

Chariho School Committee In-Person and Virtual Meeting  
Regular Session Minutes  
June 22, 2021

Committee Members Virtual Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, William Day, Gary Liguori, Craig Louzon, Lisa Macaruso (virtual), Linda McAllister (virtual) and David Stall (arrived at 6:15 PM).

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Jane Daly, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Technology Director Shawn Cole, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian (virtual), STEM Specialist Susie Scanapieco, Anti-Racism Task Force Members (virtual), Attorney for the School Committee Jon Anderson (virtual) and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair Linda Lyall called the in-person and virtual meeting of the Chariho School Committee to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silent meditation.

II. Motion/Vote to go into Executive Session

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by 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)(1) for the purpose of discussion and/or action pertaining to the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021 – Discussion of Superintendent's Contract); 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. Administrative Assistants' Contract Changes, 2. NEA Chariho Certified Staff Contract Negotiations); pending litigation (1. Chariho Regional School District v State of RI through Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Department of Administration, Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, Commissioner of Education Kenneth Wagner, Narragansett School Committee, South Kingstown School Committee and Westerly School Committee and 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021 - Civil Action File Number PC-2019-10870 - Town of Barrington et al. v. State of Rhode Island et al.) and potential litigation (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021 and 2. Potential Litigation Update); and under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(8) for the purpose of reviewing and/or approving matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021 - Approval of Home Instruction Requests and 2) Approval of Home Instruction Request(s)); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous (Stall was not in attendance for the vote).

The Committee returned to open session at 7:03 PM at which time Chair Lyall reconvened the meeting. She welcomed all and thanked them for their patience. This is the first time in person in a long time with some people virtual as well. She hopes the technology will continue to work.

III. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (Administrative Assistants' Contract Changes) remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (Administrative Assistants' Contract Changes) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

2. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Chariho Certified Staff Contract Negotiations) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (NEA Chariho Certified Staff Contract Negotiations) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister and Stall. Recused: Day and Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 recusals.

3. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to pending litigation (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) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to pending litigation (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) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

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

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

5. Chair Lyall recommended that minutes pertaining to the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person (Discussion of Superintendent's Contract) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person (Discussion of Superintendent's Contract) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

6. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes which relate to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Request(s)) 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 Request(s)) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous.

#### IV. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Giusti reported there were 7 votes taken in executive session. The first vote, related to union negotiations update, passed unanimously with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister (virtually) and Stall voting in favor.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 25, 2021 – Pending Litigation – passed with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually) and McAllister (virtually) voting in favor and Stall and Giusti abstaining.

The third vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 25, 2021 – Potential Litigation – passed with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually) and McAllister (virtually) voting in favor and Stall and Giusti abstaining.

The fourth vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 25, 2021 – Discussion of Superintendent's Contract – passed with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually) and McAllister (virtually) voting in favor and Stall and Giusti abstaining.

The fifth vote, approval of executive session minutes of May 25, 2021 – Approval of Home Instruction Requests – passed with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually) and McAllister (virtually) voting in favor and Stall and Giusti abstaining.

The sixth vote, pertaining to home instruction requests, passed unanimously with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister (virtually) and Stall voting in favor.

The seventh vote, to close executive session and return to open session, passed unanimously with Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso (virtually), McAllister (virtually) and Stall voting in favor.

A request was made to the Chair by Member Chambers that all in attendance please put their masks on and wear them properly. Chair Lyall shared the request and explained that we are mandated to have them on to which the Superintendent added that this is an executive order by the Governor's Office. Two Police Officers on duty asked one gentleman to please put his mask on to which he refused as he felt his constitutional rights were being violated. When asked to please leave the meeting, he refused and asked the Police Officer if he didn't leave and didn't put his mask on, would he be arrested to which the officer replied that if he refused to do one or the other, he would be. The gentleman then told the officer to arrest him. He was handcuffed and led out of the meeting. Several people in attendance began swearing and screaming and refused to adhere to the point of order called by the Chair.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To take a five minute recess. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Lyall called the meeting back to order at 7:20 PM

V. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

1. Post-Season Awards: High School Girls' Track – Margaret Weeden (All-Division 1<sup>st</sup> Team High Jump, All-Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Team High Jump), Erin von Housen (All-Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 3000m, All Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 4x800 Relay, Freshman State Champion 3000m), Brooke Kanaczet (All-Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 4x800 Relay), Grace Gillett (All-Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 4x800 Relay), Anna LaCroix (All-Class 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 4x800 Relay), Abby Cole (All-Class 3<sup>rd</sup> Team 3000m, Academic All-State), Paige Grissom (Academic All-State), Weeko Thompson (Freshman State Champion Shot Put, Freshman State Champion Discus).

High School Gymnastics – Paige Swenson (Heisman Scholarship)

High School Ice Hockey – Caden Wilson

2. Senior Awards Ceremony:

Senior Sportsmanship Award – Paige Grissom and Christian Fortune.

Senior Athlete of the Year – Abby Cole, Spencer Shiels, James Dougherty, Sullivan Cummins.

Senior Scholar Athlete of the Year – Spencer Shiels, Nathan Berry

3. Chariho Class of 2021 along with Valedictorian Paige Grissom and Salutatorian Faith Ells.

4. 2020-2021 Retirees: Catherine Peters (29 years), Jeffrey Domingoes (31 years), Maria Cook (29 years), Sally Ann Andreozzi (24 years), Thomas Brusseau (20 years).

5. Assistant Superintendent Jane Daly – Superintendent Picard thanked her for the 7 years of service to the Chariho District. She has been an amazing partner and she was wished all the best in her new position. Donna Chambers read a statement acknowledging all that Jane accomplished in her time at Chariho and she was thanked by all Committee members.

6. Welcome to Jean Bradanini – Chariho High School Assistant Principal.

7. Scott Merritt for his 30 years of coaching. Best wishes on his retirement from Chariho!

## VI. Public Forum

Chair Lyall notified all that she will be limiting comments to two minutes so that all who want to speak will have the opportunity to do so. Chad Algier, a parent of two children, stated that racism is wrong and Critical Race Theory (CRT) is wrong. There should be equal opportunity for all children and he hopes that Chariho does not provide an opportunity for discussion or any documentation on this as he feels there is no room for it in our schools. That would be teaching kids to look at color and not character. He also does not feel that sexuality should be taught and should not be part of the curriculum; he wants to get back to core basics. He questioned this and wanted a response to which Ryan explained that the School Committee, during Public Forum, listens to comments or concerns; they do not engage in public debate. This would have to come under Business. Fred Morris from Richmond agreed with Chad. Kids come here to learn Math, Science, English. He will do whatever it takes to not allow Critical Race Theory. He knows the environment; stop bringing it up to which Bill and Catherine called for a point of order. Catherine explained that some of the comments made relate to anti-racism which is on the Agenda. If you want to speak about something that is not on the agenda, this would be the time to do it. If it is on the agenda, you have to wait until we get to that item to speak on it. Polly Hopkins from Hopkinton started a Facebook page when she saw what was going down a long time ago. Ms. Picard has received 19 APRAs from her. CRT is already in our schools and is being practiced by teachers. It is in our reading materials. Read the Political Activities Policy. The District is violating two policies according to her. She doesn't see Mr. Anderson here and she would like to know how he feels about civil rights lawsuits. The District needs to stay away from this as it will only bring problems. You can object to anything in the Chariho curriculum; these books are on the summer reading list. It is the same as we see in Providence. We know what we are talking about. Cassie Algier has two children and she strongly disagrees with CRT; they should teach that everyone is equal. A parent should decide when to teach their child about sexuality and gender identity. A school should not ask a child what their gender is. Religion should be left out (yoga). Political policies are being pushed and the summer reading list is pushing this. She is most concerned with books about trauma/suicide. Some children do not have supports at home to help them deal with these issues. Sam Alba from Richmond thanked all for being there. He is an airline pilot and his world is the US. He sees all these subjects throughout the country and we don't want it here. We don't need a distance learning policy for masks any longer. These are not necessary. Children need to be back to normal. Please take his point to heart. Kedrick Swain from Ashaway has two children in the District and questioned if he could ask about the Task Force or only about any proposed changes to curriculum. He feels the District has the best interest of students at heart but students should not be demanded to identify. There are documented instances of students of racial issues. Come September these masks have to go. He understands now you are under government regulation. Kevin Travers, a Chariho graduate, has a daughter in High School and commented on the publicly shared videos, definitions and terminology which is highly offensive. He feels the Chariho Youth Task Force is in direct affiliation to a current Chariho administrator and there is literature that is available to minors. This is careless and dangerous to students. It is racist, biased, discriminatory, and unethical and in light of this, he questions the motives of all on the Anti-Racist Task Force. Chariho is better than this. Cassius Spears has a long history in Chariho and agrees that indoctrinating our students is not something we want to do. He has four children and he does not understand the fear of race. Currently the education in school is of a single race theory. This is a diverse conversation. He commends the Anti-Racism Task Force for looking at this in an unbiased way; with a different lens and views. He wants to keep Chariho beautiful. Every day, as a person of color, he experiences racism. Lauren Cacciola from Richmond did an editorial on CRT. She is a behavioral technician and worked in an inner city school. Everyone here is here for the kids. Look at what we are teaching the kids. Erin Liese from Richmond requested that School Committee members please state their name prior to speaking as those who are virtual do not always know who is talking. Caleb Grant apologized for not being in person. He lives in Hope Valley and has three children. He appreciates the perspective of people speaking out but disagrees with some of the comments. He supports the Anti-Racism Task Force and their work towards curriculum. It is

important to talk about our nation's history. He works with Chief Johnson and the State Police and they talk about bias with discussion on both sides. Jessica Purcell from Richmond noted that it has been a long year and she appreciates everyone involved in the schools for helping our students. She is more concerned with the anti-Critical Race Theory movement than CRT. Adults can understand it. Robert Henninger commented that CRT does not belong in schools. Kids are being used as political pawns. Parents have a responsibility to teach their kids and any teacher who teaches this should be terminated. He received a book list from his daughter and was appalled at the books on the list. It is his job to teach his daughter; keep it out of the school district. Trinity Parmalee has three children and stated she experienced a lot of stuff. The best thing to teach kids is empathy, not sympathy. She is appalled by what is happening in this school system. Even if they are in the top ten, she would never pick this school system.

## VII. Policy

A. Bus Behavior Code (Revision) – Superintendent Picard recommended tabling this policy for a later meeting.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was  
VOTED: To table this policy for a later meeting. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Responsible Use of Technology Policy (Revision) – Gina Picard recommended approval of the revisions to this policy which was reviewed by legal counsel. Catherine Giusti noted a concern during final exams regarding mics and that a teacher could turn one on for monitoring to which Shawn Cole replied that teachers cannot turn a mic on or off. Catherine thanked Shawn for the clarification.

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

## VIII. Business

A. School Lunch Program Contract – Chartwells – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the School Lunch Program Contract with Chartwells per the attached memos from Ned Draper and Chartwells District Manager Barbara Cohen contingent upon approval by RIDE and legal counsel. She added that she concurred with Ned that Chartwells staff have done an outstanding job. Ned noted that RIDE has approved the contract; he received a letter a day or two ago.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was  
VOTED: To approve the School Lunch Program Contract with Chartwells contingent upon approval by legal counsel. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Grant Update – Superintendent Picard recommended approval to submit the following grant requests. Katie Kirakosian will speak on each of these. Ryan made a motion to submit all three which was seconded by Catherine. David requested that they be acted on separately as he has a different vote. Ryan withdrew his motion and Catherine withdrew her second.

1. Champlin Foundation - Catherine made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to submit the Champlin Foundation Grant Proposal. Katie stated that she was pleased to share the proposal which connects to Vision 2023 and XQ. She reviewed the proposal and the budget which totals \$88,190.34. The renovations to this room will accommodate an audience of up to 100 people. Bill questioned if the room is the existing Band room to which Katie acknowledged that it is. Bill asked if this had been run by the fire department because he has an issue with 100 people in that room. Katie noted that she has been in discussions with others and will conform to any expectations related to the fire marshal. She will remove chairs if necessary. Bill commented that they plan to buy tables and chairs for a banquet; how often will we have a banquet? This is not realistic and he did not feel it was well thought out. He thinks it is a money grab. David

echoed Bill's sentiments. He wants to see these thought out more thoroughly. Kedrick Swain asked if there would be a band or chorus this year. Superintendent Picard responded that we have a chorus but no band teacher. Donna asked if Katie was planning to get furniture so this space can be used for other purposes. She likes the flexibility. Katie replied that they have done mark-ups. It can still be used for band or community luncheons. It can be used for SkillsUSA or after-school rehearsals; things like Poetry Out-Loud; similar to Gamm Theatre. It is a blank canvas that can accommodate a few scenarios. The room is underutilized. There are recording areas with nice acoustics. She is hoping for more exposure; more student use. Donna commented that she assumes that Katie will check with the fire marshal and will be in compliance with fire regulations. Linda McAllister agreed with Donna; diversity of this space. We will never allow for more people to be in there. This opens it up for more uses. Bill commented that half the room is being used for storage so how are we improving it? He again reiterated that he did not think it was well thought out and this should be tabled until they can come back with legitimate thoughts. David stated that finding ways to make space more versatile is good but Bill has made good points. This is the second Champlin Foundation Grant request and he voted against the one for the mindfulness center. If you submit multiple bad requests, they stop looking at them. He asked if they have all the ducks in a row. Gina replied that Katie did receive feedback from the Champlin Foundation to which Katie added that we were one of the more successful districts with Champlin. We received kudos for that. They suggested we consider how this connects with general ed population and this supports the need. She made several connections to how this will impact all students whereas the band room supports only a few. We can make this a very vibrant space and connect it to the curriculum. Amanda Blau from Hopkinton had the same question for all three grants – is there initial outlay of cash from the District or future costs? What are the deadlines to which Chair Lyall replied the first one is July 1, 2021. Amanda commented that tabling this is probably not an option. Katie responded that there are no matching costs to the District and she does not see any ongoing costs for any other than maybe minor things like replacement of window shades if one should break.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was  
VOTED: To approve submission of the Champlin Foundation Grant Proposal. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister. Opposed: Day and Stall. The motion passed with 8 in favor and 2 opposed.

2. American Honda Foundation – Ryan made a motion, seconded by Catherine and David, to approve submission of the American Honda Foundation Grant Proposal. Gina noted that this Grant is due August 1<sup>st</sup> to which Ned added that the equipment is at the end of its useful life. Ongoing costs will be replacement down the road. Katie noted that she prepared the materials with the Middle School staff and is requesting \$73,604.94 for room renovation and equipment. This will strengthen the pipeline for STEM students. It will be entirely new with the exception of storage areas. The Grant request includes STEM-focused equipment. Bill questioned the fume hood; is the existing system vented to the outside to which Katie replied it was but it needs to be replaced.

Ryan Callahan made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and David Stall and it was  
VOTED: To approve submission of the American Honda Foundation Grant Proposal. In favor: Unanimous.

3. School Based Mental Health Services Grant Program – Superintendent Picard stated that they are currently working on this with the proposal due July 9<sup>th</sup> (which is before the next School Committee Meeting). It is up to \$255K/year over the 5 years of the contract, for the rural school that is selected. If selected, we would work collaboratively with two RI urban school districts. There is no matching costs and only one of five or six rural districts will be able to apply. This would help accelerate our Response to Intervention which is a work in progress. Catherine made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve submission of the School Based Mental Health

Services Grant Program Proposal. Gina noted that Katie worked closely with a number of people including Jenn Durkin. We just received this last week and it is a quick turnaround. Catherine questioned if there will be sweeping curriculum changes or will it support those in place to which Gina replied that we need to do a better job with implementation; building capacity of all administrators so we can keep students in classrooms instead of sending them out. Catherine noted that she totally supports this grant as she feels the District needs more mental health support. Donna agreed with Catherine. Craig questioned if the three school districts would be splitting this money to which Gina replied, "No, if we are selected, we get the \$255,000." David stated that he was opposed to this for many reasons. He understands the need but this should not be done in schools; it should be done outside. He does not want to work with RIDE (school mental health assessment piece). He is not sure what they are asking. We will be significantly increasing mental health support over five years and we will have to continue this. He absolutely disagrees with this. Ryan asked about ongoing costs after five years (initial set-up). Can we make a decision at that time to support this on our own? Gina explained that the purpose of the Grant is to build capacity of the adults. Donna stated that she is absolutely in favor of this. She has spoken to several elementary principals and their biggest challenge is mental health disruptions. This disrupts other children's capacity to learn. It is a critical issue for our administrators and she is in total support. Bill commented that Dr. Harrington presented a program and only 22 faculty responded. He agrees it is a big issue in the community and the country. He asked for Gina's thoughts to which Gina responded that there are lots of competing interests. Teachers are being pulled in multiple directions. Dr. Harrington has allowed continued support and she thinks they want the opportunities. Lisa commented that the first thing she thought of was Mr. Day's work with safety and his request for consultation with Dr. Erardi, Superintendent of Newtown, CT. Dr. Erardi's training transformed her perspective on the importance of safety and the need for schools to identify students who are disengaging. She is clearly in favor of this and thanked Mr. Day for requesting this training. Students will be returning from distance learning; some isolated for a whole year. There is no way our students didn't absorb some of the fears. We want them back in school and we need the support for them. Our District is a shining district. We should consider Dr. Erardi's presentation and the return of our students. Jon commented that the District is the recipient of funds for students under the disabilities act (emotional disturbance). We have a responsibility to educate them. It is an issue of parity. We have to be very careful when the School Committee considers this and be respectful of children with disabilities. David felt Jon made a good point. It is his legal opinion. You should feel compelled to approve it if it was a reading grant with RIDE. He would oppose it. There are a lot of interventions in place in the Middle School. He does not think that all these things work for the school. You say there are no additional costs but if we want to continue this, it will be take a quarter of a million dollars to sustain it. Jessica Swain from Ashaway agrees mental health is important in schools but she has to side with Mr. Anderson. There will be a conflict of interest if you duplicate services. If you add more to a teacher's caseload, you have to make sure they are seeing what they think they are seeing. This needs to be looked at further. Take the proper avenue to make that happen.

Catherine Giusti made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve submission of the School Based Mental Health Services Grant Program Proposal. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister. Opposed: Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

C. Grades K-12 Science Curriculum Update – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the revised K-12 Science Curriculum. Susie Scanapieco, STEM Specialist, will highlight the main points. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the revised Grades K-12 Science Curriculum. Susie thanked Jane for her guidance and the team members who worked together on this. Chariho has been doing science well for a long time; it is really important to note that we hold kids to high expectations along with a robust system of support. We have added Scope and Sequence pages. They triple-checked the entire curriculum to make sure every

standard was met. In June 2025, RI legislation will be put in place – we will have to have high-quality curriculum materials. Catherine stated that this was great; very comprehensive. She loves the many electives and feels the team did an excellent job as usual. One community member felt they did a fantastic job and just wanted to compliment them. Jane thanked Susie for overseeing all the curriculum along with Dana Hall who oversees Humanities. We already have a head start on next year's work. Gina noted that we have added community members to the team which adds another lens. She thanked all who were involved. David commented that Susie always does a great job and he gave accolades to Kate Ficarra as well. He asked Susie to go back to the slide on TEK (Traditional Economical Knowledge). He wondered why this was being included as he thought they were taking a departure from a native, indigenous perspective. Susie explained that a community member came to the District over selection and evolution and she engaged in a two-hour discussion with this person. Things need to be taught so they are clear in science. We are inquiry based at Chariho and students are led to think more critically about the world around them. She consulted with Silvermoon Mars and Katie Kirakosian on TEK and it was felt that there was no need to put this in. She included information on a book she read but this is not intended to be taught in the district. There will never be a required lesson on this; it is optional reading for students. David questioned if this was in the curriculum before to which Susie replied that it is not in either one. David asked if they were adding this now. Susie responded that they are not adding it at all. David stated that when we recommend these resources, we are providing educational materials not in our curriculum. He feels we should not recommend these resources. He has an issue with this whole TEK. Susie again reiterated that these resources were used to decide NOT to put this in our curriculum so she feels they are in agreement on this. Catherine disagreed with David. If someone questioned what is TEK, a teacher could say here is a resource but she does not feel they are leading a child. Susie added that they are working to make sure that what they put forth to our students is appropriate. Our curriculum is finished but the process is not. We will be selecting a new curriculum as a RIDE requirement. Cassius Spears noted that he is a USDA employee with a Bachelor in Science. TEK is incorporated in scientific studies. This is not a new concept. TEK is science, not only to indigenous people but people who have a long history in one place. It is incorporated in the academic journal. Susie added that she did not want anyone to think she was avoiding this discussion. She skipped over this slide because of the interest of time. She did not feel there was a need at this time to discuss it as it did not change the curriculum. Lisa complimented Susie for having these conversations. She will support this. We want to look at curriculum through the lens of diversity. We need to look at curriculum through other lenses. Polly Hopkins keeps hearing about the wonderful structure here at Chariho but we can't cram everything in. She would encourage teachers to do field trips to historical societies. Give kids a really good foundation but there are some things that are not appropriate for young children. Susie noted that she observes teachers in grades 5-12. We are inquiry based; we do experiments with an emphasis on how science works. We investigate concerns community members bring forth and she will be the first to say something if we are not meeting the standards. Susie was thanked.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the revised Grades K-12 Science Curriculum. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained: Day and Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 abstentions.

D. Anti-Racism Task Force Curriculum Update – Gina stated that members of the Anti-Racism Task Force Curriculum Subcommittee will provide an update. endawnis Spears stated that she is being joined by Joe Lopes. Unfortunately, Heidi Fee was on but was unable to get back in because of tech issues. The other member, Jessica, moved mid-year to another state. She noted that she was honored to be here and began with a quote. She stated that she hopes to embody some of this and reinforced the core elements of their charge. There were a few things they were able to do immediately like changing the name from Anti-Racist to Anti-Racism Task Force. All their meetings are public and she encouraged all to view them. This is the last of the three



subcommittees to present. What is being presented is a rough draft; not a final recommendation. She began by reviewing the first two tiers. They support the implementation of RIDE's high quality curriculum for ELA and Math and would recommend support for the inclusion of Black, Indigenous and others. Joe Lopes, before speaking on Tier 3, thanked the three ladies he worked with. They poured their heart and souls into this. They would like to consider implementation of a physical space at the High School. He stressed to the Committee that these recommendations represent the easy work; the arduous work is next. The Subcommittee will provide progress reports and all subcommittees will look for feedback from the School Committee. He ended the presentation with a quote. Ryan thanked them for the interim process and noted that as he understands it, the Anti-Racism Task Force will provide formal recommendations and another subcommittee will be created. Catherine clarified that no recommendations will be made this evening to which Gina replied that they are just looking for feedback. David stated that there is an obvious opinion; a viewpoint that has been shared tonight. Critical Race Theory brought into curriculum. Most of these things fall into that category. He is opposed to CRT used in the schools and does not want it used in our schools. You are asking for feedback. This is his feedback and that from the community that we want you to hear. RIDE and Leap standards are not good. Donna stated that she appreciates feedback but what they heard tonight was an outburst – more than feedback. CRT is much more complicated than what the Anti-Racism Task Force is proposing. The outburst was on CRT; she does not want people to confuse the two – Critical Race Theory with Anti-Racism Task Force. Kevin Travers had one comment. The outburst was from a couple people; most have been courteous and respectful to which Donna thanked him for the comment. Bill stated, with all due respect, that what Donna said had nothing to do with feedback; it was criticism of what occurred. He, too, has concerns like David Stall about CRT. Kedrick Swain stated that he feels he speaks for the majority who showed up tonight to oppose CRT. He does not oppose the initiative to expand thinking and diversity but the Anti-Racism Task Force used sources that support CRT. CRT is a method, based on unproven, often debunked ascertains, that we are inherently racist. We oppose how you want to teach our children. We have seen intimidating tactics used in other school districts to silence those who don't support this. The definitions they used are supported by CRT. Craig made note of the time.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To waive the policy and extend the meeting past 10:00 PM. In favor: Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso, McAllister and Stall. Opposed: Callahan. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

Lisa pivoted towards feedback. She felt they should consider exploring the dedicated resource space noted. We should tell them to keep going with Tier 2; Tier 1 they need to continue to flesh out. We need to work trying to recruit more diverse staff. Scott Bill Hirst, Republican Party Chair, commented on the Resolution that was adopted by this party regarding the teaching of Critical Race Theory. Chair Lyall informed Mr. Hirst that he was off topic. Mr. Hirst continued to which Jon Anderson stated this is not on the agenda; it is an OMA violation. Polly Hopkins noted that she wanted to talk about curriculum. Gina stated that the District has until 2025 to implement a high quality curriculum. Our DCPC team will meet and will have to select a curriculum listed on the RIDE site EdReport. Polly commented that they have looked at the curriculum as parents and they have CRT embedded. She would like the District to get a waiver to get away from this. Catherine had one recommendation regarding space. She would like to see a resource space dedicated to this. She likes that line of thinking. She questioned the statement on the website; is that from the other subcommittee or from this one – who decides the subcommittee. Is the Anti-Racism Task Force interested in crafting proposed language for that for the School Committee based off conversation tonight; one statement from all three groups. David commented on those who are cutting people off mid topic. Let them finish their sentence (i.e. Mr. Hirst being off topic). See what they have to say. The Tier 2 recommendation was to choose RIDE's curriculum and adopt it. What they were trying to say was having a subcommittee chosen by race, gender, etc. is not what they want. He wants to know – are we legally obligated to choose RIDE's curriculum

or are there waivers. We don't agree with adopting any one of RIDE's options. Laura Chapman, who has a daughter in the Middle School, provided feedback on Tier 3 – the recommendation using racial equity decision-making tool – conflicts with how it will affect the curriculum. Maybe more research is needed into this tool. Jon, in response to the question about a waiver, if it is a RIDE requirement, you can request a waiver. If it is General Assembly law, you cannot request a waiver and on the second comment – OMA does not turn on intent whether or not you comply. As your attorney, it is his recommendation that you comply. David asked if Jon could provide what they can ask for waivers and what they can't. Lauren Cacciola appreciated the Anti-Racism Task Force encompassing all students. Other districts are already doing this. Everyone has done an amazing job tonight. Jessica Swain, in reference to the Tier 3 recommendation for a resource center, agreed it should be virtual at first but if we don't have room at the schools, how will we make space. Will this require a paid position to make sure recommendations are being followed? endawnis Spears thanked all for the feedback. They will take this into consideration. It is good to hear from members of the public to discuss specifics from RIDE to make our curriculum stronger and better for all students. They also have concerns about curriculum and have had conversation with the DCPC and RIDE. It is important to learn about the landscape. Amanda Blau noted that you jumped from identifying a problem to getting a solution. She would appreciate the data – what is in the middle? She feels there is a step missing. Her feedback on the Tier 2 process integrated into the curriculum committee; recommendations have always come to the School Committee. She does not feel the Anti-Racism Task Force should have a subsection of the new committee. Do not pick from the current Task Force and supplement. Donna stated that she saw a good example tonight when Susie Scanapieco took feedback from a community member and then she made the decisions.

E. ESSER II Funding and Next Steps – Ned Draper provided an update. He noted there are three buckets for funding: 1) \$180K for curriculum materials and learning loss programming; 2) \$581K for technology-related items, primarily 1:1 assigned computer equipment for students; and 3) \$411K for facilities upgrades for HVAC and COVID mitigation items for a total of \$1,172,674. Superintendent Picard recommended submission of the ESSER II Funds application in the amount of \$1,172,674.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To submit the ESSER II Funds application in the amount of \$1,172,674. In favor: Unanimous.

F. National Grid Energy Savings Program – Lighting Project – Superintendent Picard recommended approval, per the memo from Ned Draper, of the transfer of \$31,690 from the Administration Building, Richmond, CTC, Middle School and High School line listed on the FY21 Transfer Sheet to the Equipment Building/Grounds Hope Valley line item so that we may pay the project installation bill in full and retain electricity bill savings immediately and thereafter.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve, per the memo from Ned Draper, of the transfer of \$31,690 from the Administration Building, Richmond, CTC, Middle School and High School line listed on the FY21 Transfer Sheet to the Equipment Building/Grounds Hope Valley line item so that we may pay the project installation bill in full and retain electricity bill savings immediately and thereafter. In favor: Unanimous.

G. National Grid Energy Savings Program – Common Energy Community Solar Program – Superintendent Picard recommended approval, per the memo from Ned Draper, for the District to participate in the Common Energy Community Solar Program which could result in additional energy savings of up to 10%. Chair Lyall stated that we just join it and become part of a community of savers for up to 10% to which Ned explained that it is similar to the Kearsarge Program but this is a more global offering.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve, per the memo from Ned Draper, for the District to participate in the Common Energy Community Solar Program which could result in additional energy savings of up to 10%. In favor: Unanimous.

H. Approval of Administrative Assistant Contract Template – Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the Administrative Assistant Contract Template which will replace their Letters of Agreement.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was VOTED: To approve the Administrative Assistant Contract Template which will replace their Letters of Agreement. In favor: Unanimous.

#### IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Lyall requested any items to be pulled. Craig pulled A-1, A-2, A-3; Ryan pulled F and Bill pulled K-2.

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.

C. Bill Review – Accepted

D. Budget Summary – As per enclosed.

E. Balance Sheet – As per enclosed.

G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quotes – None at this time.

H. Permission to Award Contracts – Approved the following:

1. Custodial Supplies Bid to the lowest responsive bidder of acceptable products, by company (as noted on the memo from Ned Draper dated June 16, 2021).

2. HVAC MERV 13 and Related Filters Purchase – Authorize the work to commence so the HVAC equipment can be properly serviced for September school opening. Review of pricing of the highest cost/highest quality items indicates that prices are at/below pricing available at Home Depot and Amazon supply sites, both of which are Rhode Island Master Price Agreement (RI MPA) approved vendors.

I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

J. Grants – None at this time.

K. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Riverhead Building Supply, Wyoming, RI of lumber, valued at \$944.06, for the Richmond School Garden.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Gary Liguori and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of May 11, 2021 (minutes not sealed). In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained: Giusti and Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 abstentions.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of May 25, 2021. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Day, Giusti, Liguori, Louzon, Lyall, Macaruso and McAllister. Abstained: Stall. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

A-3. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 1, 2021. In favor: Unanimous.

F. Personnel Actions (Staff Updates included in FYI) – Ryan pulled this so he could publicly acknowledge Jane's resignation, with deepest regret.

K-2. Craig made a motion, seconded by Ryan to accept the donation from Lee Wyman, Right Coast Landscape & Tree, Richmond, RI of \$1800 work of labor (and equipment) removing dead trees by the Richmond School Greenhouse. Bill pulled this as he had a question regarding the status of repairs to the greenhouse. Gina responded that they are moving. The Clerk noted a point of order as this item is about a donation so discussion on greenhouse repairs is not relative to this.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was  
VOTED: To accept the donation from Lee Wyman, Right Coast Landscape & Tree, Richmond, RI of \$1800 work of labor (and equipment) removing dead trees by the Richmond School Greenhouse.

#### X. Reports

##### A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Anti-Racism Task Force met on June 2, 2021. A draft copy of the minutes of this meeting were included in the packet.

##### B. Superintendent's Report

1. Kindergarten Enrollment Update – The Superintendent provided updated numbers.
2. End-of-Year Updates – Superintendent Picard recognized all staff and administrators as we were one, if not the only one, of all RI districts that was open full-time, 5 days a week, since September. She commented on the High School graduation and thanked everyone for the effort that was put in to make this happen. She appreciates all the help.
3. District Yard Sale will be held on June 28, 2021. A list of all surplus items is available by contacting the Office of the Director of Administration or online.

##### C. Coming Events – Last Day of School – June 23, 2021.

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

David requested, in reference to the statement from a Town Council Representative against Critical Race Theory, that the Resolution he has plus the one from the RI Coalition for Israel be put on a future agenda. Mr. Stall was asked to please forward RI Coalition for Israel Resolution to the Superintendent as other members have not seen it.

Bill suggested that Attorney Anderson prepare a short paragraph explaining to the public what the Committee can and can't do in regards to adhering to the Open Meetings Act. The Chair clarified – something like a quick OMA guide. Bill then requested a discussion in regards to the lengthy GZA Report that was in FYI. We have always had GZA representatives here to provide an update. He feels it would behoove other School Committee members to know what the cost has amounted to.

David requested a future agenda item on the Chariho Youth Task Force and the community tab on the Chariho website.

#### XII. Adjournment

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was  
VOTED: To adjourn at 10:44 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

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Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk