

# Reports

# ENCLOSURE **XA-1**

## Special Education Advisory Committee - Chariho Regional School District Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

- ❖ Sarah Algieri
- ❖ Tina Costa
- ❖ Nicole Allen
- ❖ Iris Ornberg
- ❖ Lisa Gervasini
- ❖ Erin Sefranek
- ❖ Mary Markovitz

- I. Call to order 6:04pm, 5/19/22, Chariho High School Library
- II. Introductions
- III. Purpose of SEAC, Roles  
Chairperson: Sarah Algieri  
Vice Chairperson: Nicole Allen  
Secretary: Erin Sefranek  
Treasurer: Christina Costa
- IV. Approval of minutes from January 2022, motion to approve by Sarah, seconded by Tina, approved
- V. Recognitions: none at present
- VI. Special Education Director's Report (Mary Markovitz):

### **Staffing update:**

Since our last meeting I have contracted with an agency for a Occupational Therapy Assistant for the remainder of the year due to the increase in referrals and pre-school enrollment.

### **Budget Update:**

Since our last meeting and school committee meetings our requests have remained in the budget with the exception of (1) DCYF out of district placement.

### **Grant update:**

We received our funding allocation for the ARP (American Rescue Plan) grant. This is a one year only grant. It has been programmatically approved and we are just waiting for it to be fiscally approved by RIDE.

Part C=Special Education Preschool. I have put in for substitutes for 3 full days for 4 special education preschool teachers. The purpose of this work will be to review parent surveys that will be going out in regards to their needs for support or parent training. Our goal is to provide parent support/parent training workshops for the 22-23 school year.

I also put in for (1) Teaching Assistant to support the teacher and the group with material development. Our goal is to provide these workshops throughout the 22-23 school year. There is also a stipend for (1) preschool teacher to facilitate this group.

In addition to the above we will be purchasing additional child outreach and special education screening and assessment tools, monies for sensory materials, and Augmentative communication apps/devices for preschool students who are non-verbal.

Part B= K-12 programming. I put in for a .25 FTE (full time equivalent) reading specialist to provide intensive instruction and intervention for students with reading disabilities. This will be assigned to the middle school. Just and FYI-the reading specialist do currently work with all students inclusive of students with disabilities. I also put in for a .4 FTE to increase one of our 3-day speech pathologist to bring her to full time for the period of the grant. In addition, I put in to continue the Occupational Therapist Assistant to work primarily at the elementary level to support students with disabilities who are increasingly more dysregulated.

ESSER 3 funding (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) which is for ALL students has been allocated. There were two positions put in for additional school psychologists and/or social workers to support the social emotional needs of students throughout the district. There are many other personnel increases and additional work within this grant to support ALL students.

#### **District Work:**

Many staff continue their work for the Right to Read Act. Some of the certified staff are participating in specialized reading training and support staff have been completing the "Awareness" training modules.

Kerri Pastore, District Reading Fellow, has continued her work with our special educators in regards to accommodations and modifications, and access to additional resources for our new reading programs. Staff have found them extremely beneficial.

Our elementary resource teachers have participated in Math-Advantage training. All have expressed their appreciation to participate in this training and found it extremely beneficial.

Iris Ornberg, Lisa Gervasini, and myself participated in the Annual Transition Institute on March 11<sup>th</sup> provided by RIDE. Our goal for this year was to increase Parent/Guardian knowledge of the transition process, understanding the differences between the elementary and secondary IEP's to increase their participation in the process. Several documents were created and we will be creating a brochure. The new process and procedure will begin for the 22-23 school year.

Mary Markovitz, Assistant Director, continues to sit on district wide non-academic RtI team meetings to ensure all staff are following the procedures with fidelity for students experiencing social emotional challenges that may require a more prescriptive intervention plan.

Lastly, we will be participating in a monitoring visit. The focus of the visit is to determine what needs to be done to achieve the goals of the Consent Decree. This involves Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities. Dr. Antosh, Court Monitor, will be reviewing our High School Programs, speaking with staff and students, and reviewing selected Transition Plans/Career Development Plans for three of our young adults. We are scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>. This visit went extremely well. He spoke with myself, staff, and students.

**May 19, 2022**

ESY program has been developed. We are full staffed with the exception of some tutors to work with the students at Richmond. We have posted internally, externally on school spring, and have been actively trying to recruit to no avail. We will wait til the end of May to see if there are any graduating educators interested. If we do not find anyone I will send letter out to all families explaining the issue.

VII. School Committee Liaison Report (not in attendance)

VIII. New Business:

1. Goals for 2022-2023

a. Increase parent engagement

\*Welcome letter for middle school families

Go to open houses

\*Unified sports – get it going again

Middle School and High School tours

Bring students to high school and walk their schedule – helped students with anxiety, stress

\*Update flier for guidance counselors

\*Go to elementary open houses and have table set up

b. Organize an event; Technology event – iReady (math K-8), studysync, interreading (new programs) – Orientation for middle school and high school technology;

Westerly Public Schools invitation for all parents to attend online parent workshop series, AWARE grant, mental health awareness. Training and awareness to community, held virtually 5/25 6:30-7:30 Godfrey; struggles of parenting throughout positive lens 6/9. Add it as part of our events on weekly newsletter.

c. We are an advisory board; let's find ways to advise all the schools. Ideas - Survey to parents. What are your needs? Submit memo to principals. What areas does the school need more input from parents? Attempt to complete draft by End of July. Send it at the beginning of the school year.

2. Meeting dates for the 2022-2023 school year: Discussion - Can we provide zoom link to parents? Keep a presence in the building and have zoom. 4pm meetings on 9/15, 11/10, 2/16, 5/11

3. End of year report. Sarah will be writing/submitting. Done by June School Committee meeting.

Budget total \$838.42.

IX. Old Business

1. Robo call for SEAC meetings; Asked for access but haven't gotten response (director of technology). Compile list to send an email to all parents. (director of technology).

Welcome PTO letter to middle school, add SEAC info

2. Executive function event – nothing to add

3. Summer building tours – fliers for SEAC; get new dates approved and update fliers; go to elementary schools and set up table at open house

X. Open Forum

Mary - Ideas for survey – Information regarding the categories of disabilities; understanding assessment; social emotional skills; rights/safeguards; what is specialized instruction

XI. RIPIN Workshops/Calendar

XII. Adjournment: 7:01pm motion to adjourn from Erin, Nicole seconds, approved by all.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Sefranek  
Recording Secretary

## **Chariho Regional School District**

Health and Wellness Subcommittee

Agenda May 10, 2022

### **I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 4:02

Linda introduction of Laura Whaley, outreach coordinator replacing Cindy Buxton

In attendance: Gina, Gerry, Linda, Gary Liguori, Leigh Rainey, Sharon Martin, Michael Comella, Cathay Moffit, Laura Whaley

### **II. Approval of Minutes for March 8, 2022**

Motion to approve the minutes: Cathy Moffitt; Gerry Auth seconded the motion. Gary Liguori recused himself. The vote was unanimous.

### **III. Report from Food Service Director**

Farm to school continues, buying from local farmers, food tastings at schools. The first tasting occurred at Charlestown School, and the students enjoyed it. Smoothies were offered last month at Richmond and Charlestown. The middle school opened the 7th and 8th grade side of the cafeteria and service is returning to normal. The middle school is working on getting grades 5 & 6 open by June 1st but hoping it can be sooner. The High School student focus group met with the principal and gave feedback on the cafeteria and menu items. Cathy talked about her health class, and her students wrote letters to the cafeteria staff with feedback. Leigh mentioned some negative feedback on social media but continues to work to improve the program. Gary asked about the holdup in the 5th/6th-grade lunch. Gina said it had something to do with staggering the start times and locker times. Gina said she will follow up with Mr. Zenion. Cathy asked about the specific feedback from high school. Leigh said it was ice cream and incorporating other drink options. Leigh said more items will return in September. Laura asked about sparkling waters, and Leigh said it had to do with staff and the ability to serve timely. Gina said the students also wanted a water dispenser. Leigh talked about the challenge to sustain this option because of staffing. Cups are offered for the hydration stations, and many students have water bottles. Gina mentioned that Leigh has always been very responsive.

### **IV. Review progress to date on Health and Wellness Goals**

- ***Piloting the farm-to-school program***
  - We already discussed the success of the year. Sharon added that she shares the recipes with families, Richmond has an active greenhouse, and information is provided to families about local farms. Gary asked about harvesting that happens during the summer. Sharon shared that parents volunteer during the summer and that the school donates to RICAN. Students grow bean pods as part of the science program and transfer them to the greenhouse.
  - Committee agreed to continue this goal for next year and expand to the two other elementary schools. The issue could be budgeting for this at the two other schools. The goal could be getting into the other schools at least one time. Schedule the schools at the first meeting of the next school year.
- ***Expand community and school resources to support mental health support for students and staff***
  - This is a major initiative for the next school year. Talks have already started with the Chris Collins Foundation. The training and support will

begin in September. The district will be looking for two facilitators to lead the work at the middle and high schools. Students have already reached out to the superintendent to be part of the training. Training will take place at URI. The therapy dog initiative is also moving forward. Richmond started on Fridays. Two student support specialists are also budgeted through ESSER. EAP is in place for faculty and staff.

- Committee agreed to move this forward to the next school year
- ***Increase participation on the Health and Wellness Committee to include student voice***
  - The goal is to have someone represented at every level (elementary, middle, and high)
  - The peer-to-peer student facilitators will become members as part of their role. Sharon offered her 4th-grade health and wellness student representative to be a member as well.

#### **V. Meeting Schedule for next school year:**

- 10/4/22
- 12/6/22
- 3/7/23
- 5/9/23

Committee approved the dates.

#### **V. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Motion to adjourn: Gerry Auth;

Seconded: Gary Liguori

Vote was unanimous