynolds, Lyall, McQuaide and Giusti. Champlin, Colasante and Pouliot abstained.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of November 15, 2022 – MOU, was approved by Chambers, Hopkins, Liguori, Louzon, Reynolds, Lyall, McQuaide and Giusti. Champlin, Colasante, Pouliot and Phelps abstained.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of November 15, 2022 – Letter from Hall Law & Associates, was approved by Chambers, Liguori, Louzon, Reynolds, Lyall, McQuaide and Giusti. Champlin, Colasante, Hopkins, Pouliot and Phelps abstained.

The next vote, approval of home instruction requests, was approved by Chambers, Colasante, Hopkins, Champlin, Pouliot, Phelps, Liguori, Louzon, Reynolds, Lyall, McQuaide and Giusti.

The final vote to return to open session was approved by Chambers, Colasante, Hopkins, Champlin, Pouliot, Phelps, Liguori, Louzon, Reynolds, Lyall, McQuaide and Giusti.

VI. Performance by Chariho Vocal Select – Due to illness, the Chariho Vocal Select will not be performing this evening. We hope to see them at the next meeting. We will also hold off on recognizing those students who were selected to All-State Chorus.

VII. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

1. Ryann Denecour (High School Girls' Soccer) named *The Westerly Sun's* Athlete of the Week for the week ending November 5, 2022.
2. Finleigh Callahan (High School Girls' Volleyball) named *The Westerly Sun's* Athlete of the Week for the week ending November 12, 2022.
3. Postseason Awards

High School Girls' Volleyball - Alexis Cole (Division II Player of the Year, 1st Team All-Division II, 2nd Team All-State, All-Tournament Division II); Katja Nelson (1st Team All-Division II, 3rd Team All-State); Jules White (1st Team All-Division II, Division II State Tournament MVP); Emma Kocab (3rd Team Division II); Finleigh Callahan (3rd Team All-Division II, All-Tournament Division II). Coach Kathy McGeehan – Division II Coach of the Year.

High School Girls' Soccer – Division I Team Sportsmanship Award: Ryann Denecour (All-Region, 1st Team All-State); Emily Brown (1st Team All-Division I); Tessa Azzinaro (2nd Team All-Division I); Reid DosSantos (2nd Team All-Division I); Kaitlyn Rousseau (Alice Sullivan "Perseverance Award"); Brooke Kanaczet (All-Academic); Tori Babineau (All-Tournament Division I); Rachael Abbott (All-Tournament Division I).

High School Girls' Cross Country – Erin von Housen (All-Southern Division, All-Class B, 3rd Team All-State); Maria Mykhaylyshyn (Academic All-State), Lidia Taber (Coach's Award).

High School Boys' Soccer – Ethan Knowles (All-Division II Team, 1st Team Division II, All-Tournament Team); Ian Clark (1st Team Division II), Chris Niziolek (2nd Team Division II), Canyon Krom (2nd Team Division II), Drew DeNoncour (All Academic (3.34 GPA), All-Tournament MVP); Kody Poplaski (All-Tournament Team); Brandon Knowles (All-Tournament Team).

High School Football – Konnor Perrin (1st Team All-Division IIIA, All-Academic); Caleb Maggs (1st Team All-Division IIIA, All-Academic); Nathan Winthrop (1st Team All-Division IIIA); Collin Fitts (1st Team All-Division IIIA, All-Academic, Providence Gridiron Back of the Year); James Azzinaro (1st Team All-Division IIIA); Dan O'Horo (1st Team All-Division IIIA, All-Academic); Myles Price (2nd

Team All-Division IIIA); Norman Stanley (2nd Team All-Division IIIA); Lucas Corah (2nd Team All-Division IIIA); Max Marshall (2nd Team All-Division IIIA); Ryan Taylor (3rd Team All-Division IIIA); Isaac Hague (3rd Team All-Division IIIA, All-Academic).

High School Girls' Tennis – Emily Ballard (1st Team Division II); Faith Owren and Sara Johnson (1st Team Division II Doubles – their record was 15-0); Megan Ballard (2nd Team Division II); Kaitlyn Daniels and Lily Jackson (2nd Team Division II Doubles); Allison Cole and Olivia Marchione (2nd Team Division II Doubles).

VIII. Reorganization of the Committee – Election of Chair/Vice Chair – Subcommittee Vacancies
Superintendent Picard reported that the School Committee Chairperson will be a Hopkinton Representative; the Vice Chair will come from Richmond. Subcommittee vacancies are noted in red. Changes can be made to other subcommittees as well (each vacancy will need to be voted on separately). Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Donna, to nominate Catherine Giusti to the position of Chair. Chair Lyall asked Catherine if she would accept this nomination to which Catherine responded that she would. Chair Lyall noted that Catherine is a great choice and thanked all for allowing her to serve.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To nominate Catherine Giusti to the position of Chair. In favor: Unanimous.

Catherine and Linda exchanged seats and Catherine thanked the voters of Charlestown for re-electing Linda. Linda served with grace, compassion and intelligence.

Karen made a motion, which was seconded by Catherine, to nominate Gary Liguori to the position of Vice Chair. Chair Giusti asked Gary if he would accept the nomination to which Gary replied that he would.

Karen Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To nominate Gary Liguori to the position of Vice Chair. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Giusti stated that this is an opportunity for others to serve on subcommittees. We do try to split them up by town but that is not a necessity. Andrew added that if anyone is feeling passionate about a subcommittee that may not have a vacancy, feel free to offer your service. Craig noted that these do count towards the required hours for School Committee members. Tyler stated that he would be interested in filling the vacancy on the Audit Subcommittee.

Linda Lyall made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To appoint Tyler Champlin to the Audit Subcommittee. In favor: Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Champlin. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

Donna questioned what the District Strategic Planning Liaisons role was to which Gina responded that this is per State regulation. The State is requiring liaisons for each District's Strategic Planning. Andrew McQuaide and Catherine Giusti have offered to serve with the first meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Everything will, however, come before the entire School Committee.

Tyler stated that he will volunteer to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee. It was noted that this is usually just one meeting per year held right before the Omnibus Meeting.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Tyler Champlin to the Finance Committee. In favor: Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Champlin. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

Although there was not a vacancy listed for the Food Service Contract Subcommittee, Craig commented that it would be nice to have a third person; Kathryn volunteered.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Kathryn Colasante to the Food Service Contract Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Pat then volunteered for the NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Subcommittee for Richmond. Tyler questioned if they needed to also have a Hopkinton member to which Chair Giusti replied that it is not necessary but each town will have a representative if both vacancies are filled.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To appoint Patricia Pouliot to the Richmond vacancy on the NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Tyler Champlin to the Hopkinton vacancy on the NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Subcommittee. In favor: Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Champlin. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

There is a Richmond vacancy on the NEA ESP Negotiation Subcommittee. Karen offered to fill this vacancy by moving from her position as an alternate.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the move of Karen Reynolds from alternate to the Richmond vacancy on the NEA ESP Negotiation Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Linda noted that the Policy Subcommittee is a new subcommittee but no members have been appointed as it was decided to wait until after the election. This will be a small working group to review policies before they go to the full Committee. Andrew added that this is an opportunity to look at old policies or existing policies to determine if there is still a need for the policy or if it should be revised. There is a lot of value in having this subcommittee and he thanked Linda for promoting it. He noted, however, that the Committee had not yet voted to form this subcommittee.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To form a Policy Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Giusti requested volunteers for this subcommittee. Kathryn, Linda, Donna, Polly and Andrew all volunteered.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was VOTED: To appoint Kathryn Colasante to the Policy Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was VOTED: To appoint Donna Chambers to the Policy Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To appoint Linda Lyall to the Policy Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To appoint Polly Hopkins to the Policy Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To appoint Andrew McQuaide to the Policy Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Polly noted an interest in joining Andrew as a School Committee Liaison to the Special Education LAC.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and Karen Reynolds and it was VOTED: To appoint Polly Hopkins to the position of School Committee Liaison to the Special Education LAC. In favor: Unanimous.

Pat volunteered to fill the Richmond vacancy on the School Facilities Subcommittee.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To appoint Patricia Pouliot to the Richmond vacancy on the School Facilities Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Linda volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Threat Assessment Oversight Committee. She has been very active on this Committee along with Bill Day. Andrew noted that he has had the opportunity to meet with Bill and Linda and was deeply impressed by Linda's commitment to safety. Gina added that this is legislated and required. Craig asked, because it is legislated, does it tell you the numbers needed to which Gina responded that it tells who is required on the Committee.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To appoint Linda Lyall to the Threat Assessment Oversight Committee. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To appoint William Day, as Richmond's Assistant EMA Director, to the Threat Assessment Oversight Committee if Bill is interested in accepting this position. In favor: Unanimous.

The Transportation Subcommittee has two vacancies; one for Richmond and one for Hopkinton. Larry volunteered for the Hopkinton vacancy and Pat volunteered for the vacancy for Richmond.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Larry Phelps to fill the Hopkinton vacancy on the Transportation Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Patricia Pouliot to fill the Richmond vacancy on the Transportation Subcommittee. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Giusti stated that School Safety Team members are invited to observe drills at not only the school they represent, but at any district drills they may want to attend. She will remove herself from the Middle School as she is not able to attend drills due to her work schedule. The expectation is that you should be available to attend five drills (1 evacuation, 1 lockdown and fire drills). You can, however, attend as many as you want. At the end of the drill, all observers are asked for feedback and ways to improve the drill. Gary asked how far in advance are drills scheduled to which Gina replied they should be scheduled at least two weeks prior to the drill. We also do shelters-in-place which are not required by the State. Gary asked if the expectation is to be at five of fifteen to which Andrew replied that the five should include a lockdown, evacuation, shelter-in-place and fire drills. Gary offered to assume Catherine's position on the Middle School Safety Team.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Gary Liguori to the Middle School Safety Team. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna noted that she would volunteer for CALA but would like tentative dates presented to her at the beginning of the year.

Linda Lyall made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was VOTED: To appoint Donna Chambers to the CALA School Safety Team. In favor: Unanimous.

Polly then volunteered for Ashaway School; Larry for Hope Valley School and Pat for Richmond School.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Polly Hopkins to the Ashaway School Safety Team. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Larry Phelps to the Hope Valley School Safety Team. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To appoint Patricia Pouliot to the Richmond School Safety team. In favor: Unanimous.

Gina noted that the “ask” for the School Improvement Team Selection Committee is usually around March when principals put out an application for teachers/parents. The selection then comes to the School Committee. Kathryn volunteered for the vacancy at the Middle School and Polly volunteered for the vacancy at Ashaway School.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was VOTED: To appoint Kathryn Colasante to the Middle School vacancy on the School Improvement Team Selection Committee. In favor: Unanimous.

Tyler Champlin made a motion. Which was seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED To appoint Polly Hopkins to the Ashaway School vacancy on the School Improvement Team Selection Committee. In favor: Unanimous.

