

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – March 15, 2018

Committee Members Present: Chair Sylvia Stanley (arrived at 6:57 PM), Vice Chair Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, Catherine Giusti, Stephen Huzyk, Craig Louzon, Georgia Ure and Melania van der Hoof. Absent: Ronald Areglado, Murat Dymov, Clay Johnson and Lisa Macaruso.

Administrators in Attendance: Superintendent Barry Ricci, Assistant Superintendent Jane Daly and Director of Administration and Finance Susan Rogers. Also in Attendance: Attorney for the School Committee Jon Anderson (arrived at 7:30 PM), Hopkinton Town Council Member Barbara Capalbo, Westerly Sun Reporter Cynthia Drummond and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Vice Chair Callahan called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, which was held in the High School Library, to order at 6:45 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 Stephen Huzyk and it was

VOTED: That the School Committee go into executive session under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5 (a)(1) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to an individual's job performance or character (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of February 13, 2018 - Pre-deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts); under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(4) for the purpose of discussion pertaining to any investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, either civil or criminal (Approval of Executive Session Minutes of February 13, 2018 – Investigative Proceedings/Employee Misconduct) and under the authority of R.I. General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(8) for the purpose of reviewing and/or approving matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of Home Instruction Requests and Approval of Executive Session Minutes of February 13, 2018 – Approval of Home Instruct Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous (Stanley was not in attendance for the vote).

The Committee returned to open session at 6:51 PM and Chair Stanley reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

III. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Ricci recommended that minutes pertaining to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of a Home Instruction Request) remain sealed.

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

VOTED: That minutes pertaining to the privacy of students and their records (Approval of a Home Instruction Request) remain sealed. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon, Ure and van der Hoof. Abstained: Stanley (due to absence). The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 1 abstention.

IV. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Vice Chair Callahan reported there were five votes taken in executive session. The first pertained to a Home School approval. The vote passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 recusals with Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon and van der Hoof voting in favor and Ure abstaining.

The second vote on executive session minutes of February 13, 2018 passed with 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions and 0 recusals with Callahan, Giusti, Huzyk and Louzon voting in favor and Chambers, Ure and van der Hoof abstaining.

The third vote, approval of executive session minutes of February 13, 2018 related to Pre-deprivation Hearings/Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0

recusals with Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon and Ure voting in favor and van der Hooff abstaining due to absence.

The fourth vote, approval of executive session minutes of February 13, 2018 related to Investigative Proceedings/Employee Misconduct passed with 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 recusals with Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon and Ure voting in favor and van der Hooff abstaining due to absence.

The final vote was to close executive session and return to open session. The vote passed unanimously with 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals with Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon, Ure and van der Hooff voting in favor.

V. Recognition – The following were congratulated:

1. All-American Swimmer Matt Stanley for taking State Titles in the 200-yard Individual Medley and the 100-yard Breaststroke.
2. CTC Automotive Technology Students Ryan Pater and Harrison Chagnon on their 1st place win at the Ocean State Automotive Technology Competition held at New England Tech. They have each won a year's tuition to NEIT, Snap-On Tools and an all-expense paid trip to New York to compete at the National level.
3. Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Award Recipients: Administrator of the Year – Craig MacKenzie, Sister Charlene Award – Sports Boosters President Michael Kirby, Athletic Director of the Year: Michael Shiels.
4. Charlestown School Grade 4 Student Lidia Taber, winner of the ARTESSY Logo Contest.
5. CTC Hospitality Students Memphis Crosson and Jenifer Gardner and Kristen Merritt for all their work with ARTESSY.
6. Chariho Staff Dan LaBelle, Jason "Sully" Sullivan and Richard Plante for their quick response to the bus fire. They contained the fire until the fire department arrived.
7. Postseason Awards: High School Girls' Basketball – Kate Powers (Division II All Class – 2nd Team and All Division II South – 1st Team); Spencer Shiels (Division II All Class – 3rd Team and All Division II South – 1st Team); Sydney Davis (All Division II South – 3rd Team and Academic All-State); Annaliese Kenney (All Division II South – Honorable Mention); Caitlin O'Leary (All Division II South – Honorable Mention); and Alexandria Williams (Most Courageous Award).
High School Boys' Basketball – Dylan LaBelle (All Division II South – 1st Team and All Division II – 2nd Team); Tom Longolucco and Dan LaBelle (All Division II South 2nd Team).
8. 2018 State FBLA Winners: Sage Mylek (2nd place Accounting); Jack Curran, Devin DiBiasio and Riley Hughes (1st place Entrepreneurship); Emma Hughes and Samantha Snyder (2nd place Graphic Design); James Foley and William Foley (3rd place Graphic Design); Matt Power and Bryar Whelan (2nd place Management Decision Making); Connor Allamby, Joseph Silvia and Nicholas Silvia (3rd place Marketing); Ryan Landolfi (1st place Securities & Investments); Hannah Orciari and Chris Sutcliffe (2nd place Social Media Campaign). Sixteen students (and possibly more) will be traveling to Nationals.

The following were invited to attend the meeting:

9. Middle School Wrestling Champions – Luca Fabbricatore (JV); Gary Gardiner (Varsity) and Alexandra Nelson (Varsity). Head Coach Joshua Merritt; Assistant Coach Marc Anderson.
10. JV Wrestling Team – Winners of the JV State Title – Ryan Ahern, Tanner Buck (JV State Champion), Zach Jesuino (JV State Champion), Levi Barrington (JV State Champion), Nate Marchione (JV State Champion), Andrew Muszynski, Clarke Richmond, Collin Richmond, Matt Urbec, Lance DelBonis (Freshman State Finalist).
11. Varsity Wrestling – Winners of the Division I South Wrestling Title (and Postseason Awards) – Christian Fortune, Luke Gillette (Academic All-State), Kyle Merritt (Academic All-State, 2nd Team All-Division, 3rd Team All-State), Tyler Dumas (2nd Team All-Division), Dominic Bonanno (2nd Team All-Division), Jackson Bridge, Jeremy Ryan, James Dougherty (Academic All-State, Freshman State Champion), Ben Dougherty (Academic All-State, 2nd Team All-Division, 1st Team All-State/State Champion), Cameron Anderson (Academic All-State, 1st Team All-Division), Tommy Wrzesien (1st Team All-Division, 1st Team All-State/State Champion, 2nd Place New England's), Max Duscha (Academic All-State, 2nd Team All-Division), Devin Shaw (2nd Team All-Division), Michael Phelps. Head Coach Scott Merritt; Assistant Coach

Vance Dewey. It was noted that all three teams (Middle School, JV and High School) won every tournament they competed in this season (with the exception of States). They were congratulated and the coaches were thanked for a tremendous season.

VI. Public Forum

Nothing to report.

VII. Policy

A Political Activities Policy – Superintendent Ricci recommended adoption of this policy. Craig questioned if the policy implies that a teacher cannot wear a button to which the Superintendent responded that it is not implying this. If it is a political button, the answer is “no”.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To adopt the Political Activities Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Student Internship Program Policy – The Superintendent recommended adoption of the Student Internship Program Policy.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To adopt the Student Internship Program Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

C. Abused and Neglected Children – Superintendent Ricci recommended approval of the revisions to this policy so that it will comply with current statute. As this is a revision, it will not go through two readings.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To approved the revisions to the Abused and Neglected Children Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

D. CHARIHotech Application and Admission Procedures – Superintendent Ricci explained the rationale behind the revisions. Student Conduct Criteria requires that all applicants to the initial level of a program, including those from Chariho, must show evidence of no prior instances in the school or community of endangering behavior or substance abuse as defined in the High School Standards for Student Behavior. He recommended approval of the revised CHARIHotech Application and Admission Procedures. Georgia asked if Chariho students are given preference to which the Superintendent replied that for the initial selection process, seats are allocated in proportion to each sending school's 9th grade enrollment. After February 15, all students are permitted on a first come, first serve basis.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was
VOTED: To approve the revisions to the CHARIHotech Application and Admission Procedures. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon, Stanley and van der Hooff. Abstained: Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 1 abstention.

VIII. Business

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

1. Request of John Labriola and Catherine Peters for @ 200 students and @ 36 chaperones to travel to Washington, DC and Philadelphia, PA from March 19-22, 2019 contingent upon receipt of an updated Insurance Binder (current one expires on February 1, 2019).

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Stephen Huzyk and it was
VOTED: To approve the request of John Labriola and Catherine Peters for @ 200 students and @ 36 chaperones to travel to Washington, DC and Philadelphia, PA from March 19-22, 2019 contingent upon receipt of an updated Insurance Binder (current one expires on February 1, 2019). In favor: Unanimous.

2. Request of CTC Automotive Instructor Peter Faggella for 2 students and 2 chaperones to travel to the National Automotive Technology Competition in New York from April 2 to April 4, 2018. The two students were referenced in Recognitions.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Stephen Huzyk and it was

VOTED: To approve the request of CTC Automotive Instructor Peter Faggella for 2 students and 2 chaperones to travel to the National Automotive Technology Competition in New York from April 2 to April 4, 2018. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Braitmayer Foundation Grant – Superintendent Ricci recommended approval to submit the Student Advisory Board’s (SAB) grant request to the Braitmayer Foundation in the amount of \$35,000. Barbara Capalbo questioned what this is to which the Superintendent explained that the High School Student Advisory Board is submitting a grant request that would provide funding for projects such as water filtration centers for the school. Georgia asked how the students were picked for the Board. The Superintendent noted that they were originally volunteers who divided into three focus areas. Georgia stated that she asked this because it looks like they are diversified.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Stephen Huzyk and it was

VOTED: To approve submission of the Student Advisory Board’s (SAB) grant request to the Braitmayer Foundation in the amount of \$35,000. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon, Stanley and van der Hooff. Abstained: Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 1 abstention.

C. 2018-2019 School Committee Meeting Schedule – The Superintendent recommended approval of the 2018-2019 School Committee Meeting Schedule.

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

VOTED: To approve the 2018-2019 School Committee Meeting Schedule. In favor: Unanimous.

D. Status of Five-Year Capital Plan – This item was on the agenda at the request of Ryan Callahan.

Susan Rogers prepared an overview. She noted that the Department is flexible; they can add or subtract from the list. Ryan stated that he requested this item as he wanted to look at what the capital projects are that are facing them and what they need to do to be compliant with RIDE. Where are we to date and where should we be? The Superintendent explained that Kaestle Boos (the District’s Architect of Record) did a facilities study and they generated a list of what they felt needed to be done. The plan went up to the Department level and was generally approved as long as we are in our spending amount. This is more about spending and not what we budget for. For example, the Ashaway window project took us three years to budget but we haven’t spent any money yet. The concern is will we have spent half of what we have budgeted. He can’t tell the Committee if they will meet this requirement. The Richmond and Charlestown projects will take more than one year of budgeting. He believes 50% is a low threshold and he does not believe it protects infrastructure. This will lead to the need to issue bonds in the future. The consequence if we don’t meet the requirement is that RIDE has the authority to withhold future housing aid. Catherine noted that it takes a long time to budget all of that money; there has to be a lot of districts in this boat. The Superintendent responded that he does not know if the Department will pull the trigger but they have the lever. Other districts have borrowed. The Ashaway window project is “pay as you go” which means we won’t get housing aid reimbursement; we get the money as the project is being completed. We rely on housing aid reimbursement to do future projects. Donna questioned if the Superintendent had an idea of how to work this in a better way. He replied that when there is an opportunity to put money into capital, it would be wise to take that opportunity. He understands the political reality. Catherine commented that if the District does receive more transportation categorical aid, some Hopkinton Town Council members want it returned. What is the School Committee’s responsibility? The Superintendent responded that the Committee’s responsibility is the care and concern of the buildings. Transportation aid is aid to the District, not aid to the towns. It is given to help with the cost of transportation. We usually get this after town and school budgets are set so it won’t affect the tax rate. The best thing to do is to put it against next year’s budget which will lower the tax rate. Steve requested that the year the buildings were built be noted on the form. He feels it is very wise to follow thru with the Superintendent’s plan. Ryan questioned when the five-year window began to which the Superintendent replied that the plan was submitted in 2016; it began in 2017. Ryan concluded that by 2021 the District will have to meet its obligation – they will have to hit 50% or \$3.27 million. Sue added that is also goes by building – 50% is on

the whole amount. Anything the District spends on a particular school over what we have listed does not count towards the 50% and is not reimbursable. The Superintendent noted that the cost of the project is what the 50% goes toward. Craig asked if RIDE punishes the District, how long will this go to which the Superintendent responded that he does not know; he does not want to get into that position and won't recommend it. Craig noted that he has been a School Committee member for seven years and every year they take money from capital. The Superintendent commented that he thinks there are grant streams that may help with this so that is why he is recommending a half-time position. Barbara asked if the State is doing more of the paying in real time to which Superintendent Ricci replied that if there is a bond issued for this, there will be more of it. Georgia questioned if they prioritized projects. The Superintendent stated that the facilities study did prioritize them. Things that have been added, such as the swipe system, were not on the original plan so these are not prioritized but it is essential to do this. Sue added that they do prioritize this on an annual basis. Ryan questioned the "bottom line items" to which the Superintendent noted that for the Richmond and Charlestown projects the District will have to accumulate the money in capital reserve before we can do the projects. Ryan commented that it would be easier for all if the State pays as it goes (real-time funding). Craig asked how the State decides. The Superintendent explained that there is \$10 million available. Each District has to apply with health/safety projects being the priority ones. Last year we did not get money for the Ashaway windows but did receive it this year.

E. FY19 Budget – The Superintendent noted that this is divided into two sections: 1) make additional adjustments and 2) adopt a budget.

