

Chariho School Committee Meeting  
Regular Session Minutes  
April 8, 2014

Committee Members Present: Chair William Day, Vice Chair Craig Louzon, George Abbott, Ronald Areglado, Amanda Blau, Robert Cardozo, Donna Chambers, Gregory Kenney, Keven Miller and Georgia Ure. Absent: Stephen Huzyk.

Administrators Present: Superintendent Barry Ricci, Assistant Superintendent Carol Blanchette and Director of Administration and Finance Brian Stanley. Also in attendance: Senator Catherine Cool Rumsey, Representative Donna Walsh, Hopkinton Town Council Member Barbara Capalbo, Parent Liaison Catherine Giusti and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

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

Chair William Day called the meeting of the Chariho School Committee, which was held in the Chariho High School Library, to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silent meditation.

II. Executive Session

Gregory Kenney made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon 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)(2)+(8b) - for the purpose of discussions pertaining to an individual's job performance or character (approval of executive session minutes of March 25, 2014 - Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Evaluations and discussion of Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's Contracts); for the purpose of discussions pertaining to an individual's job performance or character, collective bargaining and litigation (Teacher Separation); for the purpose of discussions pertaining to litigation (approval of executive session minutes of March 25, 2014 – CTC Transfer Agreement Update); and for the purpose of reviewing and/or approving other matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records (approval of executive session minutes of March 25, 2014 - Home Instruction Requests); any persons to be discussed have been so notified. In favor: Unanimous.

Chair Day reconvened open session at 7:21 PM.

III. Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes

1. Superintendent Ricci recommended that minutes pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation (Teacher Separation) remain sealed.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was VOTED: To seal the minutes pertaining to collective bargaining and litigation (Teacher Separation). In favor: Unanimous.

IV. Disclosure of Executive Session Votes

Bob Cardozo reported there were eleven votes taken in executive session. The first vote, approval of executive session minutes of March 25, 2014 (Home School Requests) passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions with Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon, Miller and Ure voting in favor and Abbott, Areglado and Blau abstaining.

The second vote, approval of executive session minutes of March 25, 2014 (CTC Transfer Agreement) passed with 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions with Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon, Miller and Ure voting in favor and Abbott, Areglado and Blau abstaining.

The third vote, approval of the executive session minutes of March 25, 2014 as amended (Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent Evaluations) passed with 4 in favor, 2 opposed and 4 abstentions with Day, Kenney, Miller and Ure voting in favor, Cardozo and Chambers opposing and Abbott, Areglado, Blau and Louzon abstaining.

The fourth vote, to move a question, failed with 4 in favor and 6 opposed with Areglado, Cardozo, Kenney and Louzon voting in favor and Abbott, Blau, Chambers, Day, Miller and Ure opposing.

The fifth vote, to move a question, failed with 6 in favor and 4 opposed (2/3 vote required for it to pass) with Areglado, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon voting in favor and Abbott, Blau, Miller and Ure opposing.

The sixth vote, an amendment to a contract, failed by a vote of 2 in favor with 8 opposed with Miller and Ure voting in favor and Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon opposing.

The seventh vote, approval of performance compensation, passed by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed with Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon voting in favor and Miller and Ure opposing.

The eighth vote, an amendment to a contract, failed by a vote of 2 in favor with 8 opposed with Miller and Ure voting in favor and Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon opposing.

The ninth vote, approval of a contract, passed by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed with Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon voting in favor and Miller and Ure opposing.

The tenth vote, approval of a contract, passed by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed with Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon voting in favor and Miller and Ure opposing.

The eleventh vote, to return to open session, was unanimous with 10 in favor with Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon, Miller and Ure voting in favor.

V. Recognition – The following were congratulated/thanked:

1. Susan Rogers and Hospitality Student Alexis Brogno for all their work with ARTESSY.
2. SkillsUSA Award Winners: GOLD MEDALS – Nicholas Iacovelli (Electrical Construction Wiring), Rebecca Marshall (First Aid/CPR), Jennifer Lilly (Advertising and Design), Shelby St. Clair, Mark Coppa & Alexander Bodo (Crime Scene Investigation), Hanna Fortin & Amber Greene (Nail Care), Taylor Roos & Ashley Leonard (Esthetics), Jessica Pratt (Cosmetology). SILVER MEDALS – Michael Siney (Computer Maintenance), Hunter Latham (HVAC & R), Matthew Pacillo (Marine Technology), Alyssa Gall (Job Skill Demo A), Alexis Brogno (Customer Service), Charlotte Keeley (Restaurant Service), Lydia Ratti, Carolina Moretti & Brianna Randolph (Crime Scene Investigation), Hollie Pryor (Medical Terminology – Health Careers). BRONZE MEDALS – Paige Brown (Action Skills), Jonathan Law (Marine Technology), Rachel Steele (Advertising and Design), Jacob Lowe (Culinary Arts), Ariana Alexander & Joslin Price (Esthetics).
3. George Abbott for recently graduating from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees Leadership Academy (a voluntary professional development program for School Committee Members).
4. Post-Season Awards: Boys' Indoor Track: Max Leatham (Class A Champion 55-meter hurdles). Girls' Indoor Track: Delaney Silvestri (Academic All-State and First Team-All-Division in 300 meters), Alexis Marsella (Academic All-State), Isabel Baker (Third Team All-Class 3000 meters, Second Team All-Division 3000 meters, Third Team All-Division 1000 meters), Katerina

Irwin (Third Team All-Division Shot Event). Wrestling: Sal DeSantis (3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-State, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Division I South), T.J. Lamphear (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Division I South), James Costigan (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Division I South), Regan Beaudreau (Academic All-State). Boys' Basketball: Robbie Toth (1<sup>st</sup> Team Division II South), Bryan Thweatt (2<sup>nd</sup> Team Division II South). Girls' Basketball: Abby Cuddy (Honorable Mention All-State, 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All-Class Division I, 1<sup>st</sup> Team Division I South), Katie Cuddy (3<sup>rd</sup> Team Division I South), Jamie Dobson (3<sup>rd</sup> Team Division I South). Gymnastics: Mackenzie Fox (All-State).

5. Stacy Haines-Mayne on her selection by RISCA (Rhode Island School Counselor Association) as 2014 School Counselor of the Year.

6. Donna Chambers recognized the District as she was part of a cohort of educators from around the State that did a site visit to the High School. They received incredible accolades from the principals and teachers; we are a model School District and she was very proud.

## VI. Public Forum

Nothing to report.

## VII. Policy

A. Flag Protocol – This item was on the agenda at the request of Chair Day. Chair Day stated that he requested this as the Committee has received emails from a Richmond resident criticizing the District for lowering flags for students, staff and Committee members who pass away as this does not adhere to federal guidelines (flags are lowered until the day of the funeral). He wants to make sure that the Committee is comfortable with this procedure and the policy in place. Fire companies recently lowered their flags for the two Boston firefighters who died. Superintendent Ricci advised the Committee that they should reaffirm their policy. Georgia questioned what was in the email to which Chair Day replied the individual complained that the District does not follow the correct protocol for flags. He will share the email with her if she would like. He feels this gentleman just has an issue with Chariho. Georgia asked what other schools do; the Superintendent responded that he was not aware what others do. Keven noted that the Committee's policy doesn't state that they should follow what the Nation does to which Chair Day replied that this is outlined in the Committee's handbook. The Superintendent added that the Committee's policy is for local etiquette. Chair Day noted that the Governor or President dictate when we should lower our flags on behalf of the State or the Nation. Georgia asked if anyone checks the flags in classrooms and outside to make sure they are not tattered. The Superintendent responded that there is no written policy on this but we do replace them when they are tattered (custodians check those outside periodically and the classroom flags are checked every night when the rooms are cleaned). Keven felt they should seek out what other school districts do. Barbara Capalbo commented that there is federal law on how to handle flags. This is your local policy on how to handle District concerns. Chair Day noted that this would not be an issue if this gentleman did not send emails about it. Barbara felt that it was reasonable to have a policy for local issues. A resident in attendance stated that he is in the Army Reserves and is a teacher in another district and it sounds to him like the School Committee and District are doing the right thing. This is a good lesson for students; to honor their own. Keven Miller made a motion, which was seconded by Georgia Ure, to seek out other examples from other school districts for future discussion. Chair Day stated that he brought this up because he does not feel this individual will stop but he does not think they need to reinvent the wheel. He feels what the District has is sufficient. Ron noted that they are governed by State and Federal law. This is a protocol. He does not see a need to extend this beyond that and respectfully requested that they move the question. Keven asked, "wouldn't it be to the Committee's benefit to provide this gentleman with other examples to which it was noted that there was a request to move the question which means that there should not be any more discussion on it.

Ronald Areglado made a motion, seconded by Robert Cardozo and it was VOTED: To move the question. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon, Miller and Ure. Opposed: Blau. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

Keven Miller made a motion, seconded by Georgia Ure and it was VOTED: To seek out other examples from other school districts for future discussion. In favor: Abbott, Miller and Ure. Opposed: Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon. The motion failed by a vote of 3 in favor with 7 opposed.

Representative Donna Walsh commented that she feels the policy is fine as there are Federal and State policies in place as well.

Gregory Kenney made a motion, seconded by Amanda Blau and it was VOTED: To reaffirm the School Committee's Flag Protocol Policy. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Videocamera Use on School Buses – Superintendent Ricci recommended deletion of this policy as this information is included in the Bus Behavior Code and Videography, Photography and Audio Recording Policies.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Amanda Blau and it was VOTED: To delete the Videocamera Use on School Buses Policy. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon and Ure. Abstained: Miller. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 abstention.

### VIII. Business

A. Approval of Field Trip(s) – The Superintendent recommended approval of the following contingent on compliance with policy:

1. Request of Catherine Peters and John Labriola for 200 grade 8 students and 37 chaperones to travel to Washington, DC & Philadelphia, PA from March 24, 2015 through March 27, 2015. John Labriola was in attendance to address questions or concerns. Keven asked if the number of chaperones was sufficient to which the Chair noted that it meets the requirement of 6:1 ratio. The Chair asked how much do fundraisers help offset the cost to which John responded they run talent shows, dances and other things like dress down days. They get the ball rolling early so this allows parents to pay over a longer period of time. The District financially helps those who need assistance. There are also businesses in the area and the PTO who help out. They usually get about a 75% attendance rate. There are some parents who don't want their kids to go because they feel they are too young and there are some students who don't meet the behavior standards requirement. They do make a phone call to every student's family who is not attending. Keven questioned the behavior requirements to which John noted that a student has to demonstrate good behavior in school. He recalls one student that was asked not to go because he took off into the woods during a fire drill. They can't have this type of behavior in Washington, DC. They sit with Mr. Zenion and he makes the final decision. Students are put on probation and they had one student who stayed after school every night prior to the trip so she could complete work so she could go. The cost per student averages around \$679.00 which goes up about \$25.00 if they don't register by June.

Gregory Kenney made a motion, seconded by Robert Cardozo and it was VOTED: To approve the request of Catherine Peters and John Labriola for 200 grade 8 students and 37 chaperones to travel to Washington, DC & Philadelphia, PA from March 24, 2015 through March 27, 2015. In favor: Unanimous.

2. Request of Jill Shurtleff for 12 students and 6 chaperones (Instructors) to travel to Kansas City, MO (National SkillsUSA Competition) from June 22-28, 2014.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was VOTED: To approve the request of Jill Shurtleff for 12 students and 6 chaperones (Instructors) to travel to Kansas City, MO (National SkillsUSA Competition) from June 22-28, 2014. In favor: Unanimous.

B. Discussion with Legislators Regarding the Chariho Act - This item was on the agenda at the request of Ron Areglado. All Legislators were invited and in attendance were Senator Catherine Cool Rumsey and Representative Donna Walsh. Ron suggested they move this agenda item to the end to which Donna Walsh stated that she would prefer they address it now as she was hoping to get to the polls before they closed. It was noted that Representative Valencia was not in attendance yet he is the one who submitted legislation on the matriculation issue and reduction in School Committee membership. Ron noted that he knows his position as a member of the School Committee and felt it would have been helpful if the Committee had worked with legislators. Rep. Walsh stated that she was interested in what the School Committee wants. It is not up to the Town Councils to determine what goes on in the schools. You are elected and have certain powers. While the School Committee should look to the Town Councils and discuss these issues with them, she noted that she would have been insulted if she was a School Committee member and was not consulted before legislation was submitted. Chair Day questioned what would happen if the School Committee and Town Councils don't come together to which Senator Rumsey replied that people do come and testify for or against an issue. A Bill could be passed but it does not look good if all parties are not in favor of it. She has a different position than Donna Walsh. George asked if the Act were to be changed, what effect would it have this year to which Senator Rumsey responded, "it would be updated". Ron commented that if the School Committee were to address both issues, he would prefer that the Committee forward these to legislation with Town Council backing to which Rep. Walsh agreed that she would want to see all on board. Superintendent Ricci asked if they would be supportive and introduce legislation if all four public bodies were in favor to which Rep. Walsh responded that the District does not want legislature to run its schools. They could change something minor but would prefer that all be in favor of the change. The Superintendent questioned the latest date that something could be introduced for this year. Rep. Walsh replied that they would probably need it by the end of April. This would have to go to a vote of the people and maybe what they need is language on how to change the Chariho Act. There are different solicitors with a lot of legal opinions. Georgia felt that they have set precedent over the years on matriculation; it has been established. Bob questioned why would a legislator propose something if they didn't have the backing of all four bodies to which Rep. Walsh responded, "I didn't propose it". Senator Rumsey felt this was the problem; all three towns are submitting something different. Bob questioned what the likelihood of something passing if all four do not support it to which Senator Rumsey replied that it depends on who and how many people go up to support it. Ron stated that they are clear on their expectations. As a result of discussion at the Omnibus Meeting, he feels the Committee should go on record to state its position on matriculation and reducing the Committee. George felt that at the next Omnibus Meeting someone should propose a Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee. Amanda questioned if any action would go back to the voters to which Senator Rumsey noted that it is written into the Senate version of the Bill. Rep. Walsh added that it would depend on what section of the Act they were looking to change. Barbara Capalbo commented that Jon Anderson stated that it was up to the School Committee to determine changes. The Town Councils are responsible for the Chariho Act and any changes made but they have to work with the School Committee. She does not think anything will happen if all four bodies aren't in agreement. She does not feel that matriculation has anything to do with the Chariho Act. Keven disagreed. The Chariho Act is clear; it is law about matriculation to which Rep. Walsh added that the Committee's lawyer stated that it is not clear. Amanda noted that she takes exception with the matriculation piece as she agrees that it is not clear. It is subject to interpretation. Georgia again noted that she feels a precedent has been set. It should not be based on one attorney's interpretation. A Richmond resident in attendance felt that no one was trying to be underhanded. When she looks at matriculation and the number on the Committee, she does not feel that Richmond is being represented. George responded that there is a process in the Chariho Act to remedy a change in population. He doesn't see anyone pursuing it to which the Richmond resident replied that maybe there is a lack of clarity. Craig Louzon offered his and the Committee's thanks to Senator Rumsey and Rep. Walsh for attending.

C. Discussion of Revisions to the Chariho Act – Superintendent Ricci referenced various communications in the Committee’s packet to which they may or may not choose to react. As he doesn’t believe that even the slightest change will occur to the Act using the current process, he would like to recommend a different way of approaching this issue. Georgia stated that the Hopkinton Town Council asked two questions: 1) the expense and/or cost savings that may occur if matriculation were instituted and 2) a preliminary accounting of the fixed costs of the District. She would like these questions answered and she made a motion, which was seconded by Ronald Areglado that administration answer these questions. Superintendent Ricci stated that he spoke with Hopkinton Town Council President Landolfi and asked him to define “fixed costs”. Once he receives the definition, a report will be run. On the issue of matriculation, he assumes it means that kids will attend the elementary school closest to where they live. He has already reported this to the Committee and he shared this information with President Landolfi. It will affect 157 students with a savings of three teachers. It is undetermined as to whether or not there will be any savings on bus transportation. Barbara Capalbo added that President Landolfi brought this up at the Town Council’s meeting last night. This is a lot of families to disrupt. He also brought up fixed costs and she offered to go through the budget to determine what are fixed costs and the Council will report back to Mr. Ricci. It was noted by the clerk that there is a motion on the floor that was not voted on.

Georgia Ure made a motion, seconded by Ronald Areglado and it was VOTED: To ask administration to answer the two questions posed by the Hopkinton Town Council: 1) the expense and/or cost savings that may occur if matriculation were instituted and 2) a preliminary accounting of the fixed costs of the District. In favor: Areglado, Louzon, Miller and Ure. Opposed: Abbott, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, and Kenney. The motion failed by a vote of 4 in favor with 6 opposed.

Superintendent Ricci stated that he is of the opinion, with the paper flying back and forth, that little to nothing will be accomplished. George had mentioned forming a Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee but this would require voting. He is recommending that the School Committee post a meeting with an agenda (and moderator) for all four bodies, including all solicitors. Each body would call themselves into order and each would supply, beforehand, two items that all four bodies are willing to discuss. Nothing will be discussed unless all groups have agreed to the discussion. They could then move to legislature what is agreed to. So in essence 1) nothing is discussed unless all four groups have agreed to the discussion and 2) nothing goes forward unless all four have agreed. Ron Areglado made a motion, which was seconded by Craig Louzon, to move the Superintendent’s recommendation. Ron noted that he felt this was in line with what Rep. Walsh suggested. He feels it would be more amicable if they do it in this context. Chair Day noted that all in attendance at the Superintendent’s meeting with Town Council Presidents and Vice Presidents and the School Committee Chair and Vice Chair were in agreement that this would be a good way to go. Ron noted that they could tie it together with a Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee. Craig felt it was movement; it is a good idea and if a subcommittee comes out of it that would be fine. Barbara Capalbo stated that overall she agrees with George Abbott to form a subcommittee. She cannot bring something forward if all four groups don’t agree. She thinks the Superintendent’s idea is great but she does not see all four boards agreeing. It is becoming too complex so maybe, at some point, we will need to sit down as a Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee. She feels this would work better. Chair Day thought that this might get the Councils to buy into something. Ron stated that he is troubled by all the innuendo; what is viable, what is not. Put it all on the table; an exercise in inquiry. Put it out there is an open, honest way. He sees this as being advantageous. Amanda asked if anyone had presented this to the Presidents of the Town Councils to which Chair Day commented that this was discussed with the Presidents. They seemed to be receptive to try this and were prepared to go back to their Councils. Craig asked, “What do we have to lose?” He feels it is an optimistic effort. George asked if the matriculation issue would be on the agenda to which the Superintendent responded that the Committee can exercise its leeway in matriculation by policy. The language in the Chariho Act only applies to Kindergarten students. The School Committee can develop policy; you can do partial work through policy. Keven

wanted to offer his opinion. The tone of the letters indicates a lot of disagreement. If they don't address that, they will end up with everyone saying "no". They have to have some feeling toward following the recommendation to have a Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee. Georgia again stated that a precedent has been set. She would like interpretations by other solicitors. This is the first attorney who said they could change things. They should have other attorneys look at this. It is hard to change the Chariho Act. Things were put in to protect each town; any changes can dramatically hurt a town. There are a lot of big issues here. The Chariho Act does a 'check and balance'. Amanda questioned the Superintendent if he was agreeable to pursuing both paths; maybe look at some policy and look at the four bodies together. Do you not want to pursue anything just as a School Committee? The Superintendent responded that he did not say to change the Chariho Act through policy. He did say the Committee can write policy around matriculation that will not change the Chariho Act. He has nothing at stake so it doesn't matter to him. Bob applauded the Superintendent on his suggestion for a meeting but feels it might be easier starting off with a smaller group to see if there is basis for a meeting. A Richmond resident in attendance agreed with the Superintendent. There is probably more that the towns agree to than not. They should get together. She feels this should work.

The Superintendent asked permission to announce the results of the Budget Referendum as there were reporters waiting for this information. Chair Day allowed this. The Superintendent reported that Charlestown had 320 in favor with 38 opposed; Richmond had 294 in favor with 315 opposed and Hopkinton had 298 in favor with 269 opposed for a total of 912 in favor with 622 opposed. He thanked all for their support.

George asked if they should offer the Town Councils options (the Superintendent's recommendation or formation of a Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee). Chair Day stated that they are just reiterating what occurred at the joint meeting. The three Town Council Presidents said they will bring the Superintendent's recommendation back to their Town Councils to see what they want to do. Craig added that this does not eliminate the Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee if that is what people want. Chair Day noted that there is outdated information in the Act (for example, the District must have 25 people from each town in attendance at the Public Budget Hearing). Amanda commented that the Chariho Act Revision Subcommittee has been brought up at every Omnibus Meeting and nobody has moved on it. She doesn't want this to be the only thing. If the Superintendent's recommendation doesn't work, they can go to the subcommittee. Bob noted that his biggest fear is that if one town pulls out, the other two towns can't do it alone. We need to do what we can to keep this together; we need to find a mutual agreement. We cannot lose Chariho. Georgia stated that she thinks Chariho is working; what is the huge problem? Ron commented on the rumors that are being spread. That is the problem. This is an opportunity to smoke out the demons. The biggest elephant in the room is changing the taxing rate. If the towns come out and say this won't happen, things might move. Catherine Giusti noted that it would be nice to see the Towns come together and get something accomplished. George stated the elephant in the room is taxing to which Craig responded that Charlestown has nothing to do with Hopkinton's tax base. These remarks should not be allowed.

Ronald Areglado made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: That the School Committee post a meeting with an agenda (and moderator) for all four bodies, including all solicitors. Each body would call themselves into order and each would supply, beforehand, two items that all four bodies are willing to discuss. Nothing will be discussed unless all four groups have agreed to the discussion and nothing will move forward to legislature unless all four have agreed. In favor: Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Abbott, Miller and Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 3 opposed.

Chair Day stated that discussion will take place with the Town Councils to try to find a night that works for all.

D. Assistant Superintendent's Contract – Superintendent Ricci recommended approval of Carol Blanchette's contract.

Gregory Kenney made a motion, seconded by Robert Cardozo and it was VOTED: To approve Carol Blanchette's contract. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Miller and Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed.

E. Superintendent's Contract – The Superintendent recommended approval of his contract.

Robert Cardozo made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was VOTED: To approve Barry Ricci's contract. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Miller and Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed.

F. SRO Agreement - Superintendent Ricci recommended approval of the SRO Agreement for 2014-2015 which is the same Agreement that is currently in place with the exception of the dates. Bob questioned the cost to Chariho to which Brian responded the estimate is about \$45,000. Chair Day, for the record, noted that the District is fortunate to have a proactive SRO. He is doing a great job. He also gave kudos to Charlestown for supplying another great officer for two to three days a week at the Middle School at no cost to the District.

Amanda Blau made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was VOTED: To approve the SRO Agreement for 2014-2015. In favor: Unanimous.

#### Consent Agenda Items

Chair Day requested clarifying questions or items to be pulled. Amanda requested that the Minutes be pulled (item A), Chair Day stated that he needs to recuse from voting on the Hope Valley-Wyoming Fire District bill, Keven pulled items B, F-1, F-2, F-3 and H-1 and Georgia pulled item J. Craig Louzon acknowledged the donation and the donor was thanked.

Robert Cardozo made a motion, seconded by Amanda Blau and it was VOTED: To move the balance of the Consent Agenda. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon and Miller. Opposed: Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

C. Bills – Approved with the exception of the Hope Valley-Wyoming Fire District bill.

D. Budget Summary – None at this time.

E. Treasurer's Report – None at this time.

F-4. Accepted the resignation request of Lea Ann McQuaide from the position of RYSE Secondary Mathematics/Special Education Teacher effective April 18, 2014.

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

I. Home Instruction – Action taken in executive session.

K. Donations – Accepted the following:

1. Donation from Thompson Lumber of two (2) yards of mulch, valued at \$65, to FFA for use in their Artessy landscape display.

A. Minutes - Gregory Kenney made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the regular session minutes of March 25, 2014. In favor: Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon, Miller and Ure. Abstained: Abbott, Areglado and Blau. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor with 3 abstentions.

B. Transfers – Keven questioned the moving of money from one account to the CTC fuel account. Would this be the only time? Brian responded that in the second round of budget cuts last year, the School Committee cut \$20,000 from this. He suspects that they will have more transfers for fuel over the next month. Georgia questioned how bad was this over last year to

which Brian replied that he doesn't know off the top of his head but it has been a much colder winter. Georgia wanted to ensure that it wasn't because of an oil leak or that someone was leaving windows open. Brian again stated that this was a long, cold winter and he expects that he will need to transfer money to cover this.

Gregory Kenney made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the transfer. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Miller and Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 8 in favor with 2 opposed.

C. Bills – Amanda Blau made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve payment of the Hope Valley-Wyoming Fire District bill. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Ure. Abstained: Miller. Recused: Day. The motion carried by a vote of 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention and 1 recusal.

F-1. Keven questioned F-1, the denial of a request and approval of a request. The Superintendent explained that this employee has requested to take either a half-year leave of absence or a full-year leave of absence. He is recommending that the Committee reject the half-year leave request and approve the full-year leave request.

Amanda Blau made a motion, seconded by Robert Cardozo and it was VOTED: To deny the request of Aimee Meleschi for an extension to her personal leave of absence from the position of Special Educator (district wide) through January 16, 2015 and approve her request to extend her personal leave of absence for the 2014-2015 school year in accordance with Article 18, Section E.1.A. of the collective bargaining agreement. In favor: Unanimous.

F-2. Georgia asked how this appointment will fit in with Mario Celani to which the Superintendent responded that the District will probably use Mario's services less often. Georgia questioned benefits to which Brian replied, "there are no benefits with this position." Georgia wanted to know if this individual will get a truck and tools to which the Superintendent answered, "the District will not be purchasing a truck and will supply tools if needed." The plan is to have three licensed maintenance people (HVAC, electric and plumbing). Georgia asked where was the plan; we have a plan? It was noted that this has nothing to do with the appointment of this individual.

Amanda Blau made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was VOTED: To appoint Robert Powers to the Temporary Licensed Electrical Maintenance Position effective April 9, 2014 (not to exceed twenty (20) hours per week) with the duration of employment to be at the sole discretion of the District contingent upon receipt of all required application materials and with the requirement that all licenses related to the position must remain current. In favor: Abbott, Areglado, Blau, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Kenney, Louzon and Miller. Opposed: Ure. The motion carried by a vote of 9 in favor with 1 opposed.

F-3. Keven questioned the procedure (a person asking for a leave to take another job). Superintendent Ricci explained that this is in line with the collective bargaining agreement. An individual is eligible to take a leave from his/her current position to accept another position. Keven asked if these individuals are currently Deans and do they have to go through this process every year to which the Superintendent responded, "yes" to both questions.

Amanda Blau made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To approve the following:  
a. Leave of absence request for the 2014-2015 school year of Nathaniel Edmunds from his position as RYSE School Special Educator so that he may continue in his current position as High School Dean of Students.

b. Leave of absence request for the 2014-2015 school year of Ryan Bridgham from his position as High School Social Studies Teacher so that he may continue in his current position as High School Dean of Students.

c. Leave of absence request for the 2014-2015 school year of Salvatore Augeri from his position as Middle School Physical Education/Health Teacher so that he may continue in his current position as Middle School Dean of Students.

In favor: Unanimous.

H-1. Permission to Award Contracts - Hope Valley Elementary School Site Project to Tower Construction Corp., Cranston, RI in the amount of \$207,400.00 plus Alternate #3 in the amount of \$4,000.00 totaling \$211,400.00. This project qualifies for state housing aid reimbursement. Keven asked what would be involved with this work to which Superintendent Ricci responded the rear of Hope Valley School would be repaved with drainage upgraded. The portable classroom will remain as it will be too expensive to move. The playground will not be impacted but improvements will be made for handicap accessibility. We are hoping to receive a grant that will assist with this project as Hope Valley School is used as a polling place and needs to be handicap accessible. Keven asked if the grant comes through, will it reduce this to which Brian answered "no" as there is no promise that we will get the grant and if we do, we are not sure of the amount. Other projects have come in under budget so we will put this money towards this. It desperately needs to be done and we have been assured that it will qualify for 61% housing aid reimbursement. Keven noted his concern if the project comes in over budget or if the contractor over charges; will this come back to the Committee? Brian explained that this is in accordance like any other contract. The bid documents total about 400 pages. If there is something unforeseen (say they hit ledge), this could result in a change order. The Committee would need to approve significant change orders. He does not think they will run into many change orders.

Amanda Blau made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was

VOTED: To award the Hope Valley Elementary School Site Project to Tower Construction Corp., Cranston, RI in the amount of \$207,400.00 plus Alternate #3 in the amount of \$4,000.00 totaling \$211,400.00. In favor: Unanimous.

J-1. Grants – Georgia pulled this item because she had a question which has already been answered.

Amanda Blau made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was

VOTED: To approve submission of the following grant request to the Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities – Application for HAVA Polling Place Renovation Funding in the amount of \$35,150 as follows: 1) Hope Valley Elementary School for ADA compliant parking and access to the building in the amount of \$25,150 and 2) Ashaway Elementary School – two (2) disability parking signs shall be installed and maintenance will be performed on the cracks in the accessible route from the parking lot to the main entrance in the amount of \$10,000. In favor: Unanimous.

## X. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports – None at this time.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. State Assessment Waivers – There might be 1 waiver request at most but, more than likely, none which is a major accomplishment.

2. PARCC Pilot – We have finished the 1<sup>st</sup> round (200 Middle School students; 200 High School students and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at Charlestown). Ashaway will be done at the end of the year. The kids were great. Greg questioned if there were any capability problems with all kids taking the test at once. The Superintendent noted that they did have some issues but with the upgrade we should be all set.

3. CCRI, URI & RIC CTE Discussions – We have reached out to these three institutions in an effort to develop enhanced articulation agreements. Two have accepted our invitation to visit

and discuss this (CCRI and RIC). Our students would earn college credits. Ron asked if New England Tech was approached to which the Superintendent replied that they have started with these three and will reach out to others. Barbara Capalbo questioned if this was for CTC students only. Superintendent Ricci replied that it will be mostly CTC students but there could also be some High School students as well. George stated that he was not opposed to this but felt it should be included in the Chariho Act. The Superintendent commented that we are only educating students through grade 12 but they could potentially earn college credits. Donna asked about dual enrollment to which the Superintendent felt that dual enrollment was better; articulation depends on how the agreement is written.

4. Governor's Visit to CTC on May 19, 2014 – We have invited him as legislation was introduced naming Worcester Tech School as a model school. The model school is here as Worcester is selective in its selection process and we are not.

C. Coming Events were highlighted. Anyone interested in presenting or manning a table for the High School Career Fair Week should speak to the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent.

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

Craig Louzon requested discussion on the timing of issuance of "pink slips" and letters of agreements with administrators.

Georgia Ure wanted to discuss the Drug Policy, Strategic Plan and High School Math scores (what they can do to improve them).

Bob Cardozo would like to discuss the methodology of reappropriating the fund balance (policy).

Amanda Blau asked for a written statement from Jon regarding matriculation (it was noted that Jon's attendance at a School Committee meeting and his views on this issues are recorded in the minutes).

XII. (if needed) Executive Session – 42-46-5(a)(1)+(2) - for the purpose of discussions pertaining to an individual's job performance or character, collective bargaining and litigation (Teacher Separation); any persons to be discussed have been so notified.  
Executive Session not needed.

XIII. (if needed) Closing/Sealing of Executive Session Minutes  
Not needed.

XIV. (if needed) Disclosure of Executive Session Votes  
Not needed.

#### XV. Adjournment

Robert Cardozo made a motion, seconded by Amanda Blau and it was  
VOTED: To adjourn at 9:12 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

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Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk