

Chariho School Committee Meeting
Executive Session Minutes – September 27, 2022
NEA ESP Negotiation Update - Minutes sealed until an agreement has been reached.
Minutes unsealed December 13, 2022

Committee Members Attendance: Chair Linda Lyall, Vice Chair Catherine Giusti, Ryan Callahan, Donna Chambers, William Day, Gary Liguori, Karen Reynolds and endawnis Spears. Absent: George Abbott and Lisa Macaruso. Recused: Craig Louzon and Andrew McQuaide.

Administrators and Others Attendance: Superintendent Gina Picard, Assistant Superintendent Michael Comella, Director of Administration and Finance Ned Draper, Attorney Jon Anderson (virtual) and School Committee Clerk Donna Sieczkiewicz.

II-4. NEA ESP Negotiation Update

Gina noted that an update will be provided and two alternates are needed for this subcommittee. Appointments will be made in open session under Business Item D. Ryan provided the update. Chris Caldarone has reached out to him (Chris is the Vice President of the Union who took over when Tom Pirnie left). They are working to find dates for meetings. All are anxious to move this forward. He is not sure if they will have enough momentum to get this done before the new School Committee comes in. He does want to re-engage and will coach Chris as to why we are in the position we are in. He would like to correct their assessment as he feels it is important for them to know. Gina stated that she has received about 40-50 postcards from NEA ESP members with most stating “get back to the table.” She has drafted a response to those who put their names on the card. They definitely did not receive good communication. They think we left the table when, in fact, they left the table. Tom Pirnie leaving the District has created a lag. They state they feel disrespected and their morale is low. Gary questioned, with Tom leaving and a new one coming on, can we walk thru the last minutes as to where we left off to which Ryan replied “yes”. They need to manage their union with accountability on the part of their leaders. He is worried about their leadership. It was noted that the subcommittee can share discussion that took place and the fact that they left the table but they cannot share the minutes as those are sealed until such time as an agreement has been reached. Gina noted that Chris did reach out to her and wanted to schedule negotiations during the day. She informed him that she will not remove 20 individuals who are needed from their positions. This is not possible. Chris stated that he may need to assign a lead negotiator who will report back to him. Ryan stated that he would like to review rules and make this more informal with only three people from each side. The additional chatter does not help. He feels by limiting it to three people from each side, this will help them. Gina stated the goal is to have dates this week. Catherine questioned if they could request that someone other than Sarah represent NEARI to which Jon replied “no”. Both Karen and Linda volunteered to serve as alternates and Gary offered to serve as an alternate for the teacher contract. Motions will be made and voted on in open session.

Bill exited at 6:22 PM and the Committee moved to NEA Certified Staff Negotiation Update.

Donna J. Sieczkiewicz, Clerk