1. Potential Adjustments to the FY19 Budget – The Superintendent reviewed Budget Update #5 which includes potential adjustments to the FY19 Budget in the amount of \$149,634. If adjustments are considered, the Committee may vote on individual items or on the package of adjustments as a whole. He recommended approval of budget adjustments of \$149,634 as detailed on Budget Update #5. If you take an action other than that which he is recommending, we will need a recess to recalculate the cover sheet. Donna commented on the reduction in health insurance rates that creates the opportunity within the IDEA grant. This could potentially change if health care goes up next year. The Superintendent responded "yes" – that is why we start from zero every year. The reduction is largely a result of going with an HSA this year. We are much better off this year than where we were last year. As for moving part of salaries to the IDEA grant, we cannot leave \$30,000 in a grant unaccounted for. This will work within the guidelines. He also recommended adding \$130,000 in revenue for transportation categorical aid. We received \$125,000 more last year. In his letter to the State, he referenced the shortfall of \$588,000 but he does not expect the District will get this. He feels \$130,000 is a reasonable amount to expect. The reason he is adding this to the budget now is that it will reduce the impact to the member towns which will allow them to reduce taxes. If the District does not get this money, it will be our problem not the towns'. He then explained Density Aid which is given if Charter School enrollment exceeds 5%. The District does not exceed 5% but the Town of Charlestown does (they are at 7%). RIDE mistakenly sent this money to Charlestown (\$3,550) which should have gone to the District. Charlestown has given this money to the District so he is including it in this year's budget. He did have to add \$5,000 to the budget for Strategic Planning (facilitators, advertising, etc.) which he neglected to include in his proposal. He is recommending that half the categorical aid be added to expedite the visitor management system as he would like to do all the schools at once. Donna asked where they would find \$130,000. The Superintendent replied that half of it would be capital and he will have to find the other half. Because we are so tight with security on campus, once you are outside on the fields, etc., you can't get back in. He would like to put in two emergency call boxes. Ryan questioned when health insurance premiums will be locked in to which the Superintendent replied around May or June. They feel this is a good number. Ryan added that he is in favor of putting the transportation categorical aid money back in and would go with Option A. Barbara Capalbo questioned if they had separated the numbers for the towns (reduction of \$149,634). Superintendent Ricci noted that Susan will figure it out for her. Craig made a motion to approve the reduction to the budget of \$29,555 which is a result of a reduction in health insurance rates. Discussion centered on one vote for the entire amount of \$149,634. As there were no objections to this, Craig pulled his motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the total reduction of \$149,634 from the budget as outlined in Budget Update #5. In favor: Unanimous.

2. Adoption of FY19 Budget – Superintendent Ricci recommended adoption of the FY2019 budget in the amount of \$60,110,479.66 (total budget including federal grant expenses and debt service) with the member towns' contribution to be \$52,487,968.76 (includes debt service); an increase of 1.30%.

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

VOTED: To adopt the FY2019 budget in the amount of \$60,110,479.66 (total budget including federal grant expenses and debt service) with the member towns' contribution to be \$52,487,968.76 (includes debt service); an increase of 1.30%. In favor: Unanimous.

F. Resolution Supporting School Construction General Obligation Referendum – Superintendent Ricci recommended approval of the Resolution Supporting School Construction General Obligation Referendum.

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

VOTED: To approve the Resolution Supporting School Construction General Obligation Referendum. In favor: Unanimous.

G. Resolution to Amend Article XII – Superintendent Ricci recommended approval. Craig made a motion, which was seconded by Ryan, to approve the Resolution to Amend Article XII. Craig asked Jon to explain this in layman's terms. Jon stated that the Constitution does not guarantee that a certain amount of money gets spent on education. This makes education a fundamental right and transfers power from the General Assembly to the Court system. You decide if this is what you want in Chariho. Barbara Capalbo noted her objection to this resolution. If Pawtucket wanted to raise taxes for its schools, which we all pay for now (along with Providence Schools), this means that everyone's taxes could be raised. She would look carefully at this as she feels if this is approved, it will be like giving them a blank check. Superintendent Ricci stated that it gets down to whether or not you believe education is a fundamental right. By approving this resolution, it puts this before voters to approve or reject. That is why he is recommending approval. Barbara added that this would also include private and charter schools. Craig was torn on this as he agreed with both Barry and Barbara. Ryan noted that when it comes to the ballot box in November, you can decide at that time. He supports putting this before the voters in November. Melania stated that this scares her a little because she feels voters won't question both sides. Barbara added that this is a very serious thing – it is not a law or ordinance – it is an amendment to the Constitution. It will not be easy to walk back. Chair Stanley preferred putting it before voters as right now RIDE decides.

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

VOTED: To approve the Resolution to Amend Article XII. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon and Stanley. Opposed: Ure and van der Hooft. The motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor with 2 opposed.

H. Business/Technology Curriculum Grades 9-12 – Jane provided an overview. The highlighted text is new language; strike-outs are language that will be removed. Scope and sequence charts have been created for all courses. This has been aligned with National Standards for Business Education, National Academy Foundation (NAF) – Academy of Finance Accreditation, ISTE (International Society of Technology in Education) Standards and Common Core Standards. Donna noted that it looks exciting for students and thanked Jane for a great job. Melania commented that she would like a course to explain some of this. Superintendent Ricci recommended approval of the Business/Technology Curriculum Grades 9-12.

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

VOTED: To accept the Business/Technology Curriculum for Grades 9-12. In favor: Unanimous.

I. Current Chariho Litigation – This item was on the agenda at the request of Murat Dymov. Although Murat could not attend the meeting this evening, he was fine with this item being discussed. Jon Anderson provided a review of the following:

No	Case
1	<i>N.C. v. Chariho Regional School District</i> – This case was heard in US District Court filed by a parent on behalf of a student. They wanted the District to pay for the student to go to boarding school. The Hearing Office rejected the claim. The student also wants \$80,000 in legal fees. We are waiting for a decision.
2	<i>Student A.M. v CRSD</i> – This student spilled nail polish remover on her computer. There was a settlement in principle but it has not been executed.
3	<i>CRSD v Rhode Island Department of Education</i> – This is one of the District’s disputes with the Department of Education pertaining to High Cost Special Education reimbursement to schools. It is the District’s feeling that the RYSE School should be compensated as other schools are.
4	<i>CRSD v Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical School</i> – The decision of the Council has been appealed. The District has raised issues on the education provided by The Met School. We are waiting for this to be assigned. Ryan questioned the expectation on timing (assignment to a judge) to which Jon replied that money has been set aside by the District. It depends on who it has been assigned to. All legal papers have been submitted. Melania asked if it will be added on for students going now. Jon noted that the concern is that the District has a high performing high school and The Met is one of the lowest performing high school programs in the State.
5	<i>CRSD 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</i> - This is the issue of the CTC Agreement in which RIDE promised they would not open any competing CTC programs in South County when the District purchased the CTC building. Deb Gist honored the Agreement; Ken Wagner is not honoring it. This is pending before the Supreme Court. Arguments before the Court will probably be held in the early fall. The Superior Court is allowing us to file final briefs.
6	<i>CRSD v Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and Mr. and Mrs. H</i> – This involves the student who has chosen to go to Narragansett High School and the parents want tuition paid as she did not like the Agriculture Program offered at Chariho. They feel there are better educational outcomes at Narragansett – the student’s father is a teacher there.
7	<i>Appeal of Commissioner’s Decision re: Withholding of State Aid</i> – This case is regarding a student who enrolled in North Kingstown High School as the Commissioner is allowing kids to go to any school they want. The student’s reason for going is that North Kingstown has a better volleyball team. Georgia questioned what course she is taking to which the Superintendent responded “business”. The Commissioner has sent a letter demanding payment and another letter stated funds would be withheld. He has not withheld funding for this yet but state aid has been withheld for the Narragansett student. We have appealed.
8	<i>RIDE Hearing re: Transportation to North Kingstown HS</i> – A student attending North Kingstown High School requires transportation; we refused to provide it as we have appealed the school choice decision. The cost is about \$60,000 a year to transport one child. There are currently two students enrolled in NK and three in Narragansett. Students are being allowed to use Statewide transportation and we are being billed for it. We have not been paying it. Two students are being transported by their parents but this changes from time to time. Donna noted that this whole idea of student choice is nothing but a huge financial headache for districts. Jon added that is why taxes are so high in South County. Donna commented that they could potentially have some of their students wanting to go to a CTC in Providence. The Superintendent stated that this is out of our transportation region. Barbara noted that when you amend Article 12, don’t you think it won’t involve transportation.
9	<i>Mark Zell and Beth Zell, individually and on behalf of K.Z. v. Barry Ricci, alias, Superintendent of Chariho Regional School District in his individual and official capacities, Chariho Regional School</i>

	<p><i>District, by and through its Superintendent, Barry Ricci, alias, Ryan Bridgham, alias, Dean of Students Chariho High School, in his individual and official capacities, Laurie Weber, alias, former principal of Chariho High School in her individual and official capacities, Jon Anderson, Esq, alias, Chariho Regional School District Attorney in his official capacity, the Chariho School Committee, by and through its Chairperson, Sylvia Stanley, alias, in her official capacity, Craig Louzon, alias, in his individual and official capacity as former Chair of the School Committee, Rachel McGinley, alias, in her individual capacity, the Rhode Island Department of Education, by and through its Commissioner, Ken Wagner, alias, Ken Wagner, alias, in his official and individual capacity, the Rhode Island Council of Elementary and Secondary Education, by and through its Chair Barbara Cottam, alias, Barbara Cottam, alias, in her individual and official capacity, John/Jane Does 1-20, and John Doe Government Entities/Bodies 1-10</i> - This case was argued in Federal Court on February 2, 2018. We are waiting for a decision on a motion to dismiss. Mr. Ricci's attorney and the attorney representing the School Committee and school employees have filed motions for sanctions to have legal fees that were paid by The Trust be paid by the plaintiffs' attorney as the factual/legal claims have no basis. The Superintendent added that he was in court that day and it did not go well for opposing counsel. This attorney is not the same attorney who represented the family when they appealed to the School Committee. She stated to the Court that two members of the School Committee were prepared to testify as to what occurred during executive session and she mouthed an obscenity as she returned to her seat. Donna noted that this is appalling to her that anything discussed in executive session would be shared with others. The Superintendent added that he is being charged with constitutional conspiracy. Jon explained that the plaintiffs are claiming that everyone got together and came up with a plan to conspire against this student. Melania commented that she never sat in any executive or public session when this was discussed to which the Superintendent noted that she was not on the School Committee when this occurred. Catherine questioned if this is the case where two School Committee members should magically stand up and testify to which Steve suggested they bring this up for discussion at another meeting. Jon stated that he is a defendant so he cannot be the School Committee's attorney. Ryan asked how this attorney found Committee members to testify. Jon replied that a present Committee member and a former Committee member have been involved with this attorney (#10 and #12). Melania noted they should caution themselves on how they found each other.</p>
10	<p><i>Dorothy Gardiner, Georgia Ure, Sylvia Thompson, Paul Michaud v Chariho School Committee, Craig Louzon, William Day, Donna Chambers, Steven Huzyk, Sylvia Stanley, Lisa Macaruso, Ronald Areglado</i> - Jon noted that #10, 11 and 12 were discussed at the last meeting. They will be sending out discovery on Monday or Tuesday at the latest. At the last meeting, the Committee asked that he make another request for mediation. He suggested Chief Justice Williams as he is an excellent mediator. He received an email rejecting mediation; it involves the issue of paying the attorney's legal fees. Donna stated, "the opposing attorney again rejected mediation" to which Jon responded "yes, on behalf of her clients." The correspondence was distributed to Committee members this evening. Georgia stated she wanted these documents to be included as part of the minutes. Jon noted that Ms. Ure is one of the plaintiffs and is using that request to her benefit. He was not sure if she was acting as a plaintiff or public as public is not allowed to request items be added to the minutes. He is confused as to what role Ms. Ure is playing. Steve asked, "Since this is in the packet, should we request they not be added?" The Superintendent felt it would be fine to add them because the response includes mediation of legal fees and fines when the Committee was informed that the suits were about transparency; not legal fees. The following documents were added per Georgia's request:</p>

Jon M. Anderson, Esq.
janderson@brasm.com

March 8, 2018

Paige A. Munro-Delotto, Esq.
Munro-Delotto & Sheehan, LLC
400 Westminster Street, Suite 200
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Dorothy Gardiner v. Chariho School Committee; C.A. No. WC-2016-0230 and
Dorothy Gardiner v. Chariho School Committee; C.A. No. WC-2017-0073 and
Keven Miller v. Chariho School Committee; C.A. No. WC-2017-0236

Dear Ms. Munro-Delotto:

At the direction of the Chariho Regional School Committee, I am again respectfully suggesting that we engage Chief Justice Williams to mediate all three Open Meetings Act cases that you have filed on behalf of Georgia Ure and others.

The School Committee remains willing to share equally the cost of Chief Justice Williams' services. The only limitation is, as we discussed in conference with Judge Lanphear, that the School Committee as a public body is not willing to admit it broke the law because it did not do so. Should this matter be fully litigated, we believe that the Superior Court will agree; for example, Judge Taft-Carter recently rejected Ms. Ure's claim that the January 17, 2017, agenda violated the Open Meetings Act. The School Committee is also not willing to pay attorney's fees because the plaintiffs include incumbents on the Chariho Regional School Committee and other public officials who have repeatedly stated that they are pursuing this matter in the public interest. I would hope that all the parties could agree that paying attorneys is not in the public interest.

Chief Justice Williams has a special ability to resolve matters in ways that are not readily apparent to the parties. We would be happy to post any mediation agreement on the Chariho website for ninety days. Thus, in the interest of transparency and economy, the Chariho Regional School Committee would hope that your clients would give full consideration to this offer.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,


Jon M. Anderson

cc: Chariho Regional School Committee

362 Broadway
Providence, RI 02909
401.453.2300

One Church Green
PO Box 488
Taunton, MA 02780
508.822.0178

www.brasm.com

From: Paige Munro-Delotto [<mailto:Paige@pmdlawoffices.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 12:12 PM
To: Jon M. Anderson
Cc: Janice Goulet; Crystal Brown; Erica Brant
Subject: [External] Re: Gardiner and Miller Cases (sent on behalf of Jon Anderson)

Jon,
Please for once in our interactions, stop misstating my words which you then proceed to publicize untruthfully.

For the record (and I'm keeping this email to prove it because you continually misrepresent the status and strength of these cases and my statements to your clients and publicly) we are NOT rejecting mediation. We want mediation and a judge to decide if your client broke the law and thus should admit to liability and pay attorneys fees. That's the only remedies available under OMA as you should know, and it's not a mediation by any conception for you to take these sole remedies off the table as a condition for mediation.

Once again I will explain to you, because you don't seem to be understanding, your offer to mediate WHILE removing the option to mediate a resolution for the only remedies available under the law for violation of OMA, well that equates to us voluntarily dismissing the cases.

Why would we do that? We will not do that because the cases have merit. You may not think so, so let's let a judge decide and mediate those EXACT issues. Was there a violation of law which then we could settle on that for say an admission of liability versus your clients paying civil fines. I would also be open to negotiating down attorneys fees pursuant to the judge's opinion. That is a mediation.

So what my email actually stated was a counter offer to your terms to mediate, which is by no means the same as rejecting the mediation. Your email essentially rejected my counter-terms of mediation and ceased negotiation of the terms of a mediation that we want. So it is you that has just rejected the mediation, not me.

I will ensure this communication is publicized. That way you can't misrepresent me and my clients again.

Paige

*****PLEASE NOTE WE RECENTLY MOVED TO THE BELOW ADDRESS. PLEASE NOTE IT FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

Very Kind Regards,
Paige Munro-Delotto, Ph.D. Esq.
Munro-Delotto Law, LLC
paige@pmdlawoffices.com
P: [401-521-4529](tel:401-521-4529)
F: [888-801-6758](tel:888-801-6758)
400 Westminster Street, Ste. 200
Providence, RI 02903

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On Mar 10, 2018, at 9:51 AM, Jon M. Anderson <janderson@brcsm.com> wrote:

Dear Attorney Munro-Delotto:

I am in receipt of your email rejecting the Chariho School Committee's offer to mediate. I will proceed with discovery.

Please let me know if you reconsider your position.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Anderson

P.S. I was not aware that federal judges mediated cases pending before the Superior Court.

From: Paige Munro-Delotto [<mailto:Paige@pmdlawoffices.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2018 7:34 PM

To: Janice Goulet; Jon M. Anderson

Cc: Crystal Brown; Erica Brant

Subject: [External] Re: Gardiner and Miller Cases (sent on behalf of Jon Anderson)

Jon (and Janice),

Thank you for your letter today. As I have stated in the past, mediating for a settlement with the admission of liability off the table and attorneys fees off the table (which are a necessary part of bringing a claim for the violations of law my clients allege) equates to OUR VOLUNTARILY DISMISSING THE CASE WITH PREJUDICE as there are NO other remedies under OMA. So that is not a term that we can agree to - what would be mediating for Jon? That is not logical. My clients are not dismissing the cases - so attorney fees and admission of liability MUST be on the table HOWEVER, we are willing to let the mediator to weigh in on these.

That said, if you agree - we will let the judge mediating weigh in on and recommend if there is liability that must be admitted to AND weigh in on and recommend if and what attorney's fees are applicable, then we will agree to a judge meditation (non-binding of course).

One issue remains if you agree to the above - as much as I respect and work often in front of Chief Judge Smith, he himself has mentioned in the Zell case that he may have a conflict with respect to you being involved in that case. As you well know, you used to work with (or possibly for) Chief Judge Smith. While I believe he can remain neutral, I have to be sure that my clients feel there is no conflict if I am going to be listening to the recommendations of the mediator. In the OMA cases, your involvement is no less. As such, I would request Judge McConnell, Magistrate Judge Sullivan, or Magistrate Judge Almond be the mediator just to avoid any optics of the perception of any conflict. It is the cleanest way to do this.

Let me know your thoughts on the above. We are open to listening to a judge and mediating this if it is the judge, not us by agreement which cannot happen as it equates to our voluntary dismissal, that weighs in on liability and attorney fees. That is a fair and reasonable solution if you can agree to that. I don't go before judges to mediate where there is a prior agreement that even if the judge agrees with my case that we will just drop the case which is what you are asking me to do by asking me to agree to your terms.

I look forward to your response.
Paige

Very Kind Regards,

Paige Munro-Delotto, Ph.D. Esq.
MUNRO-DELOTTO LAW, LLC
P: 401-521-4529
F: 888-801-6758
400 Westminster Street, Ste. 200
Providence, RI 02903
paige@pmdlawoffices.com

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From: Janice Goulet <jgoulet@brcsm.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 12:10:55 PM
To: Paige Munro-Delotto; Paige Munro-Delotto
Cc: Barry Ricci
Subject: Gardiner and Miller Cases (sent on behalf of Jon Anderson)

Attorney Munro-Delotto, attached is a letter from Jon. The original will be sent by regular mail.
Janice

Janice V. Goulet, Legal Assistant
362 Broadway, Providence, RI 02909
401.453.2300 (o) / 401.453.2345 (f)
Web: www.BRCM.com

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

[<image001.png>](#)

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11	<i>Keven Miller, Georgia Ure, Dorothy Gardiner, Sandra Johanson, Thomas Buck, Sylvia Thompson, Paul Michaud, Melania Van der Hooft v Chariho School Committee, William Day, Craig Louzon, Ronald Areglado, Amanda Blau, Robert Cardozo, Donna Chambers, Stephen Huzyk, Lisa Macaruso, Sylvia Stanley – Discussed with #10.</i>
12	<i>Dorothy Gardiner, Georgia Ure v Chariho School Committee, Craig Louzon, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, Lisa Macaruso, Catherine Giusti, Ronald Areglado – Discussed with #10.</i>
13	<i>Personal Injury Claim Due to Alleged Negligence – This involves a student who was restrained. No demand has been received. We have notified the insurance company as we do in all cases. Jon was thanked for attending the meeting and reviewing the litigation.</i>

IX. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Stanley requested items to be pulled. Donna pulled A-1; Georgia pulled A-2 and C. Craig acknowledged the donations and the donors were thanked.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Catherine Giusti and it was VOTED: To move the remainder of the Consent Agenda Items. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon, Stanley and van der Hooft. Abstained: Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 1 abstention.

- 3. Chariho District Financial Meeting/Public Budget Hearing Minutes of March 6, 2018.
- B. Transfers – Approved.
- D. Budget Summary – None at this time.
- E. Treasurer’s Report – None at this time.
- F. Personnel Actions

1. Appointed Keith Moreau to the Portfolio Support Team (English) position effective through June 30, 2018.
2. Appointed Patricia Turner to the position of Middle School Softball Head Coach for 2018 contingent upon receipt of all required certifications.
3. Appointed Michael Dias to the position of High School Softball Assistant Coach for 2018 contingent upon receipt of all required application materials and certifications.
- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quotes – None at this time.
- H. Permission to Award Contracts – None at this time.
- I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.
- J. Grants – Action taken under Business.
- K. Donations – Accepted the following:
 1. Donation from Arturo delaCruz, Exeter, RI of one 2001 Honda Accord, VIN JHMCG66841C020503, valued at \$500, to the CTC Automotive Technology Program.
 2. Donation from American Partners, Lincoln, RI of miscellaneous office furniture and equipment, valued at \$2,090.00 to the District.

A-1. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 13, 2018 – Approval of Executive Session Minutes of January 16, 2018 – Minutes not sealed. In favor: Callahan, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon and Stanley. Abstained: Chambers and van der Hooft (both due to absence) and Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 5 in favor with 3 abstentions.

A-2. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of February 13, 2018. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon and Stanley. Abstained: Ure and van der Hooft (due to absence). The motion carried by a vote of 6 in favor with 2 abstentions.

C. Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To accept the Bill Review. In favor: Callahan, Chambers, Giusti, Huzyk, Louzon, Stanley and van der Hooft. Abstained: Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 1 abstention.

X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. RYSE School Building Committee - The Committee met on March 5, 2018. Enclosed in the packet was a copy of the approved minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting. The Committee will meet again on April 30, 2018 at 5:30 PM; the meeting will begin with a tour of the new building.
2. Health and Wellness Subcommittee met on March 6, 2018. The approved minutes of the December 19, 2017 meeting were included in the packet.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Transportation Registration – We will be sending out postcards as a reminder to register for next year. We were able to remove two buses from the fleet this year. It is working relatively well.
2. New Career & Technical Tuition Formula – This will be based on the same formula as charter school tuition which will result in a decline in revenue for us. There is movement in South County to come up with a regional solution.
3. National School Walkout Guiding Principles and Plan – As Tuesday's meeting was postponed, this has already occurred but was planned with consideration given to the following: 1) safe for students and staff; 2) politically neutral; 3) honoring student voice and 4) it was not mandatory for all students to participate. There was a tribute to first responders and the campus was closed off. Victims' names were read with 17 seconds of silence after each. It was an emotional, impactful event that took about 25 minutes. For those choosing not to participate, regular instruction continued.
4. Kindergarten Registration – Wednesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 15 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at each of the elementary schools and Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (ARTESSY) – There have been rave reviews about the new format. He does not have any numbers yet. He and Jane visited all the schools and the families loved the little gift. He will continue with this model next year.

5. ARTESSY – Friday, March 16: Louisville Buffet from 4:30 to 7:00 PM in the CTC South County Room; High School Band and Chorus Concert from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Middle School Auditorium. Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Middle School.
C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Melania asked if the ads in Projo and The Westerly Sun produced any students for CTC. The Superintendent replied that he can't connect if they produced kids but he will provide the Committee with a report on enrollment when he has real numbers.

Ryan requested they explore the idea of newer/fewer to which the Superintendent suggested they wait until legislation passes. Ryan was fine with waiting.

XII. Adjournment

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Ryan Callahan and it was VOTED: To adjourn at 9:29 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk