

# Reports

Charlho Regional School District  
Budget Subcommittee Meeting  
Monday, November 6, 2023

Attendance: Ned Draper, Kathy Kozol, Andrew McQuaide, Superintendent Gina Picard, Jessica Purcell, and Karen Reynolds.

Guests: Rep. Megan Cotter, Sen. Elaine Morgan, Rep. Tina Spears, and Sen. Victoria Gu

Minutes:

**Meeting Call to Order:** Karen Reynolds called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

**Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2023:** A motion was made by Andrew McQuaide and seconded by Karen Reynolds to approve the minutes of October 16, 2023 with one amendment to include "Respectfully Submitted, Andrew McQuaide".

Approved: Andrew McQuaide, Jessica Purcell, and Karen Reynolds. Opposed: None.  
Abstaining: None.

**Funding discussion with local elected officials:** The Budget Subcommittee thanked the members of the General Assembly who joined the meeting to discuss the subcommittee's October 24, 2023 letter to Senators Victoria Gu and Elaine Morgan, and Representatives Megan Cotter, Brian Kennedy, and Tina Spears. Discussion ensued regarding Categorical Transportation Aid and the District's challenge to budget effectively when the inclusion of aid in a Governor's budget is not guaranteed and the amount of anticipated aid is unknown as it is subject to approval from the General Assembly which occurs well after Charlho's budget referendum. Representative Cotter discussed specific legislative efforts, including legislation to reinstate the regionalization bonus, to respond to the District's concerns. Discussion ensued on how the District can more effectively advocate at the General Assembly. More people advocating brings more attention to an issue. Typically, 150 letters helps General Assembly members to pay attention. Rep. Spears asked if there was a specific consortium of regionalized school districts and it was shared that there is not one currently. Subcommittee members raised school district payments for students in state care through DCYF. Currently, yearly tuition rates for students in DCYF care have increased and all students are being charged an additional increase as if they were Special Education students even when a student does have an Individualized Education Plan. The District is charged for statewide transportation for out-of-district students at a rate of up to \$1,000 per day. Superintendent Picard and Ned Draper reviewed current DCYF placement data and legal challenges that have been brought by Newport specific to this issue. Discussion ensued regarding the State's formula for crafting rates and the intent behind specific numbers contained in the formula. The General Assembly members present shared that they would look into this issue further. Karen Reynolds discussed student enrollment data and its impact on local communities, specifically Richmond which was

negatively impacted this year. Chariho uses October 1 enrollment data to calculate each member town's contribution. The State uses a March date for their student enrollment data. Superintendent Picard reviewed the budget timeline and process. The impact on Richmond was approximately \$300,000. Discussion ensued regarding the State's funding formula and the potential impact of reopening the funding formula for review. Subcommittee members then raised the cost to the District when students are dual enrolled at Chariho and CCRI. Chariho incurs the expense of tuition when students are dual enrolled; the anticipated cost to the district this year is \$75,755. These same students would likely attend these same classes at no cost once they have graduated through the Rhode Island Promise Program. Rep. Cotter shared that she has reached out to RIDE and that there may need to be legislation introduced to respond to this concern. The Budget Subcommittee then discussed legislation requiring districts to purchase new Science curriculum and materials following the purchase of both English Language Arts and Math curriculums. Superintendent Picard reviewed the curriculum timeline associated with Rhode Island General Law 16.22.30-33. Science is part of the accountability data but we don't have access to the needed curriculum resources nor is their funding to support this purchase. Discussion ensued regarding the curriculum timeline. The Budget Subcommittee and Administration discussed the School Building Authority Funds. Superintendent Picard reviewed Chariho's current status in the Necessity of School Construction process. An extension of the existing deadlines would be helpful as Chariho continues to move through the process. The Budget Subcommittee and General Assembly matters discussed the importance of the issues addressed at the meeting and agreed to put focus on advancing responses to the transportation aid, CCRI dual enrollment, and student enrollment data. Clay Johnson, Richmond, spoke the importance of addressing the DCYF transportation costs. Rep. Spears noted that the transportation contract is currently out to bid. Discussion ensued regarding how education costs associated with DCYF placements could look different.

**Tri-town count and related allocations discussion:** Ned reviewed a demonstration sheet that showed the theoretical impact that 10/01/23 enrollment numbers would have on member towns when it was applied to the FY23 budget. Discussion ensued on the impact changes in enrollment have on the towns' contributions even when budgets are level funded. Rep. Cotter asked about the effect of rolling averages versus the current process used. It was noted that at present the Chariho Act governs how enrollment data is used to calculate the towns' contributions. The Budget Subcommittee thanked the General Assembly members present for participating in the conversation and for their partnership.

**FY24 Budget Update:** Ned provided the Subcommittee with an FY24 budget update. Tuition on the expense side is over budget but is favorable on the revenue side. We need to continue to keep an eye on capital expenses; if Stage 2 doesn't get squared away we risk the 61% reimbursement from the State. There are still a lot of vacant positions. The Administration continue to monitor healthcare expenses and is working with West Bay Community Health on a pharmaceutical carve out.

**FY25 Budget progress:** The FY25 budget development continues as scheduled with Schools and Departments having reported back on time with their template budgets.

**Multi-year budget process:** A motion was made by Andrew McQuaide and seconded by Karen Reynolds to table agenda item 7 Multi-year budget process.

Approved: Andrew McQuaide, Jessica Purcell, and Karen Reynolds. Opposed: None.

Abstaining: None.

**Establish next meeting date and time:** 6:15pm, December 11, 2023.

**Requests for Future Agenda Items:** Budget summary mock up and budget workshop format.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Andrew McQuaide, seconded by Jessica Purcell, to adjourn.

Approved: Tyler Champlain, Jessica Purcell, Andrew McQuaide, and Karen Reynolds.

Opposed: None.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew McQuaide

**Chariho Regional School District**

Health and Wellness Subcommittee

Minutes October 10, 2023

**I. Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm in the High School Library
- Jessica Purcell was nominated for the position of Chair
- A unanimous vote of Jessica Purcell for Chair

**II. Introductions of new members**

- In attendance: Donna Chambers, Jessica Purcell, Taylor Berlinsky, Antonia Lucier, Sharon Martin, Cathy Moffitt, Jessica Geremia, Karin Wetherill, Desirae Heys, Michael Comella, Katie Kirakosian, Gina Picard.

**III. Approval of Minutes for May 9th, 2023**

- Motion to approve: Cathy Moffitt
- Seconded by Desirae Heys
- Unanimous approval

**IV. Grant Report - Katie reported on the grants**

- Learning Inside Out Grant
  - Drafting an environmental statement to be shared with the committee - Submit a Green Ribbon school application
  - Collect school environmental data
  - Inform and involve the community
  - Installation of outdoor classrooms and pollinator stations
- W.E.L.L. Initiative (Wellness in Education Leads to Learning)
  - Wellness-focused furniture in all of the schools
  - Furniture to create comfortable learning spaces for students
- Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)
  - Monthly school health advisory meetings
  - ESS clinician shared between the middle and high school
  - Ready-to-learn navigator postings to support students' needs in areas foundational to their learning
  - Funding supplies for refocus kits
- Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA grant)
  - One additional clinician between Richmond and Charlestown
  - Family workshops
- Trauma-Informed Services in Schools (TISS cohort)
  - Chariho is one of five districts that received this grant
  - \$7000 per year
  - Staff health and wellness initiative
- YMHA - offer additional training on a Saturday (include any interested faculty and staff as well)

**V. Therapy Dog update**

- Joe Gencarelli has agreed to take on the therapy dog. Mr. Gencarelli will own the dog, and the district will pay for the training.

VI. Peer-to-peer update

- Year two of the initiative
- Middle and high school mental health awareness clubs

VII. Cardiac Emergency Response Team

- CPR and drill training to begin on October 19th
- 30 faculty and staff from the middle and high schools

VIII. Nutrition and Physical Activity Policy Update (now called Health and Wellness Policy)

- Approved by the school committee
- Request by Cathy Moffitt to have the policy reviewed annually; Cathy raised the concern of candy being used as an incentive

IX. Report from the Food Service Director

- Down ten food service workers at the start of the school year
- High school students like the grab-and-go salads and pretzel bun sandwiches -
- Use of local produce
- Sardilli's is assisting with getting local produce
- Tastings happening at all elementary schools
- Global eats at all schools
- Local food grants (Gotham Greens, local meats, and cheese)
- Desirae Heys raised concern about the lack of farmers' markets and farm-to-table opportunities to support low-income families

X. Discuss Health and Wellness Goals for SY '23-'24

- *Continuing to expand community and school resources to support mental health support for students and staff*
- *Increase participation on the Health and Wellness Committee to include student voice*
- *Expanding the farm-to-school program*

- *Jessica made a request to expand the third goal to include the home. -*
- *Gina suggested revising the goals at the next meeting*

XI. Meeting Schedule for This School Year: 10/10/23, 12/12/23, 3/5/24, 5/14/24

XII. Adjourn

- Donna Chambers made the motion to adjourn
- Cathy Moffitt seconded the motion
- Unanimous vote

Charlho School Committee  
Policy Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

**In attendance:**

Andrew McQuaide; Polly Hopkins; Donna Chambers; Linda Lyall; Kathryn Colasante; Jessica Purcell  
Gina Picard (Superintendent); Michael Comella (Assistant Superintendent)

**Guests:** Jon Anderson (SC Counsel); Jen Curry

**I. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM**

**II. Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2023**

- Polly made a motion to approve the minutes of October 10th, 2023. Seconded by Donna.
- No discussion or questions. Vote to approve; McQuaide, Purcell, Colasante, Hopkins, Chambers, and Lyall.

**III. Review of Policies**

**1. Home Instruction Policy**

Attorney Anderson has reviewed the policy as was recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. He is in attendance because he has some concerns that he would like to share with the members of Subcommittee.

Attorney Anderson began by providing a little background with regards to Home Schooling by reviewing RI Case law for the subcommittee.

In decisions rendered by the courts the justices concluded that districts have a duty to see that the education provided during home schooling must be "thorough and efficient" and there are a variety of ways to meet this standard.

For examples – standardized testing can be utilized or a portfolio of work or close monitoring by the district.

Jon posed the question to the Committee members - How do we make sure that the learning is "thorough and efficient"?

RIDE has provided some lay person advice and guidance with web page with FAQ's.

The Instruction is required to be substantially the same time, including materials and grades.

Attorney Anderson stated that there needs to be some "meat" to the policy.

It is important that approvals for home schooling be a thorough process with specific details.

At this time, the existing practice of the Charlho district requests record of attendance and grades for each of courses that are defined in the law.

Approving home instruction plans are a very important function of the School Committee

Jen Curry commented that web page is out of date.

Attorney Anderson response was that it is consistent with the case law.

Andrew shared that all members are working in good faith. This policy is taking some time but it's important to get it right.

Gina responded to a question on the reasons parents choose home schooling. She stated that there are many reasons why parents choose to home school – most are genuine. Attorney Anderson emphasized that we do have real obligations – educating children is one the most Important responsibilities.

Based on the information regarding homeschooling case law, Andrew recommended that the committee review the policy to ensure adherence to the laws and statutes governing homeschooling. The changes to the policy are as follows:

- Section I Part B
  - Donna made a motion to put back the language the “register” “made available upon request to the Assistant Superintendent or designee and returned to the Assistant Superintendent at the end of the School year.” Linda seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- Section I Part D
  - Donna made a motion to reinstate the following language “Annual testing or standard testing, is not required by RI General Laws for home school but if a parent/guardian selects state testing as an evaluative measurer, the District shall arrange for the testing.” Linda seconded it. The vote was unanimous.
- Section II Part B
  - Linda made a motion to amend language to “Assistant Superintendent/designee shall offer and may schedule a meeting to offer homeschool support and review district opportunities as well as a policy review.” Jess seconded. Vote was unanimous.
- Section II Part D
  - After much discussion, Jon offered to draft language for this section and share with committee members for their approval. All agreed that would be very helpful.

#### IV. Future Policies for Discussion

- DCYF Policy
- Academic and Graduation Requirements
- Library Media
- Student Relationships

Next Meeting – December 12<sup>th</sup>

#### V. Adjournment – 6:45 PM

Motion was made by Donna to adjourn, seconded by Polly . Vote was unanimous – Hopkins, Colasante, McQuaide, Chambers, Purcell, and Lyall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda D Lyall



*EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SOLUTIONS INVITES CHARIHO FAMILIES TO THE SECOND OF FOUR (QUARTERLY) WORKSHOPS IN SY '23-'24*

## **The Language of Behaviors: Understanding Challenging Behaviors**

How do we evaluate what a child's behavior is trying to communicate. Behavior is a form of communication which is especially important. Children have limited means of expressing themselves or have neither the developmental level nor psychological capacities to "tell us" how they are doing and how we are doing with them. This workshop develops the ability to appreciate and understand the relevance and messaging of children's behavior.

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10th

**TIME:** 7:00pm EST

### **ZOOM MEETING LINK:**

<https://effectiveschoolsolutions.zoom.us/j/97602780313?pwd=d1NBS3ZEUzIxR0tmd1AzR21oNGxkdz09>



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