IX. Public Forum

Chair Giusti noted that this is an opportunity for those wishing to speak on a topic that is not on this evening’s agenda. She asked that comments be limited. Christopher Fee from Charlestown spoke about Parents United RI which was formed with the intent of infiltrating local school boards and town councils to degrade public schools and promote charter schools under the guise of parental rights. Two new School Committee members took the pledge to fully support complete transparency and parental rights when it comes to the health and education of children and to oppose all efforts to teach our K-12 student any divisive race-based or gender-based theory and any inappropriate and explicit sexual content. He questioned how far will this parental opposition go. None of us should be allowed to commandeer a school district’s policies just because we manage to reproduce. Having an axe to grind doesn’t qualify someone to make decisions about other people’s children. God loves all the people who hate. Helen Sheehan from Richmond went to the podium to speak. It was noted that she did not sign in to speak during Public Forum which is a requirement set forth by the School Committee. Mr. Fee was the only one who signed in. As this was Catherine Giusti’s first meeting as Chair, she stated she would allow those to speak who have not signed in but will not do so in the future. Ms. Sheehan stated that she supports Parents United as many of them have concerns about books in schools and what is being taught. She doesn’t blame the teachers. She does believe students should be taught about slavery but they need to protect children from being exposed to sexual things. Michael Colasante from Richmond noted that he, too, signed a pledge for Parents United. He looked at Donna Chambers and stated

that during a zoom meeting when he was giving historical data, she did nothing but give him the “looking in the clouds” eyes. There is still slavery in Africa; let’s not be ignorant to that. He reiterated his comments from his previous conversation. Blacks sold blacks into slavery and 350,000 Union soldiers died to set them free. He again spoke of an incident that occurred with a black student when he was in college but noted that this did not taint his attitude towards black people or southerners because he was taught to put things into perspective. Parents United – there is a lot more backbone to it than the gentleman who spoke very, he thinks, eloquently right in the beginning. To me it is ignorance on his part to many aspects he said. If he wants to debate me, he would love to debate him right in front of the School Committee. He can bring his historical data and he will bring his.

X. Business

A. NEA ESP Contract Ratification – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the NEA ESP Contract for 2023-2025. Craig questioned if Andrew and he were legally OK to vote on this contract as they have family members who are part of this Union. Jon replied that Craig and Andrew cannot take part in the negotiation process; it is, however, legal for them to vote on the final contract.

Gary Liguori made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To approve the NEA ESP Contract for 2023-2025. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) Results – Dr. Comella was set to begin his presentation but technology issues were delaying this.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was VOTED: To table item B until the technology issue is fixed. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Middle School Course Proposals

1. STEM: Computer Science – Robotics – Grades 7-8. Superintendent Picard noted that the materials for Robotics were funded through a Community 2000 Grant. Tyler expressed his thanks to Chris Philips, God rest his soul – he was a great guy, and asked if this grant is for just one year to which Gina explained that they have the opportunity to offer more. Susie Scanapieco is our STEM Specialist so she can give you an overview. Susie noted that she is proud to say Chris’ name several times tonight and shared Tyler’s sentiments about Chris. He took the schools to a better place. He brought a set of robots to the High School and wanted to see the momentum go vertical to the Middle School. The High School course, which is an elective, offers an introductory level into Robotics. The Middle School offering will be an elective as well with a different spin. We worked for seven years bringing computers to every student right down to the elementary level. We have students eager to do more so we have geared this to those wanting to do more. Kathryn questioned funding to which Susie responded that the robots are intended to be used year after year; they will be taken apart and rebuilt. Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the STEM: Computer Science – Robotics Course for Grades 7-8.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve the STEM: Computer Science – Robotics Course for Grades 7-8. In favor: Unanimous.

2. STEM: Computer Science – Gaming – Grade 8 – Superintendent Picard stated that this incorporates technology, math and science; they will use coding. She recommended approval of the STEM: Computer Science – Gaming Course for Grade 8. Andrew noted his appreciation that this provides a pathway and the thoughtfulness of this as Gaming may engage students differently.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the SEM: Computer Science – Gaming Course for Grade 8. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Certified Staff Pertaining to Article 12B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (Graduation Portfolio Presentations) – Superintendent Picard noted that current contract language states that “Educators shall be scheduled for said assessments by December 1 of each school year.” As students may not be ready to present on their assigned dates, this agreement allows educators to sign up the week prior to the presentation date to ensure a more accurate understanding of student readiness. She recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Chariho Regional School District and NEA Chariho Certified Staff pertaining to Article 12B of the collective bargaining agreement. In favor: Unanimous.

E. Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS) Memorandum of Understanding between Sandy Hook Promise Foundation and Chariho Regional School District – Superintendent Picard noted that this has been in effect in Chariho for three years. There is no charge to the District and Richmond Police Chief Johnson is a strong proponent of it. This protects the District in the case of a liability issue. She recommended approval of this MOU effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 which has been reviewed by legal counsel. The delay is due to changes requested by legal counsel. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve the MOU. Kathryn questioned if they are just reapproving this. Are there any clubs to which Gina replied we don’t have any clubs; we just use the tips (reporting). Kathryn wondered if any changes are made would there be a motion. Gina explained that if any clubs are being recommended, this would come before the School Committee for approval (the School Committee must approve all clubs). Larry questioned the cost to which Gina replied it is free. Larry noted that there are a lot of people involved. Gina replied that this is a non-profit group; we pay nothing. We have received over 40 tips this year; mostly self-harm or reporting on a friend in danger. This has saved lives. Larry commented that he researched this group and they claim that white people are doing the shooting to which Polly added that there is no mention on the website of local police departments. Gina explained that our students send a tip. Depending on the level of the tip (such as school threats), it would go to police. If it is self-harm or a friend in danger, it goes to our team. Polly stated that it looks like an app on a phone. Sandy Hook Promise gets it and if they deem it relevant, they refer it to us. She would like all reports to go to Chief Johnson. Not that she wants to burden him with more work, but he knows the community; the families. Gina explained they want to consider the student. They are not always going to call the police. We have mitigated a lot of issues. The number one reason is concern about hurting a friend to which Chair Giusti added that nothing precludes them from reporting something to the police. They can go to the SRO. Pat questioned if they wouldn’t just amp up the Bullying Policy to which Gina replied that we do in-house. Pat commented on a political issue – this group is lobbying for anti-gun legislation. Gina responded that the District’s responsibility is to provide our students with an avenue for safety. Andrew asked if School Committee members would like to bring this up during budget talks for funding. This is free but if that is the route you want to go, he would ask that there not be a gap in student safety. He is not opposed to having a local version but he would not support a gap. Pass it this time and address it at the correct time. Gina again reiterated that she spoke with Chief Johnson today and he backs this 100%. Tyler asked when tips come in, how are they triaged? Gina explained that is why the MOU is more detailed. It goes to the tip line (the foundation) and it is then decided where the tip should be routed. We coordinate tips and verify that they were properly vetted.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS) Memorandum of Understanding between Sandy Hook Promise Foundation and Chariho Regional School District. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide and Reynolds. Opposed: Hopkins, Phelps and Pouliot. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor and 3 opposed.

Chair Giusti noted that the technology issue has been resolved so she would like to return to item B.

B. Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) Results – Dr. Comella distributed additional slide sheets and thanked everyone for their patience. At the last meeting, a report was provided on PSAT and SAT results which are part of RICAS. A new baseline has been set by the State using 2021 data as they feel that recovery will take 3-5 years. Chariho had one of the highest participation rates in the State. The dip in ELA was a result of writing scores. Gina noted that preliminary data was shared with principals and they reviewed this over the summer and met with teachers. Donna asked if RICAS was exactly the same MCAS as Chariho outscored Massachusetts. Bravo to us as this has always been a target of ours. Dr. Comella provided pre and post COVID data; where we were and where we need to get back to. Tyler asked if the data was comparable to which Dr. Comella replied that they can compare cohort data. A shout-out to the teachers who have had a lot of professional development to support them. The reason why we talk about Massachusetts is that Mass has historically been a high performing state. We were 2% points higher than Mass in Math and .7% higher in ELA. Dr. Comella then reviewed the action steps and how they analyze students. We are addressing writing as a District with an intervention block to address student need. Linda asked if writing was part of the reading program to which Dr. Comella noted that the State assesses writing within reading. Richmond and Hope Valley have tutoring available for students; Principal Martin has had it in place for two years. Andrew felt they really needed to shout from the rooftops that Chariho is meeting and exceeding Massachusetts' numbers. He wanted the message shared with all educators. He complimented Principal Jen Poore who had them look at data sheets during their last SIT meeting. There is value in how data is addressed and also addressing BIPOC as well as students with disabilities. He asked if there is anything the Committee should focus on; how can they support the District in advance of this work. The School Committee having a good line of sight is important. Dr. Comella noted that the achievement levels of students with IEPs is always an area we focus on. They get additional time in math and reading with specialists to make sure we don't duplicate services. The Superintendent stated, in terms of support, we continue to look at ways/opportunities to bring in what is needed. She added that they were lucky with ESSER funding. Teachers are our largest investment. We value their work. You can help us think through the budget to insure that we provide them access to tools and resources so that the return on investment shows in our data. Increased math scores will improve reading and writing. We also are enhancing student voices. Craig questioned when ESSER funds disappear to which Gina replied September 2024. Kathryn asked if tutoring takes place outside of the school day or is there an opportunity during school. Dr. Comella responded that time has been built into the school day. Karen congratulated teachers and administrators and all the kids who have made these scores work. Andrew noted that the RICAS timeline is subject to conversation this year (concerns/challenges) to which Gina stated that they are meeting next week with RIDE to get the data into the hands of teachers quickly. We get bits and pieces here and there. Results came out before elections but that is too late. We would want the timeline before the start of school. Massachusetts gets them out much earlier. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Karen, that they authorize the Chair of our School Committee to work collaboratively with our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to send a communication to the Rhode Island Department of Education from the Chariho School Committee that expresses our concerns that were just articulated including, but not limited to, the importance of getting data in the hands of teachers quickly, the importance of getting our data over the summer and not waiting until the academic year. This provides the opportunity for us to whittle it down to support quality education; coming in the fall is too late. Massachusetts has

demonstrated a model we should emulate. Polly suggested they also send the letter to local representatives of the General Assembly. Andrew felt this was a wonderful suggestion and he and Karen were fine with making this part of the motion.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was VOTED: To authorize the Chair of our School Committee to work collaboratively with our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to send a communication to the Rhode Island Department of Education and local representatives of the General Assembly from the Chariho School Committee that expresses our concerns that were just articulated including, but not limited to, the importance of getting data in the hands of teachers quickly, the importance of getting our data over the summer and not waiting until the academic year. This provides the opportunity for us to whittle it down to support quality education; coming in the fall is too late. Massachusetts has demonstrated a model we should emulate. In favor: Unanimous.

Tyler noted that I-Ready was rolled out first in Ashaway; are we rolling it out equally across the District to which Dr. Comella replied “yes, in every school and every class.” Our leaders are working very closely with each other. This was another legislative mandate for high quality instruction.

F. Rhode Island Department of Education Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Chariho and the Chariho Public School Committee for the 21st Century Technology and Furniture Fund (SBA Capital Fund) – Superintendent Picard stated that she will revise the MOA to remove “the Town of Chariho.” This is very similar to the Arts Initiative. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve the MOA. Craig asked if this is for the District and not just the High School to which Gina replied it is for the District to support initiatives to continue the work. Craig questioned if the furniture expenditure will eliminate the furniture in the budget. Gina responded that it will not eliminate this from the budget. Students will build actual robots and learn how to code. This does not provide funding for site licenses. She recommended approval of the RI Department of Education Memorandum of Agreement with the Chariho Public School Committee for the 21st Century Technology and Furniture Fund (SBA Capital Fund) to provide innovative furniture and equipment that supports science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics in the amount of \$395,468. If approved, all members will need to sign the MOA. Kathryn noted this will be more hands-on learning to which Gina agreed. Craig asked who did the leg work. Gina replied that they actually sought us out. Tyler asked if the District has identified a listing as eligible expenses are through June 2023 so we will need to move quickly. Gina explained that RIDE usually reimburses us (pay-as-you-go). They are giving us CTC money earlier now. Tyler noted that he did not want to miss the deadline.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the RI Department of Education Memorandum of Agreement with the Chariho Public School Committee for the 21st Century Technology and Furniture Fund (SBA Capital Fund) to provide innovative furniture and equipment that supports science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics in the amount of \$395,468. In favor: Unanimous

G. Agreement for Temporary Custodial Services with System4Services – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Agreement for temporary custodial services with System4Services until such time as custodial vacancies are filled or their services are no longer needed. We continue to struggle filling vacancies. We already have one company we work with but we are still struggling. Pat wanted to ensure that this can be terminated if we get enough employees to fill the vacancies to which Gina replied “yes”. Ned added that he wants to be prepared before we get snow. Pat questioned if overtime has been offered to which Gina replied that we do offer overtime. Ned noted that we have an agreement with MPA (Master Pricing Agreement) which is at or better than previously bid items. Tyler reiterated that this will not be costing the District any extra because of vacancies to which Ned agreed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve the Agreement for temporary custodial services with System4Services until such time as custodial vacancies are filled or their services are no longer needed. In favor: Unanimous.

H. Letter from Hopkinton and Notice from Richmond Pertaining to the Plowing/Sanding of Elementary School Lots – This item was requested by Catherine Giusti. Chair Giusti stated that she wanted this to be on an agenda as it caught the Committee and District by surprise as this decision was made far outside our budget time line. No one knew it was coming. The feeling is that Chariho has the equipment and personnel to do this job; we do not. We had to scramble to find a provider. Gina noted that she reached out to both towns and they claimed they did not have the equipment or personnel to handle this any longer. She also spoke to Mark Stankiewicz in Charlestown who assured her that Charlestown would absolutely not pull their service to Charlestown Elementary School and would let her know before the budget is set if anything changes. Nell Carpenter congratulated all who were elected to serve. She suggested the District look at usage fees at the elementary schools and increase these to generate revenue to cover this additional expense. Both Richmond and Hopkinton passed their budgets. There should be mutual reciprocity; it is a two-way street. Both of these towns utilize the elementary schools for recreation programs year-round (including summers). She noted that Chariho has accommodated every request Richmond has made of them. This is an expense you were blindsided with. Custodial services, toilet paper, heat, etc. are not free but you have absorbed these costs for the towns when they utilize the buildings. Craig stated it is \$125 per truck and asked how many trucks were they looking at. Gina replied that it would depend on the amount of snow we get. Craig extended kudos to the Town of Charlestown who is not only plowing their elementary school but will now have to pay to plow the other three elementary schools. Andrew echoed Craig's comments. At the end of the day, taxpayers are paying. Larry asked if anyone had approached the two towns for help with paying to which Gina responded that when she asked about this, she was told their budgets do not include this service for their schools. Larry felt they should help a bit and added that they do have a budget; it was for schools too. Andrew noted that it is also a matter of process. This was on Hopkinton's agenda yet no one from the school was invited. He does not want them to be hypocrites but were Hopkinton and Richmond Town Councils made aware that this would be discussed tonight? It was noted that agendas were sent to each Town Hall. Gina added that individual emails or letters were not sent to which Andrew made note that sending agendas is not the same as notifying them and he would prefer they be notified in advance of any discussion that involves them. Helen Sheehan stated that this did not come up on a Richmond agenda to which Gina replied that it was never on an agenda, to the best of her knowledge, in Richmond. It was an email to the Town Council after the decision was made but the school district was not included on that email. Hopkinton did have it on an agenda; Andrew found out the night it was being discussed. Tyler asked if the District collects user fees from the towns to which Gina responded "no". Kathryn reiterated that it is taxpayer money. To Nell's point, for profit, we could ask the Town Council to explore revenue from food trucks.

XI. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Giusti asked if clarification is needed or if there are any items that need to be pulled. Kathryn stated that she needs clarification on some bills. Item C was pulled.

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

A. Minutes – Approved the following:

1. Executive Session Minutes of November 15, 2022 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of October 11, 2022 (minutes not sealed).
2. Regular Session Minutes of November 15, 2022.

B. Transfers – Approved.

- D. Revenue/Expenditure Account Status Report - As per enclosed.
- E. Student Activity Fund Balance – As per enclosed.
- F. Personnel Actions – None at this time.
- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quote – Approved issuance of the following:
 - 1. GASB 75 Actuarial Services (only part of the Bid is included. Please contact Ned if you would like to review the entire bid which is 12 pages).
- 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 of \$1,000 from Flood Ford Lincoln, Narragansett, RI to the Middle School Gingerbread Express.
 - 2. Donation from Chariho Rotary (Frank Hopkins) and Chariho Interact Club (Advisor Dana Hall) for their Little Library Donation to Richmond Elementary School.

C. Bill Review – Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Linda to accept the Bill Payment Review Reports. Kathryn questioned Vendor #21840 on page 3 of 8 in the November 10, 2022 Payment Review Report. What does this encompass? Dr. Comella replied that the vendor, Curriculum Associates, Inc. provided professional development (purchased service) for I-Ready Math coaching for teachers. This is coming from ESSER funding. Kathryn then asked for clarification on page 3 of 15 of the December 1, 2022 Payment Review Report – Bayada Home Health Care. Gina explained that this is required by law – a nurse for special education at the Middle School (purchased service).

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was VOTED: To accept the Bill Payment Review Reports. In favor: Unanimous.

XII. Reports

A. Subcommittee Report

1. Health and Wellness Subcommittee met on December 6, 2022. The approved minutes of their meeting on October 4, 2022 were included in the packet.

B. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Boks Program – Building our Kids Success – This is a Reebok physical activity offered before school. Students love this program.
- 2. Food Drive – The High School Interact Club organized the annual food drive in which over 6,000 items were collected and donated to local families and food pantries.
- 3. Snow Day/Inclement Weather Virtual Plan Update – RIDE has added requirements this year. We will utilize school closing Distance Learning Days only if we go beyond three days of no school.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Chair Giusti explained, for the benefit of new members, that any requests for legal opinions need a majority vote of the Committee.

Donna stated that she agrees with a statement made by Mr. Phelps that they need to keep politics out of these meetings. There are accusations that we are all doing things to which Andrew called for a point of order – what is the request? Donna responded that if they get accusations publicly, they should ask for evidence as many times these are unfounded. Chair Giusti stated that maybe they could have a discussion but is going to ask Donna to hold as she needs to crystalize this.

Polly commented that several parents are in disarray over the amount of emails they receive. Can they have a discussion about how to streamline communication to which Chair Giusti recommended they look at the method of communication. Superintendent Picard added that she

can do a review. She knows the principals do a Friday update and the High School has a blog. Polly thought it would be nice if they had a Chariho app. Andrew stated that they need to narrow this to an agenda item and narrow down the discussion. Chair Giusti noted that, to Andrew's point, the purpose of having a posted agenda is so all have an opportunity to discuss an item.

Tyler questioned the status of the Ashaway 1904 building. Could they reach out to the Hopkinton Town Council to which Karen added so they can have a conversation about this? Jon stated that the 1904 building belongs to the Town of Hopkinton, not Chariho. Craig added that they do not have a say. A letter was recently sent to Hopkinton but they did not respond.

XIV. Adjournment

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Donna Chambers and it was VOTED: To adjourn at 9:23 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk