

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Regular Session Minutes – November 26, 2013

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

Administrators Present: Superintendent Barry Ricci and Director of Administration and Finance Brian Stanley. Also in attendance: School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz and Parent Liaison Catherine Giusti.

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 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silent meditation.

II. Recognition – Superintendent Ricci asked all to join him in congratulating the following:

1. Hope Valley School Grade 4 Teacher Denise Moretti-Foggo for receiving the WJAR Golden Apple Award.
2. High School Senior Zachary Gardell for scoring a perfect 800 on his Chemistry SAT.
3. High School Boys' Soccer Post-Season Awards: Steven LaBier (All League First Team), Zachary Gardell (All League Academic Team), Zachary Kittell (All League Third Team), Jacob Desrosiers (All League Honorable Mention).
4. High School Girls' Volleyball Post-Season Awards: Haley Duscha, Madison Cusumano and Rhiannon Wilson (All Division I-South Third Team).
5. High School Girls' Cross Country Team Post-Season Awards: Isabel Baker (All Division Second Team, All State Third Team, New England Qualifier), Caroline Duksta (All Division First Team), Paige Ross (All Division Third Team), Marisa Longolucco (Coaches Sportsmanship Award).
6. High School Boys' Cross Country Team Post-Season Awards: Stephen Gencarelli (All Class A Second Team, All State Third Team), Jung Kim (All Class A Third Team, All State Third Team, All Southern Division First Team), Mitchell Carrier (All Southern Division Second Team), Matthew Drummond (All Southern Division Second Team, Academic All State), Andrew Sardelli (All Southern Division Third Team, Academic All State), Alden Andrea (All Southern Division Third Team), Nathan Claire (All Southern Division Third Team), Matthew Tierney (All Southern Division Coaches Award).
7. High School Football Team Post-Season Awards: The Providence Grid Iron Club Football Award Winners from Chariho are Matt Gooding (Defense) and Jake Rousseau (Offense). It is expected there will be more postseason awards in the next few weeks.
8. High School Girls' Varsity Soccer Team – Division III-A Champions – Team Members and Post-Season Awards: Meghan Rousseau (All Division), Rayanne Enos (Sportsmanship Award), Ryan Tracy (All Division), Abby Neill, Samantha Orciari (All Division), Arin Demers, Dana Matassa, Kylie Hynes, Dana Sutcliffe, Zoe Johnson, Morgan Rosivach, Silvana Terranova (All Division), Jamie Dobson, Isabella Rinne, Kaitlyn Cuddy (All Division), Megan Kirby, Kathryn Myrtle, Gabriella Harris, Sydney Allen, Olivia Pellegrino, Hallie Linacre, Olivia Chatowsky, Assistant Coach Marissa Nardelli, Assistant Coach Chelsey Welch, Head Coach Brittney Godbout (Division III Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year). The Superintendent discussed with the team what it takes to be a championship team. The girls were congratulated and the parents were thanked for their support.
9. Members of the Campus 2010 Building Committee: Chair Greg Kenney, Vice Chair Holly Eaves, Craig Louzon, Brian Metcalf, Arthur Nelson, Stephanie (Brown) D'Iorio, Kevin Thibodeau, Erick Davis, William Day, Leon Millis, George Abbott, Ann Bettinger, Doreen Dolan, Dorothy Gardiner and John Makowski. The Superintendent noted that these volunteers attended a total of 61 meetings and on behalf of the staff and students he thanked them for their

hard work and dedication to this project. Building Committee Chair Greg Kenney summarized the Committee's accomplishments and commended them for spending a million dollars less than what they were authorized to spend while doing many more projects than what was planned. All this was accomplished with no interruption to the educational process. He expressed his gratitude to all who were involved in the project. A token of appreciation was given to those members in attendance.

III. Public Forum

Charlestown resident and RYSE School Teacher Chris Fee asked the Committee to reconsider the cut of a RYSE School psychologist from the budget. This individual has managed to gain the respect of these students who do not have a lot of adult stability in their lives. He understands the need to save money but did not feel it would be wise in the long run to take it from this program.

Georgia Ure stated that she heard on the Buddy Cianci radio show that Ashaway was rated #1 and Hope Valley #2 as the best places to live in Rhode Island. The criteria used for this rating was schools, access to jobs, crime statistics and sense of community. She felt it was important to mention this.

IV. Policy

A. Videography, Photography and Audio Recording Policy – Superintendent Ricci stated that there are a lot of questions about the appropriate role of video surveillance. He did some research and tried to find a balance that would keep the campus safe while maintaining privacy for individuals. He recommended approval of the first reading of this policy. Chief Johnson has provided input; Attorney Anderson and The Trust have reviewed the policy. Ron Areglado made a motion, which was seconded by Robert Cardozo, to approve the first reading of this policy. Ron asked if parents can opt out of having a child photographed to which the Superintendent responded that they have to sign a form for their child not to be photographed. Keven noted his concern with this policy and the fact that both sides have to agree to the viewing of a video. He feels the "victim's" parents have a right to view the video even if the parents of the other child refuse and vice versa. If a child is being accused of something, his/her parents should be able to view the video. The Superintendent explained that there might be photos of other students not involved in a particular incident and these students have a right to their privacy. He thought this struck a balance but he is open to suggestions. Videos are mainly for school use. Keven stated that he does understand the issues; he has no suggestions at this time. Georgia questioned (in the third paragraph) who determines what is "inappropriate" to which the Superintendent responded that this refers to employees and employees have a Code of Conduct they must follow. Georgia requested this be added to the policy. Superintendent Ricci replied that it is in the Policy Book and if she has better wording, he would be happy to hear it. Georgia asked if "inappropriate" was defined in the Code of Conduct to which the Superintendent responded that he did not say it was defined; he said that employees have a Code of Conduct they must follow. Ron added that policy is not law. If a parent filed a criminal complaint against another child, the video would be used. Chair Day noted that this is a first reading so if anyone has any ideas, please forward them to the Superintendent. Superintendent Ricci added that in his last newsletter he requested input from others; he has not received any. Steve asked if Georgia felt the word "unauthorized" would be better than "inappropriate" to which Georgia replied that it depends on what is authorized and what is unauthorized. There are so many students with phones. We are in uncharted waters with videography. She believes in freedoms. George questioned if there was an appeals process for media outlets to which the Superintendent responded that the Appeals Policy is available to all on the website. We do not allow students to be interviewed on school grounds; however, we have no authority on this off school grounds. Craig noted that this is just for District equipment, what about personal phones? The Superintendent explained that students should only be using devices for educational reasons as we are an educational organization. Keven felt the terms

used were not well-defined (i.e. director, principal, manager). Superintendent Ricci replied that we do not put in names of people in a policy as the policy would need to be changed every time a name was changed. We put in positions. Keven felt it should be more specific and he made an amendment to the motion to add specificity to positions to spell out roles and ask Jon Anderson to review parental minority rights. There was no second to the amendment. George suggested that the denial of news media access to students/schools and the appeals process should be outlined. If they are aggrieved by it, they should have a right to appeal it. Ron disagreed. The violation of a child's privacy is not an appealable issue and the media knows this. Georgia called for a point of order as she felt that Ron was directing his comments towards one person; comments should be directed to all of them. Bob asked if this policy was similar to what other districts have to which the Superintendent replied that there are not a lot of models out there to follow. He did look at a few schools but this is pretty original. Chair Day reminded all that this is a first reading. If anyone has any suggestions for revisions, the policy can be revised at the next meeting.

Craig Louzon made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was VOTED: To move the motion. In favor: Areglado, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Huzyk, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Abbott, Miller and Ure. The motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor with 3 opposed.

Ronald Areglado made a motion, seconded by Robert Cardozo and it was VOTED: To approve the first reading of this policy. In favor: Areglado, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Huzyk, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Abbott, Miller and Ure. The motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor with 3 opposed.

V. Business

A. Approval of Omnibus Agenda - A draft agenda, along with correspondence from each town, was included in the packets. Superintendent Ricci recommended approval of the Omnibus Meeting Agenda which was a compilation of what was received from each of the three Town Councils. Craig Louzon made a motion, which was seconded by Ronald Areglado to approve the Omnibus Agenda. Bob stated that he has been to a few of these and #4 has been on the agenda the past two years, #5 was on the agenda last year and #6 was on the agenda for the past three years along with items D and E. As for Richmond's items A, B, and C; we have already discussed all of them. These Towns were supposed to get together the past three years to discuss these issues and they still haven't done so. The Committee should not have to referee a mud wrestling contest. This is ridiculous. The purpose of the Omnibus Meeting is to present our budget. If the Towns want to discuss something unique to the towns, they should do it at their meetings. They should not use this meeting to rehash issues and he is against this. Ron questioned the start time of the meeting as it was not noted. The start time is 7:00 PM and the agenda will be revised to include this. George noted that not one town requested discussion about anything to do with students or children; we are getting far away from education. Chair Day echoed Bob and George's concerns. He believes that the Committee should serve notice at this meeting to the Town Councilors and legislators that if they can't come up with meaningful solutions to their issues, the District will not be holding this forum again the next year. Georgia felt the meeting works both ways. The Towns have given the Committee suggestions and she feels the School Committee has ignored them over the years. She does not believe it is just about presenting the budget. We have new people so there may be new thoughts and ideas. This is the nature of the Omnibus Meeting. Chair Day felt they owed the Town Councils and legislators this year's meeting and suggested that the Committee post the agenda. Georgia questioned what the Chariho Act states to which the Superintendent replied that the School Committee has a responsibility to present its budget to the municipalities as it is state law. He is not sure how the Omnibus Meeting originated. Bob noted that Richmond has requested that the Towns convene in their respective Town Council sessions; Hopkinton and Charlestown have refused this request.

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

VI. Consent Agenda Items

Chair Day requested items to be pulled or clarifying questions. Georgia requested that item C (Bills) be pulled. Craig Louzon recognized the donations listed below and thanked the donors.

Robert Cardozo made a motion, seconded by Craig Louzon and it was VOTED: To move the balance of the Consent Agenda. In favor: Unanimous.

- A. Minutes – Approved the regular session minutes of November 12, 2013.
- B. Transfers – None at this time.
- D. Budget Summary – As per enclosed.
- E. Treasurer’s Report – As per enclosed.
- F. Personnel Actions
 - 1. Approved the paternity leave of absence request of Tyler Hartshorn from the position of High School Special Educator effective on or around the date of delivery (December 12, 2013) for four weeks in accordance with Article 18, Section C of the collective bargaining agreement.
 - 2. Appointed Kevin O’Leary to the position of Middle School Girls’ Basketball Head Coach for 2013-2014 contingent upon receipt of all required certifications.
 - 3. Appointed Katie Moulton to the position of High School Boys’ and Girls’ Indoor Track Assistant Coach for 2013-2014. All required application materials and certifications are on file.
 - 4. Appointed Scott James to the position of High School Wrestling Assistant Coach for 2013-2014. All required application materials and certifications are on file.
- G. Permission to Issue Bids/Request Quotes – None at this time.
- H. Permission to Award Contracts – None at this time.
- I. Home Instruction – None at this time.
- J. Grants – None at this time.
- K. Donations – Accepted the following:
 - 1. Donation from Apple Rehab Clipper of one or more crank-style beds to the CTC Health Occupations Program.
 - 2. Donation from Jennifer Durkin of one (1) Elliptical Machine, valued at approximately \$900.00, to The R.Y.S.E. School Physical Education room.
- C. Bills – Gregory Kenney made a motion, which was seconded by Robert Cardozo, to approve payment of the bills. Georgia asked what Instructure, Inc. (page four) was to which the Superintendent explained that it is a learning management system called Canvas that we use for 1:1. Teachers can post assignments and students can send their work. Georgia questioned where this was budgeted and why the District did not go out to bid. The Superintendent responded that Canvas was chosen as it works with Power School and we don’t go out to bid on software as it is unique and needs to be compatible with what we have. Georgia asked how much 1:1 was going to cost the District. The Superintendent replied that when the budget was done last year, he provided an analysis and this was posted on the website until about a month ago. We can’t put the expense all in one spot as UCOA does not allow this to which Georgia commented “so in the end we will never know what it will cost.” The Superintendent again reiterated that the Committee was provided a cost analysis. Keven asked if there was any way to track this to which Brian replied “yes, you can track it.” Superintendent Ricci explained that the only way this can be done is manually as there is no way to pull expenditures as there are too many different accounts that must be used. Georgia asked who determined this was the software to use. The Superintendent replied that a Committee determined this as it had to work with Power School. Georgia asked why they couldn’t go out to bid; was there no other software to which Chair Day reminded Georgia that they can only discuss this bill. She was getting off track. Georgia asked if there were any other bills on the bill sheet that had to do with 1:1 to

which the Superintendent responded that he did not review the bill sheet. Chair Day again reminded Georgia that she should only be discussing this particular invoice. Georgia moved to a question on the Trapper Jon's Nuisance Wildlife bill on page 10. Brian explained that there was a fox at Ashaway School which prevented the kids from being able to go outside for physical education and recess. The Hopkinton Animal Control officer was called and was unsuccessful in trapping the fox. As a last ditch effort, this vendor was called in. Georgia asked if the fox was caught to which Brian responded "no" and they haven't seen it since. Georgia asked why they were paying \$500 when the fox was not caught. Brian explained that this person provided the cage, the time, etc. As the service was provided, the invoice should be paid. Georgia stated that they have at least eight trappers in the area that could have done a better job. She is opposed to paying this.

Georgia Ure made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Keven Miller and it was VOTED: To not pay Trapper Jon's Nuisance Wildlife invoice. In favor: Abbott, Miller and Ure. Opposed: Areglado, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Huzyk, Kenney and Louzon. The motion failed by a vote of 3 in favor and 7 opposed.

Chair Day asked if there were any more questions to which Georgia replied that it makes no sense to pay this bill. Keven questioned who Mario Celani was and how is he serviced to which Brian replied he is the bid electrician and like all the others, he is given direction (a task to do); the supervisor (could be anyone like Technology Director, principal, CTC Director, etc.) reviews it; the Director of Buildings and Grounds signs off and then he signs off on all detailed invoices that are presented by Mr. Celani. Keven questioned how Brian knows that he is putting in all the hours if he doesn't have a direct supervisor. Brian replied that the District has to have faith in its vendors. Vendors are required to sign in and out of buildings but no one is assigned to sit with them and watch them while they work. Keven then asked about Summit Heating and whether or not this was bid. Brian responded that we do not bid this. Our insurance company recommends who they want to do the work if our staff is unable to do it. Georgia asked why the insurance company was directing the District to which Brian explained that the insurance company recommends a company when they are paying a claim; they do not direct the District. Georgia felt this should go out to bid as the bill is over \$5,000 to which Keven agreed. Chair Day stated that this should be addressed under Committee requests if the bid policy is in question. These comments have nothing to do with payment of the invoice.

Gregory Kenney made a motion, seconded by Robert Cardozo and it was VOTED: To approve payment of the bills. In favor: Areglado, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Huzyk, Kenney and Louzon. Opposed: Abbott, Miller and Ure. The motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor with 3 opposed.

VII. Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports – The Health and Wellness Subcommittee will meet next week.

B. Superintendent's Reports

1. Budget Development – All school and department budgets have been reviewed at Central Office as has the capital budget so that a budget will be presented to the Committee in a timely manner.

2. Community Bonfire – This event has been cancelled due to the weather. The one scheduled for tomorrow night (as part of the rally before the Thanksgiving Day football game) will not be rescheduled but the Middle School might be.

3. Open Forum with Students-Dec. 12 – This will be held after school at about 2:15 PM.

C. Coming Events were highlighted.

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

Bob referenced a letter included in the packet from the Superintendent pertaining to the budget. He urged all Committee members to read it so they will be aware of the process.

George Abbott requested a legal opinion on whether or not it is the District's responsibility to fund residential/clinical treatment places that are decided on unilaterally by the parent. Ron stated that he knows that it is against the law for a parent to unilaterally select a residential or treatment facility without the school district being part of the process to which George noted that federal cases may contradict this. In favor of George's request for a legal opinion were Areglado, Chambers, Louzon, Miller and Ure. Opposed were Cardozo, Day and Kenney and Huzyk abstained. The request for a legal opinion was approved.

Keven requested an expense tracking for 1:1 to which the Superintendent replied that Donna Chambers has already requested an update on 1:1 and it will be on the December agenda. Keven requested a legal opinion on the viewing of a video by a parent if all parties are not in agreement. Superintendent Ricci stated that Jon has given his legal point of view and that is "you need a policy". Keven felt the policy does not say this to which the Superintendent disagreed. Chair Day noted that he was not sure what good it would do to get a legal opinion as Mr. Miller has not yet agreed with anything legal counsel has said.

Keven Miller made a motion, seconded by Georgia Ure and it was VOTED: To request a legal opinion on the viewing of a video by a parent if all parties are not in agreement. In favor: Abbott, Miller and Ure. Opposed: Areglado, Cardozo, Chambers, Day, Huzyk, Kenney and Louzon. The motion failed by a vote of 3 in favor with 7 opposed.

Georgia requested a bid policy (going out to bid) to which the Superintendent responded that the District has a bid policy. Georgia asked that review of this policy be an agenda item.

IX. Adjournment

Robert Cardozo made a motion, seconded by Gregory Kenney and it was VOTED: To adjourn at 8:32 PM. In favor: Unanimous.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk