

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Executive Session Minutes – February 7, 2023
Approval of Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2023 – Minutes not sealed.

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Catherine Giusti, Donna Chambers, Tyler Champlin, Kathryn Colasante, Polly Hopkins, Clay Johnson, Craig Louzon, Linda Lyall, 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 and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

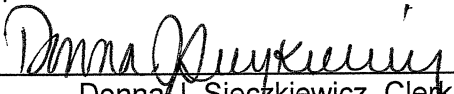
II-2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2023 – Legal Update - Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the executive session minutes of January 10, 2023 – Legal Update.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was
VOTED: To approve the executive session minutes of January 10, 2023 – Legal Update. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Johnson. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

II-3. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2023 – Home Instruction Requests
Superintendent Picard recommended approval of the executive session minutes of January 10, 2023 – Home Instruction Requests.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was
VOTED: To approve the executive session minutes of January 10, 2023 – Home Instruction Requests. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Johnson. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

The Committee moved to Home Instruction Requests.


Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Executive Session Minutes – February 7, 2023
NEA Certified Contract Negotiation Update
Minutes to remain sealed until an agreement is reached – Minutes unsealed May 9, 2023

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Catherine Giusti, Donna Chambers, Tyler Champlin, Kathryn Colasante, Polly Hopkins, Clay Johnson, Linda Lyall, 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 and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

II-5. NEA Certified Negotiation Update

Linda provided an update. The groups met on February 1st with the goal to work on language. We have hit a roadblock with two articles; one is the required 3.5 hrs for additional professional hours (attendance at events such as dances, proms, etc.). They asked for this and now they want it out of the contract. We are holding our ground on this. Karen asked why they want this out to which Linda responded they feel teachers do enough already. Gina stated that we want to keep it to re-engage the community. Jon noted that the other argument is they are professionals and they feel that their members will continue to give the extra time without it being written in the contract. Chair Giusti commented that she does see teachers at a lot of events. Linda noted that they are negotiating with

a small group who are sometimes battling for just one person. They are not speaking for everyone. Jon stated that we are not negotiating with 300 teachers; we are negotiating with 10. We have tied up over an hour on the other issue, which is lunch duty, and that affects just a few people. Gina explained that, in reading old minutes back to 2006, the teachers received a 3.25% raise across the board but would be required to do two non-teaching duties as teacher assistants would be laid off. We have negotiated in good faith. Linda stated that there is another meeting scheduled for Monday and Mr. Zenion has been invited to provide clarification on Middle School lunch duty assignments. Jon added that if the parties can't come to a resolution, we can go to arbitration which involves a neutral person coming in and reviewing the contract. All members are required to attend and the decision is binding on language only. It is not binding on salary or healthcare. Tyler asked if the decision would be just on the impasse or the contract as a whole to which Jon responded it could be the entire contract language. Any decision made on language would be binding. He warned the Committee that things that are resolved could come back. There could also be a recommendation for more money. We can also bring back the mediator to help with the language. Tyler asked who picks the mediator to which Jon explained that it is an agreement by both parties. Chair Giusti asked if the tone of the meetings was any better to which Linda responded that the behavior has been better. She has pretty much told them to not let it happen again. Chair Giusti asked what is needed of the School Committee. Jon replied if you come to an impasse, do you want to go to a mediator or arbitrator? Tyler stated at this point, if NEA can't agree to the two language issues, he feels they should move to arbitration. Linda agreed with Tyler to which Clay questioned why not mediation. Tyler responded that he did not like the mediator. Donna added that she thinks they have had enough discussion; she doesn't feel a mediator would help. Linda agreed to go with arbitration. Pat commented that she did not think what the subcommittee was asking was unreasonable. She doesn't know if the Union will go to arbitration to please one or two people.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was

VOTED: If NEA can't agree to the two language issues, they should move forward to arbitration. In favor: Unanimous.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was

VOTED: To close executive session and return to open session at 6:58 PM. In favor: Unanimous.


Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes
February 7, 2023

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Catherine Giusti, Donna Chambers, Tyler Champlin, Kathryn Colasante, Polly Hopkins, Clay Johnson, Craig Louzon, Linda Lyall, 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, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Administration and Finance Kathy Koziol, Systems Administrator Eric O'Brien, High School Principal Andrea Spas, High School Assistant Principal Jean Bradanini, CTC Director Gerry Auth, Development Officer Katie Kirakosian, Hope Valley School Principal Joe Gencarelli, NEA Chariho President Vin Levcowich, Hopkinton Town Councilors Scott Bill Hirst and Sharon Davis, Attorney Jon Anderson and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair Giusti called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 5:58 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 Andrew McQuaide and Linda Lyall 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 an individual's job performance or character (Pre-deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts); 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 (NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to litigation/legal update (1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2023 - 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); 2. Update on C.A. No. PC-2021-06474 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall); 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 January 10, 2023 - Home Instruction Requests and 2. 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 Giusti reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM. All were asked to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

IV. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Picard recommended that minutes pertaining to an individual's job performance or character (Pre-deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to an individual's job performance or character (Pre-deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Champlin, Hopkins and Phelps were not in attendance for the vote).

2. 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 Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: That minutes relating to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests) remain sealed. In favor: Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Hopkins. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention (Champlin and Phelps were not in attendance for the vote).

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

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to collective bargaining (Certified Staff Negotiation Update) remain sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. In favor: Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Lyall, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Louzon and McQuaide. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 abstentions (Champlin and Phelps were not in attendance for the vote).

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

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: That minutes pertaining to litigation/legal update (Update on C.A. No. PC-2021-06474 - The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation v. Chariho Regional School District, through its Chair, Linda Lyall) remain sealed. In favor: Unanimous (Champlin and Phelps were not in attendance for the vote).

V. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Chair Giusti reported that the first vote in executive session was the non-renewal of 15 teacher contracts (all voted on in one vote). Voting in favor were Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of January 10, 2023 – Legal Update, was approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds with Johnson abstaining.

The next vote, approval of executive session minutes of January 10, 2023 – Home Instruction Requests, was approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds with Johnson abstaining.

The next vote, to move agenda items putting Legal Update before NEA Negotiations Update, was unanimously approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

The next vote, regarding NEA Negotiations, was unanimously approved by Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds.

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

It was noted by the Clerk that there were two additional votes taken in regards to the RGB Legal Update and authorization provided to Attorney Anderson. The first vote was tied and subsequently failed with Chambers, Giusti, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide and Reynolds voting in favor. Opposing were Champlin, Colasante, Hopkins, Johnson, Phelps and Pouliot. The second vote passed with Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds voting in favor, Johnson opposing and Louzon abstaining.

VI. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

1. High School Art Students Regional-at-Large (East) Scholastic Art Award Results:

- Abigayle Fadgen – Silver Key Award for her Ceramic piece “Monotone Ocean”
- Alaina Frias – Honorable Mention for her Painting “Feed Me, I’m Scared”
- Morgan Lawing – Silver Key Award for his Ceramic piece “Fish Out of Water”
- Madelyn Lussier – Silver Key Award for her Photography piece “Shine Through”

2. Grade 7 student Cedar Shuler won the 140 lb weight class at the Middle School JV State Tournament.

3. High School Gymnast Randi Swenson qualified for the state meet with an all-around score of 34.85 and was named *The Westerly Sun* Athlete of the Week (week ending January 21st).

4. High School Gymnast Brooklyn Vacca posted a state-qualifying all-around score of 32.9.

5. High School Girls’ Indoor Track

- Erin von Housen placed 1st in the 1,500 and the 1,000 and Grace Steere won the 3,000 at the Providence Career & Technical Academy.
- The 4x800 relay team of Brooke Kanaczet, Ella Murphy, Kara Linke and Erin von Housen established a school record (10:45.08) at the East Coast Invitational at PCTA.

- Brooke Kanaczet placed first in the 1,500 and the 1,000 at PCTA.
6. High School Boys' Indoor Track:
- Jared Peltier placed 1st in the 3,000, Austin Thorp placed 1st in the 1,000, Ethan McCann placed 1st in the 1,500 and Travis Plante-Mullins placed 1st in the high jump at the same meet at PCTA.
7. Noah Dinucci placed 1st (113 lbs) in the Mountie Invitational Wrestling Tournament.
8. High School Sophomore Logan Rekowski has been invited by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to serve as a delegate to the 2023 Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston. He will be representing the State of Rhode Island and Chariho High School. Logan will be in attendance at the March 14th meeting for Recognition.
9. Middle School Wrestling Team captured the State Wrestling Title. They will be in attendance at the March 14th meeting for Recognition.

VII. Public Forum

Scott Bill Hirst, Vice President of the Hopkinton Town Council, stated he was speaking solely for himself. He is also a member of the Class of 1971. One of the most important things is collaboration of the three towns and the school district. We have to work together. Regional districts have issues other single districts don't have. He wanted to add items to the Omnibus agenda such as continual use of property tax for education. This needs to change. In Article 12, Section 1, it clearly states the General Assembly shall promote public education; make it the responsibility of the General Assembly. Goldie Williams from Richmond noted that comments have been made that if a student can prove they know the subject material, they don't have to do homework; like Charter Schools. The Superintendent corrected Goldie as this is not what was said. Goldie asked why doesn't the school district skip kids to the next grade like Charter Schools do. She went to the Anatomy of an IEP in which it was said that smart kids can't have a plan. Again Goldie was informed that this was incorrect. Hopkinton Town Councilor Sharon Davis requested to speak but was asked to please wait as her topic was the budget which is on this evening's agenda. Deb Quaratella from Westerly has four children attending Chariho CTC. She noted a concern with the High School bathrooms being locked and was told by her children that they have to walk around the school to find one that is not locked. They have been stopped for roaming the halls. Teachers are not letting them go to the bathroom. She is a graduate of Chariho and teachers used to be assigned bathroom duty. She knows there is a solution. She is a nurse and kids need to stay hydrated which means they need to use the bathroom more frequently. She feels this is an issue for students with Crohn's Disease or colitis. Please come up with a solution. Sheila Woycik agreed with Ms. Quaratella. It is taking kids too long to find a bathroom that is open. Her child comes home in pain. She is worried about kids who do have problems. Gina responded that she will make sure that Ms. Spas, Ms. Bradanini and Mr. Auth, who are here tonight, look into the concerns. We are required by law to keep some open. Polly thanked them for bringing this up.

VIII. Policy

A. Hazing Policy (First Reading) – Superintendent Picard noted, as this is a new policy, the Committee has the opportunity to review the policy and provide feedback. It will be on the March 14th agenda for adoption. She recommended approval of the first reading of the Hazing Policy that has been reviewed by legal counsel and the Policy Subcommittee and is recommended by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Clay asked if this is a different response to Rhode Island law to which Gina replied, "no, we already had a policy as required but this is as a result of recent issues." He suggested on page six – Parent Notice – that it read "shall be given notice." Gina commented that this is under Protocol and could incorporate this but the Committee does not vote on Protocol. She included this so the Committee could see how administration will respond. Kathryn stated that she would like to see, instead of links to Rhode Island General Laws, the entire law incorporated in the policy. Kathryn made a motion, which was seconded by Tyler, to incorporate RIGL 11-21-1 into the policy with the penalty for Hazing written in as well. Clay requested clarification. Do you mean that you want both 11-21-1 and 11-21-2 included? Karen added that 11-21-2 provides the penalty for school officials permitting hazing. Kathryn felt they could skip this as it is not a deterrent for students; it is not suitable for her purpose but felt that 11-21-3 could be added. Chair Giusti asked her to please restate her motion. Kathryn made a motion, which was seconded by Tyler, to include, within the Hazing Policy, language for RIGL 11-21-1 and 11-21-3. Donna commented that this policy

was reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee in which Kathryn is a member. She thinks the Policy Subcommittee should go back and decide if the language should be added and how long they want the policy to be. Linda stated that, while she appreciates Kathryn's information, she would like to see in writing what she is voting on. Tyler rescinded his second and Kathryn rescinded her motion.

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was

VOTED: To send the Hazing Policy back to the Policy Subcommittee for review with Kathryn Colasante's comments in mind. In favor: Unanimous.

IX. Business

A. CTC Presentation – Director Gerry Auth provided information on CHARIHotech. He noted that this his is the best job in the District; he loves what he does and is passionate about it. He stated that the High School has 1046 students enrolled with 813 of them enrolled in 22 CTC programs. We currently have 154 students from other districts (52% male and 48% female). The largest program is Criminal Justice with 115 students. February 15th was the initial application deadline and we are up 22 applicants from last year at this time. Students who successfully complete four years in a CTC program not only graduate with a diploma but have certifications that enhance the diploma. Data tells us this is not the CTC from 25 years ago when you were either on a college path or a CTC path. 73% of CTC graduates continue on to school. He is very proud to note that we are one of the top three high schools in the state. A student who scored the highest on the SAT was a CTC student with the student scoring second highest on the PSAT also a CTC student. 58% of CTC students are in Honors classes and over 100 are taking AP courses. A student can go in either direction after High School; to college or to the work force. We do advertise mostly through social media as we have about \$1,000 set aside for advertising and social media reaches a nice platform of people. He is very proud of the students and the unlimited possibilities available to them. Donna added that Gerry did not mention we are a model for the State. She recently was in a salon in Smithfield and heard a great compliment about Chariho. She is very proud of the work she has seen. Pat commented that they have all the nuts and bolts but can they create a hybrid class to repair solar panels? Gerry replied that we do that in our electrical engineering class. Directors play a big role in writing the standards as the State has Standard requirements; he is involved with this. Andrew asked Gerry to speak on the public/private partnerships and current strategies that could enhance the educational experience and have potential positive budget impacts as was mentioned at the Omnibus Meeting. Gerry noted that CTC does have partnerships which lead to employment. Most are done locally; some are at the State level. We do get donations which could be developed a little more. Andrew asked what the value was to put more targeted strategies in place – what are your current programs that may not be at capacity and the strategies implemented to bring in more students. Gerry responded that this is different every year. Applications tell the story. Graphic Design could use a few more students and our Drafting program is being refocused. We reach near capacity in almost every program. Andrew asked if Gerry could please share his presentation with the School Committee with more specific data. Clay noted that Andrew anticipated where he was going. If Gerry can get more students from out of district to help the budget, can we get more physical space? We had 4000 students at one time and are now down to 3000. Gerry replied that we have more programs than any other in the State and more out of district students. We have started a new program every year and a half to which Clay asked if space was an issue. Gerry again noted that applications tell the story. If he is in need of another teacher, he puts this in the budget. Tyler thanked Gerry and asked what the follow-thru was. Gerry responded that it is probably close to 90%. We have application procedures and a benchmark that students have to meet (i.e. RICAS testing, attendance, discipline, etc). We have about 250 applicants this year to which Tyler asked how many are from out of district. Gerry thought it was about 65 but would have to check. Tyler asked that he include this data with Andrew's request. Craig noted that all four of his children went through CTC and they do a fantastic job. He has been arguing for years about the State allowing all schools to run programs that mirror ours as they are bleeding us. Gerry did not feel they were mirroring our programs as ours are better. Our out of district enrollment has remained the same as when he started. We have to do better than the rest. We have a reputation as a High School with a strong education; this brings kids. The combination of both makes his job easy. Jim Sullivan from Charlestown commended Gerry on the wonderful job they are doing. He asked how much release time kids get from school to which Gerry explained that students participate in their CTC program as

part of their regular schedule. Grasso Tech does a full week at CTC and then a full week of academics. We have a 90-minute block every other day for CTC and seniors have a double block of CTC every other day. So that is about three hours to go out and build a house every other day. Chair Giusti asked what the School Committee could do to support him to which Gerry noted they can continue to build a strong high school environment. We are a high performing district and this is the only district he would leave his old job in Cranston for. The Committee can support their programs at the High School as this is the community's biggest asset. We have a good administrative team. Pat questioned if there were more male-dominated classes to which Gerry replied that they have both – some male-dominated (such as auto and construction) and some female-dominated (such as nursing and cosmetology). It is a focus of his to get more females in male-dominated classes and he recently wrote an equity grant for this. Andrew requested, for a future agenda, follow-up with this conversation and the strategy around public/private partnerships with a focus on the budget once leadership has an opportunity to develop it. Goldie asked if they had all-day internships like The Met and do they have students with IEPs to which Gerry responded that they have a very strong internship during the 90-minute block. We do have a handful of students who come in on a green days and intern on a white day and we also have about 15 students from CALA in our programs. Andrew thanked Goldie for asking this. He questioned how CTC and Special Ed collaborate; particularly those students with IEPs (maybe not enrolled in a program but exposure to a program). Gerry explained that students with IEPs are afforded every opportunity that all students are offered. Andrea added that self-contained classrooms are included as well. Andrew requested that more background on this be included in the follow-up. We are truly leveraging the resources of our CTC. Andrea noted that this is critical for their life skills experience. Louise Dinsmore from Richmond stated that it is obvious the District is lucky to have Gerry and asked how much does it cost for each student. Gina explained that the cost per student is created by the Department of Education and is dependent on what that town's cost per pupil rate is. For example, Narragansett's is about \$22,000 while North Kingstown is \$15,608. Louise questioned what Chariho's was to which Ned replied it is about \$18,000. Gerry noted that it used to be consistent but is now based on what the district's per pupil cost is. Louise then asked about capacity to which Gerry replied that is dependent on the program. Pat wanted to know if construction students were learning budgetary skills as well. Gerry replied that every student has to take a Financial Literacy class as part of their graduation requirement. Richmond resident Bruce Olean stated how proud he is of what he is hearing this evening. His granddaughter is a freshman and she is on fire with her learning. She is moving to Honors classes and wants to be more challenged. The High School is an integral part of CTC. The atmosphere is something here – don't lose it.

B. Energy CLASS Prize Grant – Katie Kirakosian provided an overview of this grant request. To submit this request, she needs a letter of support from the School Committee Chair. The funding is through the Department of Energy and the grant is focused on building capacity within local educational agencies to identify and implement energy and health improvements in their facilities and classrooms. The Energy CLASS Prize will provide resources to staff and will train personnel on operations and maintenance, strategic energy management, project development, funding pathways, and related topics to deepen bandwidth and knowledge for advancing the fiscal and environmental sustainability of their schools for \$100,000 in funding. We need to identify a small team of energy champions which would include Chariho's Director of Administration and Finance, the Director of Buildings and Grounds, the Custodial Services Administrator and the Development Officer. The team will participate in 80-160 hours of virtual training with industry experts with the Phase I timeline of September 2024 through May 2024. An overview of Phase 2 would have Phase I participants who demonstrate sufficient progress in preparing for or implementing energy and health upgrades receiving a bonus award of \$50,000. Katie noted that this will have a strategic impact on the District and is an exciting opportunity to tie this into CHARIHOTech programs. Donna praised Katie and stated she is worth her weight in gold for all the grant money she has secured for the District. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve moving forward with this application. Andrew clarified that this grant will fund the wages for the team for training to which Katie replied "yes". Kathryn wanted to know if this will add any cost to the District. Katie replied that she is not anticipating any cost to the District. Tyler wanted to know what this will provide for the District to which Gina explained things like safety film for windows, savings on heat and energy, etc. We can move some items from the operating budget to the grant. Ned noted this is a segway to a

larger grant. It provides the capacity to build technical requirements to which Katie added like solar and HVAC (indoor air quality). Gina explained that the first phase would be to build the capacity of the team. Once we have shown capacity, more funds will be obtained. Katie stated that she has included herself of a Champion. Tyler clarified that the \$100,000 will pay for our professionals identified to take these classes so it is \$100,000 worth of learning. Most have full-time jobs. Does our team have the capacity to do this along with their job? Katie responded that they have identified the topics each team member would want to take. They do not all need to participate in all topics. Gina noted they will build a team and work in collaboration. Ned added that some could be overlapping so they would engage a professional to take the weight off the District. Polly asked what qualified Chariho for this prize-Title I? Katie noted that it does ask if we identify as a rural district along with Title I, free/reduced lunch numbers and other factors. We hit many of those. Polly commented that only 25 will be awarded; how many will apply? Katie stated that through her role, there may be small pools who don't have the capacity of writing grants. Donna again thanked Katie for doing her job so well.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was
VOTED: To approve moving forward with the Energy CLASS Prize grant application. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Chariho High School and Chariho Middle School – Superintendent Picard recommended approval for High and Middle School students to participate in this survey ONLY if a parent/legal guardian allows their child to participate. If parents/students do not return the permission slip, the student will not be given the survey. It is an opt-in requirement; not an opt-out one. Craig made a motion, seconded by Andrew to grant approval for High and Middle School students to participate in this survey ONLY if a parent/legal guardian allows their child to participate. If parents/students do not return the permission slip, the student will not be given the survey. Chair Giusti asked how the data comes back to Chariho. Gina replied that the survey overall determines regions that need additional services to which the Chair remarked, “no specific, identifying information would be received by Chariho to identify a student in need.” Clay stated that he is glad this is opt-in but the problem with this is that we find out we may have a kid in need but we are not given specific information to determine who that child might be. Kathryn felt it was just taking away more class time from instruction when kids are trying to catch up. North Stonington's superintendent just commented on a concern about the number of surveys and Westerly did not approve this. Gina noted there are pros and cons to this. It would allow us an opportunity to get more funding. Craig asked if this was the whole survey as it looked like some pages were missing. Larry asked when the permission slip goes out, do the questions go with it to which Gina replied that all questions get posted. They sent us an opt-out form and she told them she wanted this to be opt-in. Larry noted his concern with some of the questions. Karen stated that they don't get data specific with our schools to which Gina replied the District has not participated in surveys because we do not get the data back. Karen felt it should be more specific to the District. Donna felt this was good as it is not a test and it stimulates student thinking.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was
VOTED: To grant approval for High and Middle School students to participate in this survey ONLY if a parent/legal guardian allows their child to participate. If parents/students do not return the permission slip, the student will not be given the survey. In favor: Chambers and Louzon. Opposed: Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. The motion was defeated by a vote of 2 in favor and 10 opposed.

D. Letter to Town Councils Regarding Notification of Agenda Items Pertaining to the Town – This item was on the agenda at the request of Andrew McQuaide to which Andrew noted this is a very brief follow-up to his previous conversation. He made a motion, which was seconded by Tyler, to authorize the Chair to work in coordination with the Superintendent to send communication (formal letter or email) to the three Town Councils when an agenda item is specific to one or more of the towns and ask that they return the favor. Andrew felt this would better the communication between the towns and the District. We have all had agenda items that impact one another and this should be communicated. Clay questioned the format; how would this be handled. Gina responded it would

be handled like she did with the letter to the Governor and Commissioner that is in the packet. Scott Bill Hirst felt it was a good gesture to do this. He wants it publicly stated that he hopes they have open lines of communication to which Chair Giusti added that she hopes this is returned in-kind from Scott's Town Council. Polly asked if there is consideration being given to a timeframe they should adhere to. Gina explained that when she writes a letter, it goes in the packet. She will know of an agenda item as soon as the Committee knows (for example, snow plowing). She cannot guarantee a timeframe. Polly felt they should hold the Hopkinton Town Council to the same timeframe. Michael Colasante from Richmond suggested they just email all directly to which Andrew replied that is what the motion says.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was VOTED: To authorize the Chair to work in coordination with the Superintendent to send communication (formal letter or email) to the three Town Councils when an agenda item is specific to one or more of the towns and ask that they return the favor. In favor: Unanimous.

E. Family Communication Discussion – This item was on the agenda at the request of Polly Hopkins. Polly thanked the Chair for putting this on and stated that a lot of parents feel they get emails from all directions. It is not just her; some say they don't read them. Is it any easier to just send a piece of paper home? Maybe electronics are not the best solution. Gina commented that this would impact the budget. We have had to cut back on toner and paper. Karen stated that Mr. Colasante just encouraged the Committee to send emails. I open them, skim through them and prioritize. She completely understands. Gina noted that they do put things on the website at no cost and she asks the principals to do a weekly bulletin instead of sending something out on a daily basis. The High School is tracking how many are reading their messages. High and Middle School students don't take the paper home. Chair Giusti asked if it was a requirement that principals send a weekly notice to which Gina responded that she does ask them to communicate something important. Tyler noted that he loves to see Mr. G and appreciates the emails but does see how it can become overwhelming with more than one student. He does, however, appreciate the work the administrators and teachers put in. Polly felt with younger students it is good to hand something to their parent(s). When they are older, technology is better. Donna noted that parenting is a challenge and if this is the most challenging thing that parents are dealing with, they are very lucky. Ann Marie Louzon stated that she checks emails for 20+ kids a day. Chair Giusti asked if there were any more comments. Polly noted that she has nothing else but felt it was good to have the talk.

Craig Louzon made a motion, which was seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was VOTED: To take a quick recess at 8:46 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Giusti reconvened the meeting at 8:55 PM.

F. FY24 Budget

1. Adjustments to FY24 Budget – Superintendent Picard stated that this is an opportunity for adjustments to be made prior to approval at which time it then becomes the Committee's budget. This is not the last time the Committee can lower the budget. If adjustments are made, she will ask the Committee to take a short recess if Ned needs to recalculate figures. In the packet was a letter from Ned pertaining to the increase in DCYF allocations. The sheet handed out this evening has the new figures which include the DCYF increase. Linda requested they go back to the original recommendations made by the Superintendent; to where they left off. Are the positions listed for cuts vacant ones to which Gina replied everything but the Middle School Dean position. That can be moved to ESSER. Chair Giusti stated that it was mentioned at a prior meeting that the Chair should not make motions so if anyone has motions to make, please do so. Andrew asked about the Middle School Special Educator position. Gina noted this cut is being recommended based on caseload. Even with this reduction, the caseload will be 15-16 students.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and Linda Lyall and it was VOTED: To remove line #241 – Middle School Special Educator - in the amount of \$98,000. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew recommended they remove line #509 – Custodian - to which Larry asked if they would be eliminating a person's job. Gina explained the position is vacant so no one would lose their job.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Polly Hopkins and it was
VOTED: To remove line #509 – Custodian - in the amount of \$55,000. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Polly Hopkins and it was
VOTED: To remove line #400 – Teacher Assistant - in the amount of \$43,400. In favor: Unanimous.

Andrew suggested they move the Middle School Dean position to ESSER. Chair Giusti noted a concern with this. We move this to ESSER and with the astronomical increase in DCYF, will they be able to fund this next year to which Gina responded that they will have to consider moving this back to the operating budget. Donna added that next year they won't have ESSER funds and we will need a Dean. Andrew noted that they weren't wrong but this is why they need a Budget Subcommittee to monitor these and what the impact of not having ESSER funds will be. We need a plan. Donna stated that they need to remind taxpayers that the lack of ESSER funding will have a considerable impact on the budget. Karen asked if they can't cover DCYF with ESSER, can they cover the Dean with these funds to which the Superintendent replied "yes". We have the mental health grant that will cover some of our needs so she can move the Dean. Gina stated that the Committee has cut a total of \$441,311 and needed a cut of \$317,000 to get the budget under 3% for all with State Aid. Clay agreed with Andrew. We do need to reform the budget process.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Polly Hopkins and it was
VOTED: To move line #521 – Middle School Dean – in the amount of \$150,000 to ESSER funding.
In favor: Unanimous.

Tyler recommended a reduction to line #5622 – CCRI Tuition – of \$40,755 which will leave about \$35,000 in this line item. Gina noted that the recommended cut is \$68,255 to which Tyler replied that he looked at the last three years. Gina commented that students backed away from this program because of COVID and the fact that classes were distance learning. The past two years is not what the program looked like prior to COVID. Linda asked how Gina came up with a cut of \$68,255 to which Gina explained that the remainder of the funding is for GED programs which you have to have funding for. Craig felt the State should pay for the CCRI tuition so that every student would be eligible. Gina explained that interested students meet with their guidance counselor; they have to be independent students. Craig asked if this was required by State law to which Gina noted that she asked this and was informed it is not mandated. Chair Giusti shared her son's experience. It was great the first semester for the college experience but COVID impacted the second semester and he had to learn on his own so he returned to Chariho. She does not want to pick which students can go and which ones can't because we don't have the funds to cover them all. Gina stated her advice would be to not run the program at all. Karen asked if this was virtual or in-person to which Gina noted that is up to the instructor. Andrew wondered if they opted out, would this impact current students. Gina replied that they could opt out now without a major issue as all those enrolled now are seniors so if they are going to do it, they would have to do it now. Andrew stated his preference would be to eliminate the program in its entirety. As a follow-up, the State should be paying; this should not be a taxpayers' expense to which Donna added that they need to advocate at the State level. Tyler asked a clarifying question. This is no different than CTC as far as equity so why don't they have a certain criteria to meet. Tyler rescinded his motion and Linda rescinded her second. Tyler made a motion, seconded by Kathryn to reduce line #5622 – CCRI Tuition – in the amount of \$68,255. Jon Anderson stated that if this is the Running Start Program and a student qualifies, the District has to pay. You need to check this as the District is also responsible to pay for textbooks. He believes it is mandated with the whole idea to keep CCRI open. We lost a case when we did not want to pay for textbooks under Superintendent Ricci. Linda noted it is online – RIGL 16-100 – in 2013 by the General Assembly – Dual Enrollment.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To reduce line item #5622 – CCRI Tuition – in the amount of \$68,255. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Louzon. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 opposed.

Karen asked if they pay tuition to URI to which Gina responded that if a child were to take a writing class or something like that, the District would pay. Jon added there are a lot of programs the General Assembly supports and makes taxpayers pay. For example, DCYF at \$75,000 per student. We indicated to DCYF the child would be better served by staying in Chariho but DCYF enters contracts with vendors. Gina stated she will research whether or not CCRI Tuition is mandated.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Polly Hopkins and it was VOTED: To cut line #5071 – Social Studies PD – by \$2500. In favor Unanimous.

Gina noted that this is not needed right now as the Department of Ed has not finalized the Standards. It will, most likely, be in next year's budget.

Andrew stated that he is not in support of reducing the fund balance to 2% so he will not be making a motion for this. He suggested they cut \$10,100 from the budget for line #5287 – Strategic Plan. Gina stated that this can be removed because the Committee has already approved the lowest bidder who came in \$10,100 under budget.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was VOTED: To cut line #5287 – Strategic Plan – by \$10,100. In favor: Unanimous. Gina noted that she did add back in \$200,000 for the increase in DCYF allocations. She noted that the adjustments made have resulted in \$522,166 being cut from the budget.

Tyler made a motion, which was seconded by Karen, to remove \$7,500 from Negotiation/ Arbitration Services (page 17 of 37, Section IV). Karen felt they may need to use it this year but not next unless they went with a one-year contract. Jon stated that from time to time there may be a disagreement with both unions regarding employee discipline. They have arbitration rights or disagreement language. We have had good relationships with our unions but he wants to be clear about what this line item is used for. Karen asked if this would be a shared expense to which Jon responded if there is an arbitration with the union the cost is split 50/50. We do not split the cost of the transcript of a teacher termination. We pay for that.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was VOTED: To remove \$7,500 from Negotiation/Arbitration Services. In favor: Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Chambers and Lyall. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 2 opposed.

Clay noted, procedurally, if we need money for arbitration, we can move money to which Chair Giusti replied that is correct.

Donna made a motion, which was seconded by Linda, to eliminate \$16,500 from line #6294 – Athletic Equipment. Donna asked if the money could come from somewhere else. Gina replied that she is trying to work with Katie on this. Andrew noted that he is not comfortable with removing the golf cart. This is needed for health and safety. Polly asked if they could sell the other golf cart or worst case scenario the ambulance goes on the field. Craig stated that the track was a \$500,000 cost ten years ago so he is not in favor of having the ambulance run over the track. He agrees with Andrew. Larry asked if they could look at modifying the golf cart to which Pat added that there is a place in Exeter that has custom-made golf carts. Gina noted the majority of this funding is for the football sled. An individual in the audience asked if the two could be separated to which Polly questioned if they could split the vote. Ned stated that the golf cart is about \$9,000.

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Linda Lyall and it was VOTED: To eliminate \$16,500 from line #6294 – Athletic Equipment. In favor: Chambers, Johnson and Pouliot. Opposed: Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps and Reynolds. The motion failed by a vote of 3 in favor with 9 opposed.

Donna made a motion, which was seconded by Kathryn, to reduce lines 5707 & 5546 – Transportation Shifts – by \$80,000. Craig asked Gina to redefine what this would entail. Gina stated that it would be the removal of mid-term and final exam mid-day buses for \$10,000 and the \$70,000 would be a result of increased miles on routes and depot stops across neighborhoods. Kathryn asked if this would increase the time a student would be on a bus to which Gina replied that it would not increase time on the bus but there would be an increase in the time it takes for the student to get to a stop. Andrew noted that he would be OK with cutting the \$10,000 but they have not received information on the stops/neighborhoods impacted. He would want this specificity. Donna asked how they came up with this number to which Gina responded that Ned and Lillian met to discuss depot stops. All routes will be checked and approved by the police to ensure safety. Donna clarified that this would be consolidated pick-up and drop-off spots. Craig commented that this is one thing that directly impacts a family first thing in the morning – the bus. Having served on the Transportation Subcommittee, the one thing parents wanted were more stops. This is very vague. He is not for it. Andrew agreed. This does have an impact on families on a daily basis. Without more detail he would be encouraged to look elsewhere for cuts.

Donna Chambers made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was VOTED: To reduce lines 5707 & 5546 – Transportation Shifts – by \$80,000. In favor: Chambers, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Lyall and Pouliot. Opposed: Champlin, Louzon, McQuaide, Phelps and Reynolds. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 5 opposed. Gina informed the Committee that total adjustments are now at \$609,666 which results in a 1.89% increase to Richmond; a 2.5% increase to Hopkinton and a 2.0% increase to Charlestown; overall a 2.13% increase.

Donna Chambers made a motion, which was seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To cut \$1,000 from Other Services – Supplies – CALA as this is a new building. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Johnson, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Hopkins. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 opposed.

Larry made a motion, which was seconded by Pat, to reduce line #6294 – Athletic Equipment - by \$8250 (remove the sled and keep the golf cart). Andrew asked if the District is trying to get other funding to which Gina replied maybe through fundraising. Chair Giusti asked if the amount they are cutting would leave enough for the cart. Gina responded that it would not be enough based on quotes they have received. Larry withdrew his motion and Pat withdrew her second.

Larry Phelps made a motion, seconded by Patricia Pouliot and it was VOTED: To reduce line #6294 – Athletic Equipment – to \$9,000 to get the golf cart. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Johnson, Lyall, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon and McQuaide. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 4 opposed.

Chair Giusti asked if there was any appetite to cut the fund balance to which Craig felt they should save this for down the line if needed. She asked if there were any additional motions.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Tyler Champlin and it was VOTED: To continue the meeting past 10:00 PM. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Louzon, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Lyall, McQuaide and Phelps. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 3 opposed.

Tyler made a motion, which was seconded by Kathryn and Polly, to cut \$13,497 from line #5950 (pg 30 of 37 – Section IV) – Custodial Supplies. He looked at two year actuals and padding it, this is how he arrived at this amount. He would like to leave a flat \$87,000. He used the same pro rata for

each cut he will be recommending. Kathryn questioned what "other safety supplies" were to which Ned replied it could be signs, mats, etc.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was
VOTED: To cut \$13,497 from line #5950 – Custodial Supplies, leaving \$87,000. In favor: Unanimous.

Tyler made a motion, which was seconded by Karen, to cut \$1,000 from line #5586 – School Committee copying. If someone wants paper copies, they can print them themselves. Chair Giusti asked if they were under any obligation to offer this to which the Superintendent responded "no". Jessica Purcell questioned if this would include stuff that is printed for the public. Gina noted that this is just for School Committee packets.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was
VOTED: To cut \$1,000 from line #5586 – School Committee copying. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Johnson, Lyall, McQuaide and Reynolds. Opposed: Louzon, Phelps and Pouliot. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 3 opposed.

Tyler made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to cut \$20,000 from line #5994 – Building Supplies, which will leave \$60,825. Andrew stated that he appreciates the analysis in terms of experience provided by Tyler but questioned if there were anticipated projects. Gina noted that there are issues with the septic system at the High School which includes plumbing. Andrew reminded all Committee members that they are going to have to own the increase in transfers. Gina added that this line item also includes electrical, snow/ice removal, etc. Ned explained there are times when they get into a repair (ie. a toilet or sink) and they have to call in a vendor as we cannot fix it ourselves. Sometimes we exceed an amount in a line item and sometimes we run less than what was budgeted. Look at line #5465 – we ran over. Karen reiterated that snow/ice removal will include three additional schools this year to which Tyler replied that snow/ice removal is in several places. Ned explained that in this line item it is trips to Richmond Sand and Gravel for sand for the walkways.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was
VOTED: To cut \$20,000 from line #5994 – Building Supplies, which will leave \$60,825. In favor: Unanimous.

Craig asked if Ned could show them what a 2% fund balance would look like. He is not making a motion. While Ned was figuring this, Tyler made a motion, which was seconded by Kathryn, to reduce line #1373 – Benefits – by \$250,000. Chair Giusti asked what the rationale was to which Tyler responded that he thinks they can go with less. He thinks it was over-budgeted. 2022 was a relatively normal year. Ned gave his advice – you are taking a risk based on what we anticipate for an increase. We have already figured in the healthcare fund balance. Tyler stated that if you look at the last three years' experience, we over-budgeted each year (16.18% budget variance over the last three years). He is taking the numbers from the audit. Gina took everyone back to the memo. We just got three additional claims from employees. Look at the trajectory line. In the end, this is a risk. Craig asked when would they get hard numbers to which Ned responded that they expect WB to provide them by the end of the month. The last run we were over 7% with increased claims so the 8% looks like it will hold up. Andrew agreed with the concerns about risks. This Committee has to be comfortable owning those risks. He will vote in favor of this acknowledging that the wiggle room we had could be gone. We can only make transfers if there is money to transfer. We are coming to the end of the money. Donna stated she was not comfortable taking the risk. When we run out of money, do we go to the taxpayers? She doesn't want to take the risk. Clay felt it was a reasonable risk; it still protects the fund balance.

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Kathryn Colasante and it was
VOTED: To reduce line #1373 – Benefits – by \$250,000. In favor: Champlin, Colasante, Hopkins, Johnson, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Chambers, Giusti, Louzon and Lyall. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 4 opposed.

Ned noted, with the reductions made, Charlestown is at 1.43%; Richmond at 1.17% and Hopkinton at 1.76% for a total of 1.45% after state aid is applied. There are additional risks with what the State Legislature does. Sharon Davis asked, if the fund balance goes to 2%, what would the percentages be to which Ned replied Charlestown – 1.13% increase; Richmond - .80% increase and Hopkinton – 1.38% increase. Sharon noted that she really appreciates the cuts that were made and she feels the towns will vote to approve the budget. Polly asked if these numbers give Hopkinton enough wiggle room. Donna commented and asked that no one take this personally but Hopkinton has to look at the fact that we are funding two elementary schools for them while the other two towns only have one. Louise Dinsmore thanked all for their diligence in making these cuts and she thanked Tyler for his leadership. She is concerned with the elephant in the room which is fixed costs and compensation. They are looking at a \$1.2 million increase. If you consider a three-year contract, that will be \$3.6 million. She is concerned where they will be. It is irresponsible to move forward and ask the taxpayers to pay this. Look at reducing personnel costs. How can you make these decisions on a three-year teacher contract without a three-year budget? Where will we be with fixed costs? You have to be responsible.

2. Approval of FY24 Budget – Chair Giusti stated that the School Committee will now vote to approve the FY budget which does not mean this is the final budget. The School Committee will take ownership of it and further reductions, if requested, can be made on March 14th. Superintendent Picard recommended that the Committee approve the FY24 budget with the adjustments made this evening resulting in Charlestown at a 1.43% increase; Richmond at a 1.17% increase and Hopkinton at a 1.76% with the total aggregate at 1.45% after state aid is applied. Andrew made a motion, which was seconded by Craig, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. Clay stated that he will be voting against the budget as he did for the four years he was on the Committee. Look at the best performing schools, such as East Greenwich and Barrington, they are more efficient with better results. He recommends, when they look at the budget next year, to look at what these districts are doing. We have to rely on management of the budget and transfers. Gina responded to Clay's comments. We always look at ways to improve and become more efficient. Those two districts do not have CTCs and they do not have the transportation issues we have as a regional district. Things happen in regional districts. Our state aid decreases but our per pupil expenditures increase because we have a larger area to cover. Barrington has the largest investment in the State in fixed costs. One of our assets is CTC. Teachers are our biggest investment. She will send out links for all to compare. She feels a Budget Subcommittee is a great way to start. Kathryn noted that CTC brings in revenue; we are making money to which Gina advised all members to look at the Chart of Accounts. CTCs come at a cost. Ned added there are significant differences in household income between Chariho communities and East Greenwich and Barrington.

Andrew McQuaide made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the FY24 Budget with Charlestown at a 1.43% increase; Richmond at a 1.17% increase and Hopkinton at a 1.76% increase with the total aggregate at 1.45% after state aid is applied. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Opposed: Colasante and Johnson. The motion carried by a vote of 10 in favor with 2 opposed.

X. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Giusti asked if there were any items to be pulled. Clay pulled A-1, A-2, A-3 and A-4. Craig acknowledged the donations and thanked the donors.

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

A. Approved the following:

5. Special Meeting and Budget Workshop Minutes of January 24, 2023.

6. Special Meeting and Budget Workshop Minutes of January 26, 2023.

B. Transfers – Approved.

C. Bill Review – Accepted.

D. Revenue/Expenditure Account Status Report – None at this time.

- E. Student Activity Fund Balance – None at this time.
- F. Personnel Actions – None at this time.
- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quote – Approved issuance and award of the following:
 - 1. Pug Mill Bid – This purchase is being funded as part of the ARTS Initiative SBA Capital Fund Grant and permission is sought to award the bid prior to the next School Committee meeting as long as the bid comes in within the amount budgeted in the grant.
- H. Permission to Award Contracts – None at this time.
- I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.
- J. Grants – None at this time.
- K. Donations – Accepted the following:
 - 1. Donation from the Cove Restaurant (Travis Justice and Marisa Mara), Charlestown of penne pasta for the Charlestown School PTO's Pasta Dinner Fundraiser.
 - 2. Donation from Grow Generations, Warwick, RI of different types of soil, valued at \$916.28, to the Richmond School Greenhouse/Garden.

A-1. Craig made a motion to approve the Budget Workshop Minutes of January 5, 2023. Andrew asked Clay if he would be abstaining from all that were pulled to which Clay replied "yes". Craig removed his motion.

Craig Louzon made a motion, which was seconded by Andrew McQuaide and it was VOTED: To approve the following: A-1. Budget Workshop Minutes of January 5, 2023; A-2. Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2023 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022 (minutes not sealed); A-3. Regular Session Minutes of January 10, 2023 and A-4. Omnibus Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2023. In favor: Chambers, Champlin, Colasante, Giusti, Hopkins, Louzon, Lyall, McQuaide, Phelps, Pouliot and Reynolds. Abstained: Johnson. The motion carried by a vote of 11 in favor with 1 abstention.

XI. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Health and Wellness Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, March 7 at 4:00 PM in the High School Library. The minutes from their meeting on December 6, 2022 were included in the packet.

B. Superintendent's Report

- 1. Budget Town Hall – The Superintendent provided an update and thanked all who participated and attended.
 - 2. Award of Mental Health Grant – We received the \$1.2 million Project Aware Grant. Thanks to Development Office Katie Kirakosian.
 - 3. SurveyWorks – This survey, which is optional, provides high quality feedback for the District. It will be administered the end of March for those who choose to participate.
 - 4. Annual District Public Budget Hearing – Will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:30 PM in the Middle School Auditorium. If there is inclement weather or lack of a quorum (must have 25 registered voters from each town), the meeting will be postponed and held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 (same time and place).
- C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Polly stated that she emailed a request for an agenda item to the Chair. She would like an investigation into how the Jon Anderson opinion was authorized and whether to bring in an outside counsel to handle such investigation.

Andrew would like a future debriefing of the budget process – potential formation of a Budget Subcommittee.

Tyler requested an agenda item about agenda items. We need a hard and fast policy around how and when agenda items can be requested of the Chair. It is disheartening when an agenda item is added last minute at 2:30 on a Friday but when a member wants to make a request, they have to wait until the next School Committee meeting which could be another month. He feels

disenfranchised. Can they put a policy together? It was noted that the School Committee's Rules of Conduct detail this so Tyler would want to discuss the Rules of Conduct.

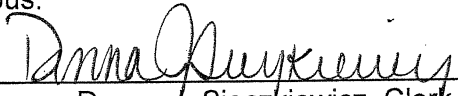
Donna wanted to have discussion on locked bathrooms.

Polly asked for discussion on whether they need to ask if Mr. Anderson needs to file a brief to the Supreme Court on behalf of the Chariho School Committee.

XIII. Adjournment

Tyler Champlin made a motion, seconded by Karen Reynolds and it was

VOTED: To adjourn at 10:35 PM. In favor: Unanimous.



Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk