

FYI



**Chariho Regional School District**  
**Office of the Human Resources Administrator**

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894



LINDA D. LYALL  
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

*All Kids...All of the Time*

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
JUL 16 2021

KRISTEN MERRITT  
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: July 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Staff Update

Name	Position	Reason
Erin Healey	English Teacher – High School	Resignation effective 7/26/2021
Ellen Hacunda	District Teacher Assistant – currently assigned to High School	Resignation effective 8/2/2021
Susie Scanapieco	FBLA Advisor – High School	Appointment effective 7/16/2021-6/30/2022
Martha Dion	Technology Liaison - CTC	Appointment effective 8/1/2021-6/30/2022
Jessica Geremia	Fitness Center Supervisor (M-Th) – High School	Appointment effective 7/16/2021-6/30/2022
Britney Morenzoni	Richmond Shannock Summer Slide Math Teacher	Appointment effective 8/3-8/5/2021
Elissa Genry	Richmond Shannock Summer Slide Math Teacher	Appointment effective 8/10-8/19/2021

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Erin Healey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** Gina Picard  
**Cc:** Kristen Merritt; Andrea Spas; Dana Hall; Jill Burke; Vincent Levcowich  
**Subject:** Notice of Resignation

Good afternoon,

I am writing to formally resign my position as English Teacher at Chariho High School. Additionally, please let this email reflect my resignation from the following appointments: Writing Lab Instructor, National Honor Society advisor, and HS Technology Instructional Support. I will be finishing my responsibilities from this past 2020-2021 academic year with the HS Theatre Program on July 25th, at the culmination of their musical performances.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Chariho High School, and have grown so much as an educator. During this time, I've developed a strong passion for blended and personalized learning, and have been fortunate enough to be offered a pathway in this direction with the Portsmouth School District. I have accepted a position at the middle school there for this upcoming academic year.

Please let me know what the next steps are for this transition, and thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,  
Erin Healey

**Mrs. Erin Healey**

English Teacher, Chariho High School  
She/Her Pronouns  
[erin.healey@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:erin.healey@chariho.k12.ri.us)

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Ellen Hacunda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 1:18 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** Ellen Hacunda- resignation

Hello Kristen,

I am writing to let you know that I will resign my Teaching Assistant position with the Chariho School District on August 2, 2021. This should provide more than two weeks notice.

I am interested in purchasing health insurance for myself only and the dental coverage for myself and my husband.

My resignation is due to personal reasons, nothing against Chariho. I have had the the best team ever to work with and I can only say good things about them all.

What are the next steps I need to do to complete this process?

Thank you, Ellen Hacunda

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Andrea Spas  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2021 12:45 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** Re: FBLA

Yes



Andrea J. Spas | Principal  
Chariho Regional High School  
453 Switch Road, Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
401-364-7778 xt. 2101 | Twitter: @Andrea\_Spas

Visit our CHS Blog: [www.charihohighschool.blogspot.com](http://www.charihohighschool.blogspot.com)

---

**From:** Kristen Merritt <[Kristen.Merritt@Chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:Kristen.Merritt@Chariho.k12.ri.us)>  
**Date:** Monday, July 12, 2021 at 11:43 AM  
**To:** Andrea Spas <[andrea.spas@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:andrea.spas@chariho.k12.ri.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: FBLA

Are you ok with her being appointed to this position?

*Kristen Merritt*

Human Resources Administrator  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
(401)364-3260, Ext. 2029

---

**From:** Susie Scanapieco <[Susie.Scanapieco@Chariho.K12.ri.us](mailto:Susie.Scanapieco@Chariho.K12.ri.us)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 6:17 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt <[Kristen.Merritt@Chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:Kristen.Merritt@Chariho.k12.ri.us)>  
**Subject:** FBLA

Hi Kristen,

Hope you are enjoying the summer!

I believe the FBLA stipended advisor position never got filled, if this is the case, I'd like to apply, if it is allowed. Let me know:)  
Thank you.

Have a great day,  
Susie Scanapieco  
STEM Specialist  
Chariho Regional School District

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Gerald Auth  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:45 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** RE: Technology Liaison Position

Yes

---

**From:** Kristen Merritt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Gerald Auth  
**Subject:** FW: Technology Liaison Position

Ok to appoint Martha to this position?

---

**From:** Martha Dion  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** Technology Liaison Position

Kristen,

Gerry Auth mentioned that no one applied to be the Technology Liaison for the CTC. I would be willing to serve in that role for the next school year 2021-2022. I do a lot of that work already within this building informally. Let me know what else you need from me.

Thank you,  
Martha

Martha Ganz Dion  
Chariho Regional High School  
Science Educator  
CHARIHotech  
Health Careers Educator  
Induction Coach  
Chariho Regional School District  
Master Teacher Coordinator  
[martha.dion@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:martha.dion@chariho.k12.ri.us)

*"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." - Edith Wharton*

**Kristen Merritt**

---

**From:** Jessica Geremia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:49 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** RE: Fitness Center Advisor Position

Hi Kristen,

I hope you are having a nice summer as well! Yes, I do want this position. I will work on getting the certifications needed.

Best,  
Mrs. Geremia  
*Health & PE Teacher*  
*Chariho High School*  
401-552-7410

---

**From:** Kristen Merritt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:18 PM  
**To:** Jessica Geremia  
**Subject:** Fitness Center Advisor Position

Hi Jessica,

I just want to confirm that I will forward your name to the Superintendent for appointment to the Fitness Center Advisor position, Monday-Thursday, pending receipt of First Aid/CPR certification and online NFHS Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest certifications. Andrea Spas has approved the 4-day week schedule. Please confirm that you want to be appointed to this position and that you are working on the certifications.

Thank you! Hope you are enjoying the summer break!

**Kristen Merritt**  
Human Resources Administrator  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
(401)364-3260, Ext. 2029

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Britney Morenzoni  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** RE: Richmond Shannock Summer Slide Program

Yes I would love to.

Britney Morenzoni

1st Grade Teacher

Charlestown Elementary School

8/3-8/5/21

T, W, TH

9-11 am

plus planning time in July

"Be somebody who makes everybody feel like somebody." - Kid President

---

From: Kristen Merritt  
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:23 AM  
To: Britney Morenzoni  
Subject: Richmond Shannock Summer Slide Program

Hi Britney,

Sharon Martin asked me to reach out to you to confirm that you will teach the Richmond Shannock Summer Slide math program August 3-5. Please confirm with me so I can let Mrs. Martin know.

Thank you! Hope you are enjoying the summer break!

Kristen Merritt

Human Resources Administrator

Chariho Regional School District

455A Switch Road

Wood River Junction, RI 02894

(401)364-3260, Ext. 2029



## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Sharon Martin <sharon.martin@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2021 2:21 PM  
**To:** Elissa Tetrault  
**Cc:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** Shannock Summer Slide Math Teacher

Dear Elissa,

I would like to offer you the math position for the second two weeks of the Shannock Summer Slide program. You will be teaching with one of our second grade teachers. Our HR director is on vacation until next week so she will reach out to you about the details on her end. We are planning to meet one day in July to go over the details. When I firm this up, I will let you know when. The position pays for additional planning time.

I'll be on vacation through Sunday so you can text me or call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Martin  
864-3219

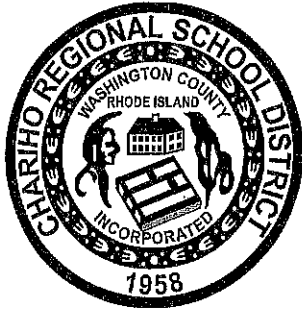
Elissa Genry

8/10 - 8/19/21

T, W, TH

9-11 am

Plus planning time in July



# Chariho Regional School District

## Office of the Human Resources Administrator

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

*All Kids...All of the Time*



LINDA D. LYALL  
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

KRISTEN MERRITT  
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: July 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Staff Update

**Coach appointments  
pending season approved by  
RIIL/State of RI**

Name	Position	Reason
Dr. Michael Comella	Assistant Superintendent - District	Appointment effective 8/3/2021
Jessica Gerjes	District Teacher Assistant, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, 10 months – currently assigned to Hope Valley	Appointment effective 8/30/2021
Matthew Clarke	Engineering, Drafting & Design Teacher , 1.0 FTE – CTC	Appointment effective 8/30/2021
Holly Burdett	District Teacher Assistant, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, 10 months – currently assigned to Richmond	Appointment effective 8/30/2021
Nicole Manfredo	District Teacher Assistant, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, 10 months – currently assigned to Richmond	Appointment effective 8/30/2021
Courtland Burdick	District Teacher Assistant, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, 10 months – currently assigned to Richmond	Appointment effective 8/30/2021
Grace Fitch	Gr. 7/8 ELA Teacher – Middle School	Resignation effective 7/22/2021
Nicole Weeks	Special Education Teacher (Severe & Profound Disabilities) – High School	Resignation effective 7/30/2021
Glen Whitfield	E-Learning Teacher – High School	Paternity leave starting approximately 10/5/2021 returning 1/3/2022
Lester Ahern	Boys Soccer, Head Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/23/2021 through 6/30/2022

---

# CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

---

## AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into by and between the **CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**, a regional school district of the State of Rhode Island, hereinafter called the District, and **MICHAEL COMELLA** hereinafter called the Assistant Superintendent, WITNESSETH AS FOLLOWS:

1. Purpose. This agreement sets forth the terms and conditions of employment by the District of the Assistant Superintendent and supersedes all previous agreements, written or oral.
2. The District shall employ Michael Comella to be the Assistant Superintendent of Schools of the Chariho Regional School District for a term extending from August 3, 2021 to June 30, 2023, inclusive, on the following terms and conditions, and the said COMELLA accepts said employment for said period on the same following terms and conditions.
3. Annual salary for 2021-2022 will be \$138,000.00 (pro-rated); for 2022-2023 annual salary will be 140,760.00.
4. The annual salary of the Assistant Superintendent thereafter shall be determined by the Superintendent, who shall advise the Assistant Superintendent at the time of the preparation of the annual budget as to the Assistant Superintendent salary for each succeeding year after 2022-2023, such salary not to be less than that of the previous year.
5. Benefits
  - a) Provided that the Assistant Superintendent is not medically disqualified, the Assistant Superintendent shall receive term life insurance coverage, with accidental death and dismemberment benefits, in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars.
  - b) All administrators shall receive health and dental insurance equal to provisions identified in the teachers' collective bargaining agreement including applicable cost shares and copays as amended time to time.
  - c) The Committee shall defend and indemnify the Assistant Superintendent against all suits brought against the Assistant Superintendent arising out of the Assistant Superintendent exercise of the duties of Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Provided, however, the Committee will not defend nor indemnify the Assistant


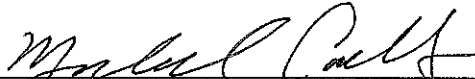
Superintendent for actions determined to be without the scope of the Assistant Superintendents actual or apparent authority as said Assistant Superintendent.

- d) The Assistant Superintendent shall receive the privilege of participation in tax-sheltered annuity programs as per the provisions of School Committee policy.
- e) The Assistant Superintendent shall be entitled, if needed, to 4.25 paid time off days per quarter for each twelve (12) months of employment; such leave to be cumulative to an unlimited number. Upon termination of employment by either party, the Assistant Superintendent will be entitled to sell back to the District up to, but not more than, thirty (30) accrued days at the per diem rate as calculated by the District.
- f) The Assistant Superintendent may be excused for jury duty, with pay, less compensation received for such duty.
- g) The Assistant Superintendent's work year is 224 days.
- h) The Assistant Superintendent shall receive twenty-five (25) non work days during each twelve months of employment, to be taken at a time approved by the Superintendent in that same twelve-month period. The Assistant Superintendent may carry over five (5) days per year with a maximum accumulation of thirty (30) days. Accumulated days may be sold back to the District upon separation of employment by either party at the then per diem rate of pay as calculated by the District.
- i) The District will provide dues payments for the Assistant Superintendent to AASA and RISSA and the Assistant Superintendent may attend one pre-approved national conference.
- j) The District will provide the Assistant Superintendent with reimbursement for all Superintendent preapproved business-related travel expenses; mileage will be reimbursed at the federal rate. Mileage expense shall not include home to work or work to home travel.
- k) A long-term disability insurance plan will be provided.
- l) In addition to retirement benefits provided by this agreement and state law, if the Assistant Superintendent retires within the first three (3) years of his eligibility to collect retirement under the State Retirement System during the term of this agreement or any extension thereof, the District will pay either \$1700 per year toward the Chariho's group health plan for family coverage or \$750 per year toward the Chariho's group health plan for individual coverage until the Assistant Superintendent reaches sixty-five years of age.

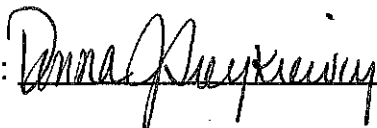
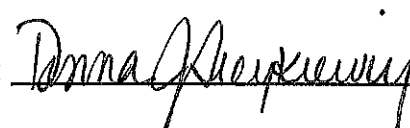
6. The Assistant Superintendent shall devote full and exclusive time and attention and best efforts in discharging the duties as Assistant Superintendent and shall perform the duties of Assistant Superintendent of Schools in and for the District as prescribed by the laws of the State of Rhode Island and by the rules and regulations made thereunder by the School Committee of the District, Commissioner of Education, and Rhode Island Board of Education.
7. Incapacity to serve. Should the Assistant Superintendent be unable to perform duties by reason of extended illness, accident, or other cause beyond the Assistant Superintendent's control, for a period of more than sixty (60) days beyond expiration of accumulated sick leave during any school year, the District may, at its discretion, make an appropriate deduction from the salary stipend, and if such disability continues for more than ninety (90) days, or if the nature of said disability is such as to make the performance of duties impossible, the Superintendent may, at their option, terminate the contract.
8. Evaluation. The Assistant Superintendent will receive a written evaluation of the Assistant Superintendent's performance, accompanied by related discussion if necessary, by May 1st of each year of this agreement.
9. Term of Agreement. This agreement shall be effective from August 3, 2021 through June 30, 2023 and shall not be altered except by a subsequent writing executed by the parties to this agreement.
10. Renewal. On May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year which occurs during the term hereof, this agreement shall automatically be extended for one (1) additional year if either party does not notify the other, in writing, by said May 1, of its intent to allow this agreement to expire at the end of the then current agreement.

This agreement is entered into this 3rd day of August 2021 at Richmond, Rhode Island.

CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

By:    
Gina Picard, Superintendent Michael Comella, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Date: 8/3/2021 Date: 8/3/2021

Witness:  Witness: 

Date: 8/3/2021 Date: 8/3/2021

June 19th 2021  
Gina Picard, Superintendent of Schools  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

Dear Superintendent Picard,

As an educator with 29 years of experience, I believe that I bring the expertise and knowledge necessary for the position of assistant superintendent and to serve the students, families, and the vibrant community of the Chariho Regional School District. My experiences in education have involved many levels of leadership, administration, supervision, curriculum, finance, and technology at both the school and district level and I have a proven record of success in improving student achievement. I have done this while developing and maintaining strong relationships with school communities, students, families, and central office staff.

I have had many experiences of increasing responsibility and leadership during my time in Providence Schools that I feel make me an ideal candidate for this position. As a teacher leader, I learned the value of collaboration and relationships. I was responsible for leading a department of teachers by providing coaching and support around classroom instruction and culture, as well as supporting the school administration in various instructional schoolwide initiatives. As an instructional specialist, I cultivated nurturing partnerships by supporting math teachers at the secondary level with the implementation of new math resources through embedded classroom coaching. I was also charged with monitoring district-wide data and helped lead the creation of a standards-based aligned math curriculum. My role also afforded me opportunities to write proposals and contracts for various services and resources to support the new curriculum.

As assistant principal at West Broadway Middle School, I learned the importance of advocating for students both academically and social-emotionally. I had the opportunity to work alongside a dynamic staff that I assisted in hiring and growing in their various roles in the school community. I supported students and partnered with families so that students could become successful learners and worked collaboratively with the school's support staff to coordinate services for students. I also facilitated a professional learning community with teacher leaders to increase their capacity as leaders.

As principal of Nathanael Greene Middle School, I led change in a variety of ways. As a school community, I created a team to lead the reorganization of the school into small learning communities to foster positive relationships with students and families and implemented an instructional model on personalized learning. As a result, we saw a dramatic increase of 25% growth in math achievement and were able to improve student growth in ELA by 10%. We also aligned supports to include the hiring deans of students and implementing restorative practices to reduce suspensions by 25%, lower chronic absenteeism from 25% to 22%, and improve the overall school climate. I also led the effort to create the school's first career and technical education program by securing an \$87,000 Champlain Grant that created opportunities for students to code, engage in a robotics program, and design projects in a maker space design.

As Director of Instructional Supports, I had the responsibility of leading our network team in providing embedded coaching supports to increase the instructional leadership capacity of our school leaders. This developing a diverse group of leaders who coached assistant principals, multi-lingual learner and special education coaches as well as content teacher leaders. As a key component of the turnaround plan in Providence, the network team also supports our school leaders with professional learning opportunities to continue to grow in the work. Most recently, I was asked to step into the role of Interim Secondary Transformation Officer to oversee the ten high schools and programs. In this role, I am coaching our school principals and continuing to support their growth as leaders of instruction.

Michael Comella

I have successfully mentored two aspiring principals who have now secured administrative positions in Rhode Island. As a recent graduate of the National Institute of School Leadership and the National Superintendents Academy, two rigorous programs designed to develop and grow leaders, as well as my doctoral work in educational leadership, and my experiences highlighted above, I believe that I possess the skills you are looking for as assistant superintendent.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my candidacy for the position.

Sincerely,

Michael Comella

# Michael L Comella, Ed.D.

Providence, Rhode Island 02908

## Summary

Seeking a position as assistant superintendent. Currently working as Interim School Transformation Officer in a mid-sized urban district with a diverse student population. Previously, Director of Instructional Supports and principal at a large urban middle school with experience working with a diverse student population. Graduate of the NISL Executive Development Program and National Superintendent Institute; National Board-Certified Teacher. Ability to build collaborative and create productive relationships among principals, teachers, students, and families. Record of improving instruction, closing achievement gaps, and increasing student achievement as an administrator, instructional specialist, and teacher. Extensive training in research-based teaching practices and core-curricula development and design. Instructional leader in professional development at both the school and district level.

## Education

**Doctorate in Educational Leadership**  
Johnson & Wales University

**May 2017**

**Masters of Education in School Administration**  
Providence College

**May 2000**

**Bachelor of Arts**  
Rhode Island College

**May 1992**

## Experience

### Director of Instructional Supports

**July 2020 - Present**

- Leading network team designed to provide leadership and instructional coaching to school-based leaders in an urban turnaround district. The network team has recorded over 3000 coaching sessions.
- Providing leadership and instructional coaching to network team members to increase their coaching capacity. This work supported the reduction of failure rates by 27% over the course of the school year.
- Developing and facilitating professional development for principals and assistant principals to increase their capacity in leadership, instruction, talent development, and school culture. 90% of the school leaders reported the PD to be effective or highly effective towards their learning and growth.
- Overseeing the implementation and facilitation of professional learning experiences for teacher to promote teacher voice and foster collaboration among teachers to share best practices across the district. 90% of participants reported the PD to be effective or highly effective towards their learning and growth.
- Coaching assistant principals and principals to grow them as instructional leaders in their practice.

### Principal, Nathanael Greene Middle School

**August 2017 – June 2020**

- Increased 7<sup>th</sup> grade math scores by 25% with a focus on teaching to grade-level standards and embedding intervention into core instruction
- Reduced suspensions over two years by 50% with a focus on restorative practices and utilization of deans of students
- Maintained school's rating with the state accountability system by closing the achievement gap for students with IEPs by 10% and increasing reading and writing scores.
- Addressed technology gap by implementing a 1:1 program so that every student has access to a Chromebook in each class.
- Reorganized school into small learning communities in order to increase school-to-home communication
- Led implementation of a personalized learning model to structure supports directly to individual student needs



# Michael L Comella, Ed.D.

Providence, Rhode Island 02908

- Awarded \$87,000 Champlin Grant to open a digital media lab and expand career and technical education opportunities in order to offer students additional pathways to high school CTE programs.
- Oversaw operations of the largest middle school in Providence with a budget of over \$600,000
- Mentor to aspiring principal through the Principal Residency Network
- Expanded afterschool learning opportunities for all students

## **Assistant Principal, West Broadway Middle School Providence Schools**

**July 2015 –July 2017**

- Led the creation and implementation of a Positive Behavior Implementation System framework to improve school culture and climate
- Designed a schoolwide schedule to meet the needs of all students with special emphasis on MLL's and students with special needs
- Mentor to aspiring principal through the Principal Residency Network
- Assisted the principal in analyzing, sharing, and using school and student achievement data to develop and implement the school improvement plan.
- Worked with principal to screen and hire staff for a variety of teaching and staff positions.
- Assumed responsibility for specific areas of administration and management assigned by the principal; used administrative and management practices to promote the efficient and effective school operations
- Established and maintained relationships with students, parents, and community organizations

## **Specialist for Office of Transformation and Innovation Providence Schools**

**March 2014 to July 2015**

- Special assignment as Acting Director of School Transformation
- Assisted Executive Director with implementation of zone initiatives
- Assisted principals and ILTs with SIP revisions to support progress monitoring
- Assisted with opening of new middle school

## **Mathematics Specialist; Providence Schools**

**July 2011 to March 2014**

- Facilitated implementation of mathematics intervention curriculum. Six out of seven middle schools closed achievement gap in math by at least 15%
- Collaborated in design and implementation of CCSS aligned core curriculum
- Provided coaching cycles to model appropriate instruction using intervention and core curricula
- Monitored intervention student data to insure successful ongoing program implementation
- Provided professional development to introduce the CCSS to elementary and secondary math teachers

## **Mathematics Teacher Leader; Del Sesto Middle School Providence Schools**

**July 2009 to July 2011**

## **Certifications**

National Board Certification 2025

Building Administrator K-12

Mathematics/History Middle/Secondary with Content ESL Endorsement

**Kristen Merritt**

---

**To:** Giuseppe Gencarelli  
**Subject:** RE: K TA position

---

**From:** Giuseppe Gencarelli  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:09 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** K TA position

Hello Kristen,

I would like to appoint Jessica Gerjes to one of the two Kindergarten 3-hour TA position. She will work in Tricia Abbott's Kindergarten classroom. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Giuseppe Gencarelli (Mr. G), Principal  
Hope Valley Elementary School  
School Specialty: Visual and Performing Arts  
Twitter: @ JoeGencarelli1  
Website: <https://hopevalley.chariho.k12.ri.us/>

Jessica Gerjes

Hope Valley, Rhode Island

June 1, 2021

Kristen Merritt , Human Resources Administrator  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

Dear Ms. Merritt,

As a highly skilled & competent individual with many years of work experience as part of a team as well as a team leader, I am writing to express my strong interest in working as a teacher assistant. I believe my experience and qualifications will make me a valuable addition.

I am extremely enthusiastic about working as a teacher assistant and I would welcome the opportunity to work with Chariho Schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Gerjes

# Jessica Gerjes

## Teacher Assistant

---

**Jessica Gerjes**

Hope Valley, Rhode Island 02832

---

### Skills

I have a great experience working with children and I easily work well in group settings. As a religious education director, I put together a school calendar for the year as well as a curriculum for each grade. Organized the teachers with their weekly activities and responsibilities. I have strong communication skills, for example I respond quickly and thoroughly to family's emails and phone calls. In doing all this I am an attentive listener to concerns and instruction.

---

### Experience

#### **St. Joseph's Church & Our Lady of Victory / Religious Education Director**

July, 2020- PRESENT, Hope Valley Rhode Island

Established two churches for religious education and oversaw 80 students with 7 teachers.

#### **Espiscopal Church /Teacher's Helper**

2010 - 2012, Oxford, Connecticut

I helped a few teachers organize the children for their lesson.

#### **TD Bank / Customer Service Representative**

2008- 2010, Milford Connecticut

Engaged with banking customers to assist with their banking and financial needs.

---

### Education

#### **University of Phoenix /Associate's Degree**

2009

Earned my Associate's Degree in Paraprofessional with Education

#### **Clarkstown North High School / High School Diploma**

1999

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Sharon Martin <sharon.martin@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** TA

Kristen,  
I would like to appoint Holly Burdett for the position of 3 hour TA at RES.  
Sincerely,  
Sharon Martin

Holly K. Burdett

West Kingston, RI 02892

May 24, 2021

Kristen Merritt, Human Resources Administrator  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

Dear Ms. Merritt,

I am excited to submit my application for a part-time teacher assistant position at either the Richmond, Hope Valley or Ashaway Elementary school. As the mother of both a middle school and Pre-K student within a neighboring public school district, I am well aware of the important role that teacher assistants play in supporting teachers, students and their families and am eager to devote time each day for this worthy purpose. I also have experience navigating my own children through the COVID-19 pandemic and the needs and challenges posed by both virtual and full, in-person learning—for both the student and the working family. As part of virtual learning requirements, I have experience assisting my children with participating in live Zoom sessions and providing academic and technological support within the SeeSaw application and many of the Google applications including Mail, Drive and Classroom. I am also familiar with the requirements for full, in-person learning including wearing face masks, social distancing, completing daily COVID assessment forms and staying within class pods, and our family is now finishing up a successful year of in-person learning. In addition, I am fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and can provide a copy of my record card upon request.

I hold a B.S. in Soil and Water Resources and have over thirty years of professional work experience educating farmers and rural residents on agricultural and environmental best management practices, including school age students through the Rhode Island 4-H Program, the Rhode Island Envirothon Program and more recently through an online certification program that I administered March 2016 – April 2021 for detecting anemia in sheep and goats associated with a gastrointestinal parasite (Research Associate, University of Rhode Island). The interest from agricultural and technical high school teachers to take students through this program increased considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist and enhance their virtual learning curricula. Between October 2020 and March 2021, I assisted three high school teachers and over 70 students from Connecticut, North Carolina and Michigan with obtaining their online certification in this specialized system. The training program includes watching required informational videos, completing an online assessment test and submitting a video demonstrating proper handling and technique on sheep or goats.

After obtaining my teacher assistant training certificate in June 2016, I served as a substitute teacher assistant in two elementary schools within the South Kingstown School District during fall 2016 and fall 2018, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Though brief due to the needs of my family and former career, this experience affirmed for me that helping students gain comprehension and proficiency in a variety of subjects and simply being there to help teachers and students get through their day is gratifying to me. I feel that this role and my skills, knowledge and desire to contribute is doubly important now in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe in the importance of education and have strengths in core math, science, and writing skills. Even more important, I also understand the challenges that both teachers and administrators, as well as students and working families face and am confident that I can be of help and service at this critical time. Having grown up on a family dairy farm in neighboring West Kingston, I have several friends and extended family that attended the Chariho Regional School District and am familiar with

Holly Burdett

the community. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully Yours,

Holly K. Burdett

# Holly Kenyon Burdett

West Kingston, Rhode Island 02892

## Education

---

### University of Rhode Island

Kingston, Rhode Island

Bachelor of Science

**Major:** Soil and Water Resources

**GPA:** 3.810

**Credit Hours:** 133

Attended September 1986 to December 1990

Degree conferred December 1990

### Transcript

(1.3MB)

## Experience

---

### University of Rhode Island, Dept. Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science      Aug 2013 - Apr 2021

Research Associate I

Kingston, Rhode Island

- Assisted with the development and delivery of outreach and education programs, training workshops, videos, publications, outreach materials, and a website and Facebook page addressing integrated small ruminant parasite control. Developed and administered evaluation tools including pre and post surveys to enhance program delivery and track program effectiveness and target audience behavior change. Prepared annual and final reports to granting agencies.
- Administered the first online training program for FAMACHA® System Certification which estimates the level of anemia in small ruminants associated with barber pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) infection. Coordinated and conducted field days on alternative methods for small ruminant parasite control (URI Peckham Farm, July 2015, July 2016, July 2017).
- Developed and maintained the Northeast Small Ruminant Parasite Control Webpage, <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/> using WordPress and the URI Small Ruminant Parasite Control Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/urisrpc/>. Utilized Microsoft Office programs to develop, deliver and track program delivery including PowerPoint, Access, Excel, and Publisher. Target audiences include: farmers, veterinarians, agricultural service providers, 4-H Program members, college students, and agricultural high school teachers and their students.
- Coordinated and collaborated with other land grant university and Extension colleagues, undergraduate and graduate students, and agricultural organizations and agencies throughout the northeast region and country to develop and deliver programs.

**Reason for leaving:** I recently resigned this position after twenty plus years to spend more time caring for my family, particularly due to circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been interested in pursuing employment as a teacher assistant since June 2016 and can now focus on this wish as my youngest son will be entering Kindergarten in September 2021.

**Supervisor:** Katherine Petersson, PhD (401-874-2917)

**Experience Type:** Other, Part-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

### University of Rhode Island, Dept. Natural Resources Science

Nov 2000 - Jul 2013



Research Associate I  
Kingston, Rhode Island

- Developed and delivered outreach and education programs, training workshops, publications, and websites addressing agricultural and environmental best management practices. Developed and administered evaluation tools including pre and post surveys and needs assessments to enhance program delivery and track program effectiveness and target audience behavior change. Prepared quarterly, annual and final reports to granting agencies.
- Key program development and delivery included: a two-day nutrient management training course for agricultural service providers, Jan 2012; USDA conservation planning workshop series, Sept-Nov 2012; multiple two-hour workshops on livestock manure management, sustainable landscaping and private well water testing and protection, 2000-2013; Livestock Manure Management Self-assessment Factsheet series and training program, 2005-2010; Rhode Island Envirothon Program training workshops, 2000-2005.
- Responsible for planning, installation and maintenance of demonstration sites on private and public land. Examples include turfgrass sod farm pilot sites to evaluate objective methods for guiding nitrogen fertilization, April 2010-Sept 2012; manure and pasture management practices at URI Peckham Farm, March 2010-Nov 2013; and a demonstration rain garden, Town of North Kingstown, May 2005.
- Developed and maintained URI Cooperative Extension websites using Macromedia Dreamweaver and Fireworks MX. Utilized Microsoft Office programs to develop, deliver and track program delivery including PowerPoint, Access, Excel, and Publisher.
- Target audiences included: farmers, landowners, agricultural service providers, and rural residents. Training was also conducted with URI students, Rhode Island 4-H Program members, URI Master Gardeners, Realtors, and high school students and teachers. Coordinated with state and federal agencies, local officials and organizations, volunteers, and the media; and supervised students to implement Extension program activities.

**Reason for leaving:** I left this department to pursue other grant funded projects and interests within the University of Rhode Island Dept. Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science. Full-time Nov 2000-Jan 2008; part-time Jan 2008-July 2013.

**Supervisor:** Arthur J. Gold, PhD ((401) 874-2903)

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time  
It is **OK** to contact this employer

### Linden Tree Dairy Farm

Aug 1996 - Oct 2000

Herdsman

West Kingston, Rhode Island

- A principal operator on family farm responsible for the care and management of a 60 cow dairy herd with 35 young stock and 67 acres of pasture and cropland. Accomplishments included increased milk production, improved breeding, and increased farm profitability.
- Herd management duties included: milking, balancing feed rations, administering breeding program and veterinary care for dairy herd; and equipment and facilities maintenance. Assisted with management of rotational grazing, and planting and harvest of silage corn, grass/legume hay and silage, small grain forages, and straw.

**Reason for leaving:** We sold our milking herd in October 2000. Part-time August 1996 to December 1997; full-time Jan 1998 to Oct 2000.

**Supervisor:** Frederick (deceased) and Margaret Kenyon (401-783-2813)

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time  
It is **OK** to contact this employer

## **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Jan 1991 - Dec 1997

Soil Conservationist

Warwick, Rhode Island

- Provided detailed, one-on-one technical assistance to develop conservation plans and practices with farmers, landowners and land managers. Plans addressed the reduction of soil erosion and runoff, and management of livestock manure and waste, irrigation, nutrients, and plant pests on pastures, cropland, and farmsteads.
- Assisted with the survey, design, and construction of conservation practices. Coordinated and assisted with acquisition of necessary permits with landowners and state and federal agencies.
- Served as RI NRCS Grazing and Grassland Specialist, 1995–1997.

Soil Conservation Technician, May to August 1988.

Student Trainee Soil Conservationist, May to August 1989 and 1990.

**Reason for leaving:** I left this position to pursue full time employment on my family dairy farm.

Full-time Jan 1991 to July 1996. Part-time August 1996 to December 1997.

**Supervisor:** Joseph A. Bachand (RI) and Vicky Drew (now in VT) (401-828-1300 (RI); 802-951-6796 (VT))

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time

It is OK to contact this employer

## ***Rhode Island Dairy Farms Cooperative***

Associate Member, Oct. 2003 – Aug. 2007; Interim Vice President, April 2001 – Oct. 2003.

Co-founder of a RI dairy farmer marketing cooperative that produces and markets value-added products including Rhody Fresh Milk. Served as assistant to the Secretary and Executive Director writing meeting minutes, correspondence and maintaining the initial website. Assisted with the development of a business and marketing plan and developed and maintained a set of by-laws.

## ***Awards and Honors***

- Outstanding Community Partner with Rhode Island Department of Health, 01/08
- Partner of the Year, Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, 09/06.
- Outstanding Service to the Rhode Island Envirothon, 11/05.
- University of Rhode Island Honorary Lifetime Member Master Gardener Association, 09/05.
- Outstanding Achievement as a Producer of High Quality Milk, Agri-Mark Dairy Cooperative, 1997.
- Certificate of Merit, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly USDA Soil Conservation Service), 11/90, 11/91, 12/92, 12/93, 12/94.
- Distinguished Service Award, Southern Rhode Island Conservation District, 10/94.

## ***Journal Articles***

Guillard, K., Fitzpatrick, R.J.M., Burdett, H. Can Frequent Measurement of Normalized Difference Vegetative Index and Soil Nitrate Guide Nitrogen Fertilization of Kentucky Bluegrass Sod? Crop Science. 56:827–836. March-April 2016.  
doi:10.2135/cropsci2015.06.0347

Guillard, K., Fitzpatrick, R.J.M., Burdett, H. Matching Subjective Assessments of Sod Strength to Quantitative Measurements of Peak Shear Force with Predominately Kentucky Bluegrass Sod. Hort Science. VOL. 50(8):1248–1251. August 2015.

## **Kristen Merritt**

---

**From:** Sharon Martin <sharon.martin@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** TA

Kristen,  
I would like to appoint Nicole Manfredo for the position of 3 hour TA at RES.  
Sincerely,  
Sharon Martin

April 14, 2021

Human Resources Director:

In a supporting role as an educator, I pledge my commitment to aid in the process of meeting individual learning needs of students in an effort to reach their full potential. The anticipated setbacks in student achievement, as a result of the Covid Pandemic, has inspired me to offer my assistance to educators and students in this time of crisis.

As an executive, manager and business owner, integrity, responsibility, respect, dedication and loyalty are some of the top qualities I value most. Personally and professionally, I am committed to putting my best foot forward as a representative of your organization and its core principles.

With many years of experience working in professional roles, and as a mother, I would like to utilize my compassion, knowledge and skills to join an exceptional team of educators in helping our community's youth become the best and brightest among our future nation.

Sincerely yours,

Nicole Manfredo

**NICOLE MANFREDO**

CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

**OBJECTIVE AND SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Serve in a supporting role as a Teacher Assistant to aid in the process of student achievement. Strong leadership, management, communication, creative, analytical/logical thinking skills as well as highly technical and computer literate.

**EXPERIENCE****PRESIDENT, GEMELLI BISTRO, LLC, CHARLESTOWN, RI - 2016-PRESENT**

- Experience meeting the needs of customers by providing exceptional quality cuisine and customer experience in a fast-paced environment with drive-thru window service.
- Proficient in the use of social media, and html coding of websites using Word Press.
- Established relationships with the community, industry professionals and chambers of commerce to maximize networking potential.
- Conduct all day to day operations including inventory management, food preparation and safety, menu design, financial reports, marketing and customer service efforts.

**SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR, SOUTH COUNTY HOSPITAL, WAKEFIELD, RI - 2006-2016**

- Managed four major fundraising events (Black Tie Gala/Auction, 2 Golf Tournaments and a 5K Road Race) that accounted for over \$500,000 in annual revenue for a non-profit healthcare system.
- Facilitated donor receptions for Capital Campaign and spearheaded an Employee Campaign.
- Presided over volunteer committees and cultivated major philanthropic supporters.
- Coordinated with multiple departments to accomplish goals.
- Presented and implemented new ideas that resulted in increased revenue.
- Held seats on various department and employee committees and councils.
- Proficient in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and The Raiser's Edge Database and Event Module.

**EXECUTIVE HOST, MOHEGAN SUN CASINO, UNCASVILLE, CT - 2002-2006**

- Catered to the needs of high level players by coordinating travel, transportation, food, lodging accommodations.
- Coordinated cash advances and markers for high level players on the gaming floor.
- Settled player point disputes at the gaming tables and slots.
- Accessed player accounts to issue credits, comps, concert tickets, random acts of kindness, etc...
- Cultivated relationships to develop high levels of play that resulted in increased revenue.

**VIDEO PRODUCER, COX MEDIA, WARWICK, RI - 1996-2002**

- Supported the Cable Advertising Sales Team by producing :30 second video commercials for local business owners to be broadcast on various cable networks.
- Interviewed clients to identify their uniqueness.
- Brainstormed creative scripts and storyboards to highlight what set them apart from their competition.
- Conducted on-location video shoots complete with lighting and audio.
- Proficient in both analog and digital editing formats. Worked with Adobe After Effects, Photoshop, Illustrator, Media 100 and Final Cut Pro.

**EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES**

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

BA Communications 1996

Institute for Labor Studies and Research, Cranston, RI

Teacher Assistant Certification -2021

S.T.O.P. Server Training On Premises Certification -2019

ServSafe Food Safety Certification-2020

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Sharon Martin <sharon.martin@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 3:51 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** TA

Kristen,  
I would like to appoint Courtland Burdick for the position of 3 hour TA at RES.  
Sincerely,  
Sharon Martin

Dear employer,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the Paraprofessional position in your Chariho Regional school district. After reviewing your job description, it's clear that you're looking for a candidate that is extremely familiar with the responsibilities associated with the role, and can perform them confidently. Given these requirements, I am certain that I have the necessary skills to successfully do the job adeptly and perform above expectations.

I am a high school graduate (3.3 GPA, in 2017 from Chariho) who has consistently been praised as hard-working by my teachers and managers. During the course of my academic career, I also managed to babysit my nephews and nieces and accrue nearly 3 years of work experience at Dunkin' Donuts. My role at Dunkin' Donuts was crew member, where I learned valuable professional skills such as food preparation, food sanitation, safety, and customer satisfaction. Also, I was a Youth Development Professional at Tower Street School for the before and after school enrichment program (BASE Program) for one year before being hired as the co manager of the program. Whether working on academic, extracurricular, or professional projects, I apply proven communication, teamwork, and creative thinking skills, which I hope to leverage into the Paraprofessional position in the Chariho regional school district.

I am currently working for the YMCA for a before and after school program similar to the one I had managed that closed down April of 2020 due to COVID and building issues.

After reviewing my profile, I hope you will agree that I am the type of committed, hardworking, and fun, yet professional candidate you are looking for. I look forward to elaborating on how my specific skills and abilities will benefit everyone around me. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ or via email at \_\_\_\_\_ to arrange for a convenient meeting time.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Courtland Burdick

# Courtland Danielle Burdick

Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

## ***Education***

---

### **Charlho Area Career and Technical Center**

Wood River Junction , Rhode Island

**GPA:** 3.300

Attended August 2013 to June 2017

Degree conferred June 2017

## ***Experience***

---

### **Charlho Area Career and Technical Center**

Jan 2017 - Jun 2017

Teacher's Assistant in training

Wood River Junction, Rhode Island

When serving my senior year at Charlho High school, and second year in the Early Childhood/ Elementary Educational program, Charlho added an extension with a door, and two-way mirror that lead into a pre-school. The pre-school is ran by Mrs. Kelly and her teacher assistant, Mrs. Paine. During class time, students in the Early Childhood/ Elementary Educational program were allowed and encouraged to go into the pre-school to work with the teachers, and also one on one with the children. Different classroom activities included the morning rug time, station rotations, one on one time with the teachers when needed, going outside to the playground, lunch/snack time, reading time, etc. Each time of the day included a different activity. For example, going into the pre-school at the beginning of the class usually meant that whoever went, would be involved in the morning rug group. Depending on what time someone went into the pre-school usually determined which activity they would be a part of. This wasn't a job, but more of a learning experience in the field of becoming a Teacher's Assistant.

**Reason for leaving:** This wasn't a job, and I didn't chose to leave. The reason for my absence in the field is because I graduated high school and can no longer attend that level of education. This was a volunteer/ learning experience to be able to work in a classroom setting with teachers and students to be able to learn what it is like to be a teacher's assistant.

**Supervisor:** Mrs. Kelly (401-364-7778)

**Experience Type:** Other, Part-time

It is OK to contact this employer

## ***A little bit about me***

---

My name is Courtland, or Courtney for short. Some of my interests include puzzles, board games, art, trivia, writing, cooking, and child care. Puzzles are exciting, and they help me to be a better analytical thinker with problem solving skills. Board games are exciting and unpredictable, ranging from time-consuming Monopoly to quick and easy gold fish, from brain-twisting scrabble to strategic connect 4. They are a good way to get family and friends together to be able to enjoy time with one another. Continuously, art has always been an interest of mine. Whether it's drawing, painting, coloring, molding, or doodling, art always seems to catch my attention. My favorite is when one of my nephews or nieces scribbles on a piece of construction paper and then spends 30 minutes explaining to me how the countless lines are a peaceful mommy cow playing with her baby. It's beautiful how just about anything could be considered art. In regards to trivia, I like to play trivia crack on my phone with friends. There are a number of different categories that a random question is



generated from and by playing I'm able to learn new things. Next, attention is brought to my interest of writing. If I wasn't able to express my days, good and bad, through writing I'm not sure where I'd be. I value it, and appreciate how words are able to transfer from my brain, to my hands, and into reality flowing as smoothly as a constant river. Being able to write is one of the key components to life as it helps people communicate with one another. Cooking is also another one of my many interests. As a result, not only am I able to indulge in the delicious foods that are created, I also am able to understand improvisation, and can affectively manage time sensitive projects. Burnt hamburgers don't always taste the best. Lastly, according to my listed interests: child care. Being an aunt to 9 nephews and nieces and counting means that I get to be able to be a part of every development step they make. Whether it's standing, spelling their name correctly for the first time, or being able to ride their bike without training wheels. Their ages vary from in the womb and expecting, to almost 17 years of age. I have been an aunt since the age of 2. This being said, I was able to grow up with some of them, and others I am being able to watch grow up. I enjoy being able to babysit the younger ones, and seeing them so happy to be able to spend time with me as well. I always try to steer them in the right directions, and bring them the happiness and support that they all need and deserve. I am able to recognize that no two children, nor adults are the same and that children might reach the same milestones, but at different parts of their lives. In high school I majored in the Early Childhood/Elementary CTC program. I graduated the spring of 2017 with my high school diploma, as well as a Honor Society certificate, a Teacher's Assistant certificate, RIELDS completion certificate, and NOCTI completion certificate. I worked hard through my classes, paid attention, took the time, and enjoyed every second of it all. In conclusion, thank you for taking the time to get to know me a little better than you before reading this informational writing piece.

## Chariho Regional School District Superintendent's Interview Report

Name: Matthew Clarke Date of Interview: 07/22/2021  
Position: Engineering, Drafting & Design Teacher FTE: 1.0  
Building: CTC Starting Date: 08/30/2021

Individuals Present for Interview: Gina Picard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Years of Full-Time Public-School Teaching Experience in RI: 0

Years of Military Experience: 0

Years of Private School/Out-of-State Experience/Work Exp: 27

Currently Tenured in Another RI District: No

Decision: Recommended ☒ Not Recommended ☐

Salary Step Placement Step 12 (\$89,781)

Master's Degree in Area Directly Related to  
Posted Position No

Subject Matter Training Compensation Yes

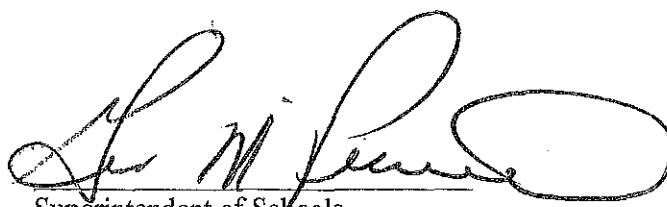
Have you been a member and contributed to the RI retirement system? Yes No

### Employment Notes:

1. Must complete Reflective Practitioner course by May 1, 2023.
2. Offer of employment is contingent upon submission of all required application materials, including but not limited to a criminal background investigation with no disqualifying information, completion of Chariho, state and federal forms; RI Department of Health requirements, and statements of service (if applicable) by 08/27/2021.

### Other Items Discussed:

1. New Teacher Orientation (Aug. 26)
2. Professional Development (Aug. 31-Sept. 1)
3. Orientation Day (Aug. 30)
4. 1:1 Initiative
5. Salary and Health Benefits
6. 10-day Rule (if applicable)

  
Superintendent of Schools

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Gerald Auth  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 8:07 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Cc:** Andrea Spas; Jean Bradanini; Martha Dion; Susie Scanapieco  
**Subject:** Engineering, Drafting, & Design Interview  
**Attachments:** Candidate Selection Scoring Rubric 3.0 Drafting & Design.docx

Morning Kristen,

On Tuesday July 13 and July 16 interviews were held for the Engineering, Drafting and Design position at CHARIHotech. The interview team consisted of the following individuals:

Gerry Auth - admin  
Andrea Spas - admin  
Jean Bradanini - admin  
Martha Dion – union, parent, teacher  
Susie Scanapieco – SIT team member

The committee would like to recommend **Matthew Clarke** for the position. I will deliver a packet with the interview materials this morning.

Thank you,  
-Gerry

June 21, 2021

Matthew J. Clarke

Ashaway, RI 02804

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in response to the "Engineering, Drafting & Design CAD Operator Teacher" position at Chariho Career and Technical Center. Currently employed as a lead Designer for the furniture division of W.B. Mason, Inc., I am responsible for large-scale and strategic accounts, bid package development, Designer standards and training company-wide (currently over 50 locations). Past experience includes 5 years as the Technical Drawing Educator for Attleboro High School CTE, and sole proprietor of MJ Clarke Design, specializing in custom home design. I possess 27 years of professional drafting and design experience spanning numerous design fields and hold 2 post-secondary degrees: A B.S. in Physical Education from the University of Rhode Island (1999) and an A.S. in Architectural Design Technology from Three Rivers Community College (2010). Looking beyond all of the above "statistics", here is a taste of who I am, and why I believe I am an ideal candidate for this position.

I am intelligent, creative, flexible and driven. I learn new things quickly and develop ways to utilize them precisely and efficiently, then break them down and teach others how to do it. I am someone who can think, problem solve, receive criticism and refine. I am someone who is a loyal teammate, as well as someone who can lead (skills I developed while being an NCAA athlete). I am a breed of person that is concerned about the quality of success, not just the quantity of successes.

My profound interest in design and "how things work" led to my decision to pursue teaching. During my time at Attleboro High School, I was able to share the different skills and experiences I have acquired throughout my career, renewing a program that was aging in both methodology and application. This was done by teaching students current and relevant software programs, while incorporating technology into instruction methods. In creating curriculum utilizing virtual classroom lessons (way back in 2009), the students were able to maximize time spent during class to utilize available technologies, while putting newly learned knowledge into practice. Through numerous projects ranging in complexity, length and medium, students learned the ability to perform efficiently and precisely while meeting aggressive, yet realistic time constraints.

As a life-long resident of the district with family roots that span centuries, I have great pride in the Chariho district and have been looking forward to the opportunity to work here as an Educator. I believe that, coupled with my expertise, experience and desire to remain on the forefront of technology, make me a desirable candidate for this position. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Matthew J. Clarke

# Matthew Joseph Clarke

Ashaway, Rhode Island 02804

## Education

---

### **Chariho Regional High School**

Wood River Junction, Rhode Island

Attended September 1990 to June 1994

Degree conferred June 1994

### **University of Rhode Island**

Kingston, Rhode Island

Bachelor of Science

**Major:** Physical Education

**GPA:** 2.930

**Credit Hours:** 135

Attended September 1994 to May 1999

Degree conferred May 1999

**Transcript**

(included)

### **Three Rivers Community-Technical College**

Norwich, Connecticut

Associate of Science

**Major:** Architectural Design Technology

**GPA:** 3.870

**Credit Hours:** 40

Attended September 2001 to July 2010

Degree conferred August 2010

**Transcript**

(included)

## Experience

---

### **W.B. Mason, Inc.**

Aug 2017 - Present

Lead Designer

Cranston, RI

Space planning and specifications using CET Designer and/or AutoCAD with CAP Studio software.

Knowledge of multiple modular, freestanding and wood casegood furniture lines.

Preparation of plan views, 3-D wireframe & installation drawings, photo-realistic color renderings.

IT Support for Design software installation, standards, templates and user support.

Lead designer for strategic and large scale projects requiring high levels of expertise, coordination and detail.

**Supervisor:** Ed Pires, Eric Hahn ((888) 926-4183)

**Experience Type:** Other, Full-time

It is OK to contact this employer

### **MJ Clarke Design**

Jan 2001 - Dec 2019

Owner/Proprietor

Hope Valley, RI

MJ Clarke Design is a custom home design & space planning company I started part-time in 2001. It became a full-time business in 2005, and remained full-time until the end of 2007. Since then, it has stepped back to part-time, in conjunction with my full-time teaching position. My duties are as follows:

- Meeting with potential clients to develop a design program specific to their needs, style of choice, budget and timeline.
- Development and revision of a complete set of Working Architectural Documents for the purpose of constructing custom built homes ranging between 2,000 - 5,000 square feet on average.
- Communication between the client(s), contractor, engineers, town officials and myself in keeping with current regulations, cost of construction, design revisions and scheduling throughout the design & construction of the building.
- Development and upkeep of company's accounting and advertising needs.

**Reason for leaving:** Phased out company due to other full-time work and to pursue other endeavors.

**Supervisor:** Matthew Clarke (proprietor) ((401) 714-6601)

**Experience Type:** Other, Part-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

---

### **Attleboro High School**

Sep 2007 - Jun 2012

Teacher

Attleboro, MA

Teacher of Drafting & Design program at Attleboro High School, which is a Comprehensive Career & Technical High School. My duties have included the following:

- Development & execution of curricula for five elective drafting/design courses, and one Exploratory class offered to grade 9 students for exploring the Career & Technical offerings.
- Program & Departmental Professional Development on implementing technologies into the classroom, and support for new district-wide online grading & student tracking system.

**Reason for leaving:** Length of commute and distance from community prohibited the involvement I desired.

**Supervisor:** Susan Edmonds ((508) 222-5150)

**Experience Type:** Public School, Full-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

---

### **Warwick Area Career & Technical Center**

Oct 2004 - Jan 2005

Interim Teacher

Warwick, RI

My position at the Warwick Area Career & Technical Center was a long-term substitute position for the Drafting/CADD instructor who had surgery, and had taken a temporary leave of absence for recovery. My duties included the following:

- Deployment of program curricula for three levels of Drafting courses, including teaching lessons, grading assignments & other assessments, and general assistance with projects being worked on by students.
- Weekly meetings with the current teacher for keeping up-to-date on student progress, lessons and grading procedures.

**Reason for leaving:** Long-Term Substitute Position while permanent teacher out on medical leave of absence. Position ended when he returned.

**Supervisor:** (director) & John Ficarra (teacher) ((401) 734-3150)

**Experience Type:** Public School, Full-time  
It is **OK** to contact this employer

## ***Awards, Interests & Affiliations***

---

### **AWARDS:**

1994 Vocational Certificate of Completion: Drafting:  
Completed a 3-year vocational training program in the field of Drafting.

1994 RI VICA (Skills USA) State Champion: Architectural Drafting:  
Competed at school, state and national level in Architectural Drafting, placing first at both school and state levels, and 13th nationally.

NCAA Division IA Athletics: 4 year letter.  
Competed for the University of Rhode Island Baseball program from 1995-1999, serving as a starting player 1996-1999 and Captain in 1999. Currently a member of The URI Baseball Alumni Association.

### **INTERESTS/AFFILIATIONS:**

Architecture: I have traveled to Europe twice while attending the Three Rivers Community College Architecture program, to experience and study Architecture abroad.

Music: Enjoy playing drums/percussion, bass & guitar and currently play with the worship team at New Hope Chapel in Richmond, RI.

RECEIVED JUL 22 2021

Grace Fitch

East Greenwich, RI 02818

22 July 2021

Kristen Merritt  
Chariho Regional Middle School  
455B Switch Rd  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894

Dear Ms. Merritt, Mr. Zenion, and Mrs. Florenz,

Please accept this letter as notice that I will be resigning from the Gr. 7/8 ELA Teacher 1.0 FTE at the middle school to begin with the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

I want to thank you all dearly and truly for the immense support you have shown me throughout this past school year. I was honored to be given the opportunity to teach within your school walls, to build relationships with students and staff, as well as to be involved in the school's extracurriculars and teams. I look upon Chariho with fond memories as I not only enjoyed my time in the established environment but greatly developed my craft alongside my colleagues and offered professional development. To leave is certainly bittersweet.

Please let me know of any way I may wrap up my duties and help during this transition. I wish Chariho continual success, and I hope to stay in touch with the school through continual education networks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Fitch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Grace Fitch



7/23/21

Dear Superintendent Picard,

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation from my position as High School Special Educator, Severe & Profound Disabilities. My last day of employment will be July 30, 2021; hopefully making it easier for the hiring process to begin.

I recently received an offer to serve as the Director of Special Education for Hope Academy Charter School, and after careful consideration I believe that this opportunity is too exciting for me to decline.

It has been a pleasure working with the Chariho team over the last eight years. Some of the highlights of my career were building relationships with families, seeing my student's succeed in a variety of ways, collaborating with a dynamic and wonderful team, and being part of a community that I will always hold close to my heart. This transition will be very difficult, saying goodbye to some very close friends, the staff that have helped me through all the ups and downs that come along with being a special educator, and especially challenging to no longer work with a good team leader and mentor, Jennifer Durkin. Jenn has been a wonderful support person for me, and I owe a lot of gratitude to her; always making time to assist me in becoming a better educator and a future administrator. I would also like to share that my TA for eight years, Pam Chatell, has been an amazing coworker. She is extremely knowledgeable and talented in her work with students with disabilities, and also a technology wiz. I will deeply miss my work with Pam. In addition, Cheryl Lightfritz and Keith Cronin, my colleagues at the high school, have been my rocks and teammates through all of these years. They have supported me in ways that helped me grow as a special educator and as well as a person; together I believe we have all helped develop a stronger ADL program within the high school.

To help make this transition go smoothly, I want to make myself available to best support my replacement with this transition, to be accessible and answer any questions he or she might have. I will also make certain that all of the families on my caseload are well informed of this change and news. Lastly, I will turn in my computer and have all of my personal things in the classroom removed by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

I wish you and the staff at Chariho all the best, and I look forward to staying in touch with you all. As need be, please feel free to email me at  
or by phone at

Sincerely,

Nicole Weeks

RECEIVED JUL 19 2021

July 16<sup>th</sup> 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

My wife and I are very excited to welcome our first child this fall. Therefore, in accordance with Article 17, Section C of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, I am writing to provide you with notice that beginning on or around October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, unless otherwise directed by our doctor, I will be taking paternity leave. This leave will not extend for longer than 13 weeks and will be used during the 2021-2022 school year. I will have enough PTO/APTO days to cover the time. I will be returning to work on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Glen Whitfield  
CHS E-Learning Instructor



## Chariho Regional School District Office of the Human Resources Administrator

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

*All Kids...All of the Time*



KRISTEN MERRITT  
Human Resources Administrator

LINDA D. LYALL  
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
JUL 29 2021

TO: Gina Picard  
FROM: Kristen Merritt  
DATE: July 29, 2021  
SUBJECT: Staff Update

**Coach appointments  
pending season approved by  
RILL/State of RI**

Name	Position	Reason
Susan Szura	Teacher Assistant – Middle School	Retirement effective 8/29/2021
Melissa Timmann	District Teacher Assistant – currently assigned to Richmond	Resignation effective 7/26/2021
Megan Gavin	District Teacher Assistant – currently assigned to Hope Valley	Resignation effective 7/28/2021
Dawn Haynes	Gr. 7/8 Math Teacher – Middle School	Resignation effective 8/2/2021
Jennifer Lynn	ESSER Credit Recovery Coordinator – High School	Appointment effective 8/16-8/27/2021
Vincent Levcowich	ESSER ELA Credit Recovery Facilitator- High School	Appointment effective 8/16-8/27/2021
Keith Moreau	ESSER ELA Credit Recovery Facilitator- High School	Appointment effective 8/16-8/27/2021
Betsy Alvarez	ESSER History Credit Recovery Facilitator – High School	Appointment effective 8/16-8/27/2021
Melynda Barrette	ESSER History Credit Recovery Facilitator – High School	Appointment effective 8/16-8/27/2021
Daniel LaBelle Jr	Girls Basketball, Head Coach – High School	Appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Sarah Doyon	Field Hockey, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Marc Fain	Girls Tennis, Head Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022

William Haberek	Boys Cross Country, Head Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
William Haberek	Indoor Boys/Girls Track, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
William Haberek	Boys Track, Head Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Jessica Hannegan	Girls Soccer, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Jessica Hannegan	Girls Lacrosse, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Joshua Silva	Football, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Michael (Scotty) McGuire	Girls Soccer, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Anthony Pezzullo	Girls Soccer, Assistant Coach – Middle School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022
Ryan Kanaczet	Boys Soccer, Head Coach – Middle School	Re-appointment effective 7/28/2021 through 6/30/2022

RECEIVED JUL 27 2021

July 27, 2021

This letter is to inform you of my intention to retire as a teaching assistant at Charho Middle School as of August 29, 2021.

Susan J. Szura

RECEIVED JUL 29 2021

7/29/2021

Dear Kristen Merrit,

Please accept this letter as a formal notification that I am resigning from my full time teaching assistant position with the Chariho Regional School District as of Monday 7/26/2021.

I would like to remain on the Chariho sub list if possible.

Thank you,  
Melissa Timmann  
Employee number 5143

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Megan Gavin <megan.gavin@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 7:00 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt

Kristen,

I regret to inform you, that I am hereby tendering my resignation as a Teaching Assistant for the district. I have been unable to secure child care for my infant son for the upcoming year.

Thank you for all of the accommodations you have extended me in the last school year. I hope to return to the district in some capacity in the future.

I have a district issued laptop which I will return to the technology department as soon as possible.

Megan Gavin

---

**From:** Kristen Merritt <Kristen.Merritt@Chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2021 1:14:59 PM  
**To:** All.Support Staff <All.SupportStaff@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Cc:** SchoolAdministrators <SchoolAdministrators@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Subject:** Support Staff Postings (2)

Click link below for posting for 2021-2022:  
<https://forms.gle/fQFkJMAZZHXnMmWF8>

Click link below for a Summer 2021 posting:  
<https://forms.gle/X11FjEzFA47fRKjG6>

Please submit form by 9:00 AM, Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

*Kristen Merritt*  
Human Resources Administrator  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
401-364-3260 x 2029

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Dawn Haynes  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:18 AM  
**To:** Gina Picard  
**Cc:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** Resignation

Good Morning,

I am writing this email to inform you I will be resigning from my position as grade 7/8 math teacher at the Chariho Middle School as of Monday, August 2, 2021.

Thank you,

Dawn Haynes  
Chariho Middle School  
Math Grade 7/8 Orange

*Give and never expect. Receive and never forget.*



## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Michael Shiels  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Cc:** Andrea Spas  
**Subject:** coaching candidate

Hi Kristen,

I would like to recommend Dan LaBelle Jr. for the position of High School Girls Basketball Head Coach. Andrea and I interviewed Dan and that information from the interview will be sent to you. I did speak to his references and all approve as well. Thank you.

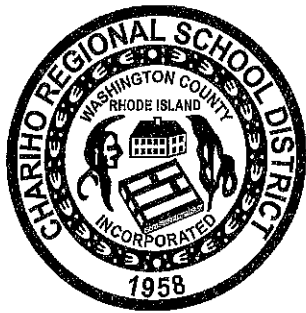
Dan LaBelle

Sunday July 18, 2021

To Chariho Regional School District,

I am very excited to be applying for the head girls basketball coaching job at Chariho High School. Sports have been a part of my life ever since I was able to play. Both baseball and basketball were a huge part of my life growing up and have taught me countless life lessons. Learning how to deal with different personalities such as different coaches and teammates has set me up better in my everyday life to be able to adapt and get along with anybody in order to accomplish a task. Sports have also taught me how leadership is extremely important. Not only with the words that an individual says, but more importantly by their actions. I wasn't always a great leader throughout my years of playing sports, but as I got older and had the ability to learn from others, it has put me in the position I am in today where I feel like I can be a great role model to young people. I not only want to help young people in their sport, but more importantly off of the court, as these relationships that I would be able to build would be irreplaceable. Many great coaches have made me the person that I am today and a few in particular have motivated me to want to give back and help the generation after me. I know what a great coach can do for a young individual and I want to have the ability to do the same. Thank you for taking the time to read both my application and cover letter!

Best, Dan LaBelle



**Chariho Regional School District**  
**Office of the Human Resources Administrator**

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894



KRISTEN MERRITT  
Human Resources Administrator

LINDA D. LYALL  
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

*All Kids...All of the Time*

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
AUG - 6 2021

TO: Gina Picard  
FROM: Kristen Merritt  
DATE: August 6, 2021  
SUBJECT: Staff Update

**Coach appointments  
pending season approved by  
RIIL/State of RI**

Name	Position	Reason
Debbi Miceli	Gr. 4 Teacher – Charlestown	Retirement effective 8/5/2021
Josie Chaves	District PE/Health Teacher .7 FTE – currently assigned to CALA	Resignation effective 8/5/2021
Aimee Louzon	District Teacher Assistant, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, 10 months – currently assigned to Charlestown	Appointment effective 8/30/2021
Paige Leddy	Technology Liaison - CTC	Appointment effective 8/1/2021-6/30/2022
Kevin Dorgan, Jr.	Boys Soccer, Assistant Coach – Middle School	Appointment effective 8/6/2021 through 6/30/2022
Mariah Northrop	Field Hockey, Co-Head Coach – High School	Change effective 8/6/2021 through 6/30/2022
Daniel LaBelle, Jr.	Boys Basketball, Assistant Coach – Middle School	Resignation effective 8/2/2021
Sarah Frost	Drama Club Assistant Advisor – High School	Appointment effective 8/6/2021 through 6/30/2022

RECEIVED AUG 5 2021

August 5, 2021

Dear Mrs. Picard,

I hereby retire from my fourth grade position from the Charlho District as of August 5, 2021. I am filled with joy at having a wonderful career with my Chariho family and in servicing the many children and families in the district but the time has come to move on. I am so appreciative of my Charlestown School colleagues and the wonderful support from Jenn Poore. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Debbi A. Miceli

**Kristen Merritt**

---

**From:** Josie Chaves  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 05, 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** Gina Picard  
**Cc:** Kristen Merritt; Brian Tetreault  
**Subject:** Chaves Resignation Letter

RECEIVED AUG - 6 2021

August 5th, 2021

Gina Picard  
Superintendent  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
Phone: (401) 364-7575

Dear Ms. Picard,

I am writing to inform you that I am officially resigning from my position as District PE/Health Teacher at CALA on August 5th, 2021.

During my two years at Chariho, I had the opportunity to work with an outstanding staff. I am thankful for a truly wonderful experience and I will take what I learned at Chariho and apply it to my new position.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of The Chariho Regional School District and I hope that our paths cross in the future.

Sincerely,

Josie Chaves

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Jennifer Poore  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 03, 2021 11:04 AM  
**To:** Gina Picard; Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** K TA Position

Dear Gina and Kristen

On behalf of the Kindergarten Teacher Assistant Interview Team, we would like to put forward Aimee Louzon for this three hour position.

Reference checks have been completed.

Thank you

Jen

Jennifer Poore  
Principal  
Charlestown School  
RIDE 5 Star School  
2020 National Blue Ribbon School

363 Carolina Back Road  
Charlestown RI 02813  
(401) 364-7716  
[jennifer.poore@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:jennifer.poore@chariho.k12.ri.us)

Filling sails with knowledge and character for a successful life voyage.

AIMEE LOUZON

Charlestown, RI 02813 |

July 27, 2021

Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Rd  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894

Dear Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Rd  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the position of part-time teacher assistant (job id #:3618081). I believe that I am qualified for this position as I was able to graduate Chariho High School in 2017 with my Teacher Assistant Certification after completing the Early Childhood Education program through the Career and Technical Center. Since 2017 I went on to attend my first three years of higher education at Rhode Island College where I studied Elementary and Special Education. Through my few first years of college at RIC, I have earned 69 credits and participated in 7 practicums with over 200 hours in total. I have since transferred to the University of Rhode Island in the Fall of 2020 to finish my degree in Early Childhood Education. My first two semesters at the University of Rhode Island have allowed me to gain 30 additional credits and more practicum experience with young children. I am currently still a full-time student at URI but thankfully am able to have the time to work the hours listed with this job posting as my classes are at night this upcoming semester and can be arranged around my working schedule moving forward. Through these experiences I have gained a lot of preparation and skills that I feel would be useful for this position. I have one-on-one experience with students of all ages and academic ranges as well as group lesson experiences. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing back from you soon!

Sincerely,  
Aimee Louzon

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Sharon Martin <sharon.martin@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** Re: RES technology liaison

Yes please.

On 7/28/21, 11:17 AM, "Kristen Merritt" <[Kristen.Merritt@Chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:Kristen.Merritt@Chariho.k12.ri.us)> wrote:

Ok to forward her name to Gina for appointment?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Paige Leddy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 8:18 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt; Sharon Martin  
**Subject:** RES technology liaison

Hi Kristin and Sharon, I just read Sharon's update that Richmond still needs a technology liaison. I would like to put my name in for that position. I'm not sure what else I need to do to go forward with that! Thanks, Paige



**Kristen Merritt**

---

**To:** Michael Shiels  
**Subject:** RE: coaching position

---

**From:** Michael Shiels  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 03, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Cc:** Gregory Zenion  
**Subject:** coaching position

Hi Kristen,

I would like to recommend Kevin Dorgan for the position of Chariho Middle School Boys Soccer Assistant Coach. Thank you

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with great interest in the job posing for the Middle School Boys Soccer Assistant Coach.

I have a passion for coaching that extends back to the early 2000's where I coached baseball for the Scituate boys JV team, where I also served as assistant coach. While my work schedule at the time did not allow me to continue, I have since coached several recreational programs for youth soccer, girls fast pitch softball, little league and Hopkinton town basketball.

This love of coaching and development allowed me to further pursue coaching youth at higher levels of competition. This progressed to coaching travel fastpitch girls softball (ages 8U- middle school), as well as the Chariho 4th grade Boys in the Rhode Island Youth Basketball Association, where we finished as state runners up in the 2020 season.

I strongly believe that coaching is not only about strategy and wins/losses but about developing our youth with respect to teamwork, pursuit of common goals, reaction to adversity and continuous growth and improvement. These skills will be critical outside the field of play, when these boys are pursuing academics and later when they enter the workplace.

I feel I would be an ideal candidate based on my work ethic, love of coaching and my academic background, which was focused in the areas of biology and secondary education (I now work at a biopharmaceutical company manufacturing medicine for patients with serious illness, where my biology degree and passion for science lead me). I am also a member of the Chariho community and believe that representing the school is an honor for coaches and student athletes. I would love to represent the school on the sidelines as our boys team takes the pitch each practice and game this fall.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dorgan, Jr.

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Mariah Northrop  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 8:29 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** RE: Co-Head Field Hockey Coach

Hi Kristen,

I would like to change to be co-head field hockey coach. (Mike told me to apply to the posting so I did that too... if I wasn't supposed to just ignore it and hopefully Alexa Bobbin is the only other one that applies!) Thank you, Mariah

Mariah Northrop  
Math Department  
Chariho High School

---

**From:** Kristen Merritt  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 2:25 PM  
**To:** Mariah Northrop  
**Cc:** Michael Shields  
**Subject:** Co-Head Field Hockey Coach

Hi Mariah,

I understand from Mr. Shields that you want to share the HS Field Hockey Head Coach position. Since you have already been appointed as the Head Coach for the 2021-2022 season, please send me an e-mail requesting that you wish to change from Head Coach to Co-Head Coach of the HS Field Hockey team. You will be paid half of the stipend instead of the full amount. Please send this request as soon as possible so I can post for the other Co-Head Coach position.

Kristen Merritt  
Human Resources Administrator  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
(401)364-3260, Ext. 2029

To the Chariho Regional School District,

I want to first thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Chariho Middle School Basketball team as an Assistant coach. It is something that I learned a lot from and the relationships that I made just within one season will last a lifetime. With that being said, I have decided to resign from the position because of another coaching job that I got at Chariho. Thank you again for the opportunity!

Sincerely,  
Dan LaBelle

8/2/2021

## Kristen Merritt

---

**From:** Andrea Spas  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 10:43 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Cc:** Dana Hall; Rebecca Burns; Jean Bradanini  
**Subject:** Drama Assistant Position

Hi Kristen,

We would like to put forward Sarah Frost for the Assistant Director Drama position. Reference checks have been conducted. Can I contact Sarah to let her know?

Andrea



Andrea J. Spas | Principal  
Charlton Regional High School  
453 Switch Road, Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
401-364-7778 xt. 2101 | Twitter: @Andrea\_Spas

Visit our CHS Blog: [www.charltonhighschool.blogspot.com](http://www.charltonhighschool.blogspot.com)

My name is Sarah Frost and I believe that I am the right candidate for this job. I have been in plays and musicals pretty much my whole life. I have been in every show in my high school career. (9 shows to be exact). Now it is time for me to show my skills as an assistant director to Rebecca Burns who has taught me so much and will continue to teach me. I know that I will be a great asset to her team due to the fact that I am, organized, independent, understanding of everything that she will require, and she recommended me to be her assistant director next year. I know I am the one for this position so I hope you will consider me. Thank you!

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
JUL 29 2021

JAMES M. MAGEAU  
P.O. BOX 66  
CHARLESTOWN, R.I. 02813  
TEL: (401) 364-9582  
CELL: (401) 374-0530  
Email: [jimmageau@verizon.net](mailto:jimmageau@verizon.net)

July 18, 2021

Do you really know about Critical Race Theory, (CRT)  
and  
Black Lives Matter, (BLM)?

**"The road to Hell is paved with good intentions!"**

During the last several months the subject of "Critical Race Theory" training has been the topic of many national news programs and hearings before Congress. The hearings before Congress primarily concerned how the top brass in the Defense Department are ordering it taught throughout the military. Any officer's that refused have either been reassigned or forced to retire. The reaction of many in Congress have not been favorable and the DOD have said it expects a backlash from there, from inside the military ranks and from the general public as well.

It's also been reported that the same sought of treatment is being handed out in various public school districts across the country. If a teacher refuses to teach it they are disciplined or fired. "Judicial Watch" a 501-C-3 non-profit public service law firm in Washington, D.C. announced that it has filed several lawsuits in different Federal Courts challenging teaching CRT and disciplining teacher's who refuse to teach it.

I recently was offered the opportunity to read a copy of the letter that former South Kingstown Superintendent Linda Savastano sent to Ms. Nicole Solas, dated June 23, 2021. It was in reference to Ms. Solas' APRA request of May 25, 2021. It included an outline of the South Kingstown's School District's curriculum.

Please be advised that I do not know Ms. Nicole Solas, I have never met her, nor have I ever spoken with her.

My interests in the curriculum being taught, not only in the South Kingstown Public Schools system, but in other schools across the country as well, comes from my research into Critical Race Theory, (CRT) training and the Black Lives Matter, (BLM) movement. My research brought to light the number of people in government and in education who are not currently abreast of the negative impact that CRT training may have on white student's emotionally.

Moreover, it is clear that many liberals in government and in education are failing to understand or simply do not care what the objective of the Black Lives Matter, (BLM) organization stands for.

It is shocking how easily the Black Lives Matter, (BLM) have used the teachings of "Karl Marx" to undermine the rational thinking of so many black and white people into believing that their interpretation of socialism represents the best interests of the minority community.

It does not and it never has!

I know that all socialist are not communist but Black Lives Matter, (BLM) have taken the teachings of Marxism and like "Lenin" converted it to the teachings of Communism which is what BLM is all about!

After the brutal murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin was seen on news broadcasts around the world, millions of dollars in donations poured into BLM's coffers, donated by people sympathetic to its cause. However, upon information and belief not one cent of it has been seen in the Black Community. But, it can be seen in the one or two millions of dollar mansions that's been built for the BLM leadership.

From its very beginning, Black Lives Matter, (BLM) have identified as a Marxists organization but in reality they are Communists and its hidden agenda is to **demonize white people**. Upon information and belief a large number of BLM members hold known American Communist's like Ms. JoAnne Chesimard, a.k.a. Assata Shakur in high esteem. On May 2, 1973, as a member of the Black Liberation Army, Ms. Chesimard shot and killed, execution style, New Jersey State Trooper, Werner Foerster during a traffic stop on the New Jersey Turnpike. She was later captured and in 1977 she was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. On November 2, 1979 Chesimard escaped from prison, in what is now believed to have been with inside help, and is believed to have lived underground. In 1984 she was located living in Cuba under the protection of the late Communist Dictator, Fidel Castro, (deceased).

Black Lives Matter, (BLM) became the top "Prime Time" news story in modern times for the "main stream news media" during the riots and unrest in Ferguson Missouri on or about August 10, 2014. It followed the shooting death of Michael Brown, a young African American who was shot and killed by white Ferguson police officer, Darren Wilson. Brown was killed resisting arrest for robbing a local convenience store and then assaulting Wilson. The death of Michael Brown triggered several days of riots and unrest. Upon information and belief it was during the unrest that BLM members and their supporters were seen distributing communist propaganda and wearing "polo shirts" with a picture of "Assata Shakur" (Joanne Chesimard) printed on the front.



They were also heard chanting: "What do we want? Pigs in a blanket. How do we want them? Fried like bacon!" Which means they wanted dead cops in body bags.

It's been 44 years or more since Joanne Chesimard, a.k.a. (Assata Shakur), a self described communist, and an escaped convicted murderer broke out of prison and fled to Communist Cuba.

The F.B.I. have offered a \$1 million reward for her capture.

In addition to being a convicted murderer Ms. Chesimard has a long and violent history as a member of the Black Liberation Army. However, her anti- American murderous past doesn't have a negative effect on Black Lives Matter, (BLM). That's obvious since she is held in such high esteem and viewed as a martyrs.

It also places Communist Cuba high on its list for protecting revolutionaries and providing political asylum and a sanctuary for convicted American criminals like Ms. Joanne Chesimard wanted for murder. The following newspaper excerpt should remove all doubt of that!

---

**NEW YORK POST NEWSPAPER, JULY 15, 2021**

**By: Lee Brown**

**"Black Lives Matter Shows Its True Colors In Statement On Cuba"**

" Lest there be any doubt left that the Black Lives Matter crew has nothing to do with actual racial justice in America, look no further then the reaction to the mass protest in Cuba.

The group on Wednesday put out a statement not to condemn the authoritarian regime in Cuba for violently suppressing its people, but to berate the U.S. for its long-existing sanctions on the Communist state."

"Black Lives Matter condemns the U.S. Federal Government's inhuman treatment of the Cubans, and urges it to immediately lift the economic embargo BLM said." This cruel and inhuman policy instituted with the explicit intention of destabilizing the country and undermining Cubans' right to chose their own government, is at the heart of Cuba's current crisis."

"The statement is, of course exactly backwards. The U.S. sanctions Cuba precisely because its Communists dictators prevent the Cuban people from the right to choose their own government."

**U.S. Sanctions do not interrupt humanitarian relief going to Cuba. The greed and corruption of the Communist Cuban government is the source of it not getting to the people.**

---

Everyone in left wing politics and education that have turned a blind eye towards the despicable behavior and criminal acts of Black Lives Matter, (BLM) during the so-called

"peaceful protests" (riots) that terrorized so many cities and towns across this country, including our nation's capitol, last year should be investigated by the F.B.I.

Is burning and looting our cities and towns and tearing apart the social fabric of our communities part of what it intends to teach our children?

Now it has the audacity to come to South Kingstown in support of the proponents of Critical Race Theory training and to recommend its own Black History courses it wants taught in local schools.

Anyone with a brain that went beyond the 6th grade knows that Critical Race Theory, (CRT) training doesn't have anything to do with the history of race or slavery in this country.

It's apparent that these left wing Rhodes Scholar wannabees who advocate CRT training don't know what the hell they are talking about. CRT training teaches that white people are oppressors and that they set up a system of systemic racism. That allegedly prevented black people from the opportunity of getting ahead. Now, because of the sins of their fathers all white people including the children should feel guilty and ashamed.

I wonder if the white school teachers are filled with emotion and have tears rolling off their cheeks because they feel so guilty and ashamed when they are teaching their students this garbage?

Apparently, the so called Marxists, (communists) who are pushing CRT training on the American public haven't done their home work. That's because 50% of the population in the United States today are families whose forefathers arrived here as immigrants after the Civil War and after the end of slavery. So in reality CRT training is attempting to blame white people for the sins of their fathers when their fathers were not even here.

However, that doesn't make any difference to these crackpots who are intent on destroying our great country.

Dr. Carol Swain, a former professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt and Princeton recently wrote: The main tenet of Critical Race Theory, (CRT) is that people of the world are divided into oppressors and oppressed, and in the United States, "all white people are considered oppressors who benefit from undeserved advantages."

[Whites] are deemed guilty of having set up a system of systemic racism, one main assumption being drawn from CRT. "The demonization of one group of people because of the color of their skin is something that is discriminatory."

Dr Swain, an African/American, from a very poor rural background in the South

observed that anyone, especially students, who are forced to take CRT training and made to believe that they are oppressors because they are white or that they are responsible and should be ashamed of the sins of their fathers are having their **civil rights violated!**

The 1964 Civil Rights Act protects the civil rights of all colors including white students who are being told that they have done something wrong because they are white. In addition, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees certain protections to all people. Furthermore, if a public institution such as a school tries to restrict people's speech or behavior, it may also be a violation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, freedom of speech.

An excellent example of how Critical Race Theory (CRT) discriminates against people of all colors and creeds is when it forces them to use Gender-Neutral pronouns and not to say pronouns like she or he or we or they because it is seeking to stop the recognizable **difference in gender!**

How teaching gender neutrality addresses how "white people are guilty of setting up a system of systemic racism" is evidence that the entire nonsensical program is anti-American.

The president of the American Federation of Teacher's, (AFT) labor union, Ms. Randy Weingarten recently announced on national television that the Executive Board of the teacher's union have agreed to support teaching CRT training in public schools. She also said that AFT's lawyers are preparing to defend any lawsuits that may arise. Ms Becky Pringle, the first African American President of the National Education Association, (NEA) the nations largest teacher's labor union also said it supports CRT training in public schools. I wonder if they know that in Civil Rights cases the losers usually have pay all of the legal fees?

It's obvious that these woman have taken leave of their senses because everything in CRT training is anti-American and most of it is a violation of the U.S. Constitution. Do they really believe that the loyal Black and White Americans will simply stand by and let these arrogant left wing labor unions trample all over the U.S. Constitution simply because of an absurd claim that the teachers are being bullied?

"Bullied" by whom? The parents of young students who love their children and are trying to protect them from teachers who obviously hate America!

Is there any question that these labor unions have been discriminating against people of color and minorities since they were organized?

It's been reported that vigorous objections to teaching CRT is spreading across the country. We know that from the unhappy and angry parents in South Kingstown when the School Committee discussed the subject of CRT training in its district.

If a school committee and curriculum directors really want to give the students a useful present in September, return to teaching penmanship, cursive handwriting so the children can at least write their names. I'll bet all of you can write your names? Return to teaching real civics, real American history, real world history, and geography.

Now's the time to stop and think! Think about the thousands of young men and women who fought and died in WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and so many other places around the world, including in our own country, defending the U.S. Constitution. More than 540,000 Union soldiers died fighting to free the slaves during the Civil War. That's the highest number of deaths this country ever suffered in any of its wars. 85% of them were white.

Now here comes the left wing propagandist, the dishonest ones, the communists, Black Lives Matter, (BLM) who will try to teach our children that they should feel guilty and ashamed because they are white. That our forefathers set up a system of systemic racism to hold black people back. They will try to trick them into believing that but, they will not teach them that 540,000 white soldiers died in the Civil War fighting to free black people from slavery.

That's what Critical Race Theory, (CRT) training is all about. It's the big con game. It's about not telling the truth about America! **IT'S THE BIG LIE!** It's about a despicable plan to infiltrate our public schools and to use our children as pawns to undermine the U.S. Constitution and to subvert the greatest democracy in the world.

How many of you believe that these dishonest crackpots will teach our children that America shares its wealth with the poorer countries around the world. That in 2020 "we" gave away \$40 billions of dollars in foreign aid. The foreign aid amounts may change every fiscal year but it is included in each years national budget. It does not include military aid to our allies or our payments to the N.A.T.O. Budget.

There is an abundant amount of information that can be found "on-line" and in "book stores" that explains all you need to know about CRT training.

One of the most outrageous falsehoods being discussed today is how Critical Race Theory, (CRT) originated. Apparently, Mr. Derrick Bell, Mr. Richard Delgado and Ms. Kimberle Crenshaw have laid claim to it. That is not true! There are several books that have been written by different authors, (University Professors) dating back before World War II which discusses and promotes teaching Critical Race Theory, usually at the college level.

Several national organizations are currently objecting to CRT training. One is the "1776 Action Project" an organization formed by the parents, (mother's) of students who are vehemently opposed to CRT classes being taught to their children. Their objections are gaining traction all over the country. Anti CRT Bills have been either introduced or signed into law in twenty two, (22) states including Ohio, Arizona and New Hampshire.

If we expect our government to work properly and to serve the people well, we must treat each other with respect and dignity. If a school committee or curriculum director makes a unilateral decision to include anti-American subjects as Critical Race Theory, (CRT), or Black Lives Matter, (BLM) propaganda to its curriculum it is failing in that respect.

President John F. Kennedy once said:

**"The hottest place in Hell is reserved for those  
who during the time of crisis remain neutral!"**

Thank you,

Very truly yours,  
  
James M. Mageau

C: School Committee Chairs, School Superintendents  
and  
Town Council Presidents in Washington County



Dr. Carol Swain, a former professor of political science and law at Princeton and at Vanderbilt. (Crossroads / Screenshot via The Epoch Times)

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS PREMIUM

# Critical Race Theory May Violate Civil Rights Act, the Constitution: Dr. Carol Swain

BY ELLA KIETLINSKA AND JOSHUA PHILIPP June 22, 2021 Updated: June 23, 2021

AA Print

Critical Race Theory training, which pressures people not to say certain things, take a certain stance, or forces them into some segregated settings, may infringe on people's constitutional rights and even violate civil rights laws, said Dr. Carol Swain, a former professor of political science and law at Princeton and Vanderbilt universities.

The main tenet of Critical Race Theory (CRT) is that the people of the world are divided into oppressors and oppressed, and in the United States, "all white people are considered oppressors who benefit from undeserved advantages," Swain told The

Epoch Times in an interview on EpochTV's "Crossroads" program.

"[Whites] are deemed guilty of having set up a system of systemic racism," she said of one main assumption being drawn from CRT. "The demonization of one group of people because of the color of their skin is something that is discriminatory."

A lot of white people who are forced into CRT-based training, and forced to confess to being racist because of their race, do not realize that they are protected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, and disability, explained the retired professor.

White people are protected in the same way that black people are by civil rights laws, she said. "We're not a country where it's acceptable to bully and shame people because of the color of their skin."

Such acts create a hostile environment at work or may cause psychological harm to children at school, the award-winning author explained, adding that parents have reported depression, trauma, or other problems in their children who had been told that, because of their whiteness or the fact that their ancestors inflicted harm, they are also guilty of oppression.

Moreover, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees certain protections to all people, even non-citizens.

If a public institution such as a school tries to restrict people's speech or behavior, it may be also a First Amendment violation, Swain said.

Private schools have more freedom to discriminate than public ones, but students whose rights are infringed can use other bases, such as the student handbook that guarantees students certain rights, to fight discrimination, she added.

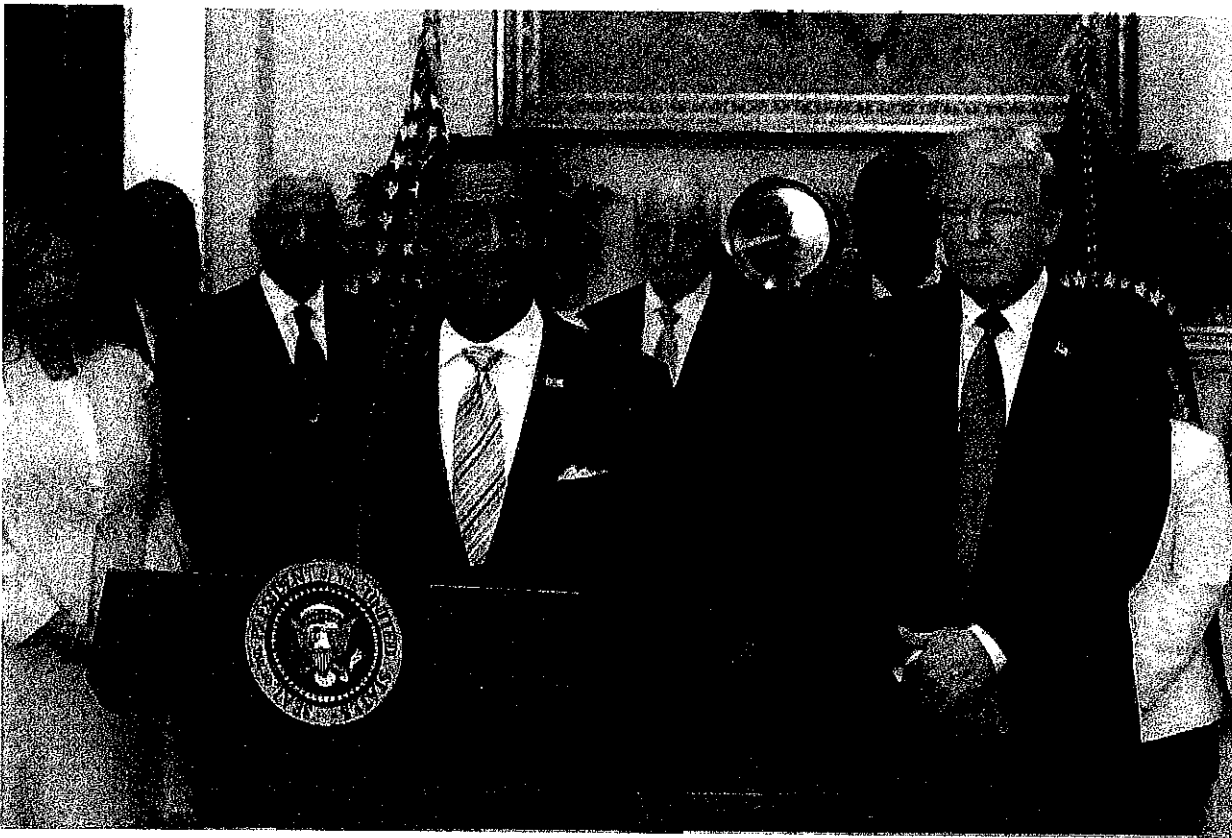
Swain suggested that students facing discrimination can also seek help from organizations defending students' or individuals' freedom of speech, association, and religious liberty, such as The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) or the Christian Legal Society.

Another way to counter discrimination at schools is publicity, the professor advised.

Students can write articles about discrimination cases and publish them in student media like The College Fix or Campus Reform as there have been cases of universities backing down due to the public outcry over the reports of unfair treatment, according to Swain.

She also recommended that students “always document things that are discriminatory and use that evidence when the time is right.”

## History of Race Relations



Johnny Taylor, Jr. speaks after President Donald Trump announced him as the Chairman of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington on Feb. 27, 2018. (Samira Bouaou/The Epoch Times)

“I think America has been so important to the world, that the true history of its founding, as well as the mistakes that were made and just how we address those mistakes, are things that enrich people. And it is something that should not be hidden, and certainly not something that would be a cause of shame,” Swain told Crossroads.

“The true story of America is a story of blacks and whites working together to overcome that tragic part of our history.”



During the period following the end of slavery, “it was white philanthropy that set up schools across the South, that set up those historically black colleges and universities, and trillions of dollars have been donated since the end of slavery to try to address the past and present effects of slavery,” explained the co-chairwoman for former President Donald Trump’s 1776 Commission.

The civil rights movement itself is a moment in history where whites, blacks, people of other races and ethnicities came together for a cause. “That was powerful,” she continued.

Swain was born during the time of “systemic racism” in the segregated South. She witnessed the collapse of institutional racism and benefited from the opportunities created for black Americans like herself.

“My love of country came about because when I was in school, we were taught civics and patriotism. And I felt like I lived in the greatest nation in the world,” Swain said.

Racism was dying in the United States before President Barack Obama was elected, she said. At that time, the country was portrayed by legacy media as being a post-racial society. “I think that because we were making so much progress, the political left and those that benefit by racism and keeping us divided ... they had to act.”

This was the time when the racial tensions, which divided people, restarted and when standards in classes, especially in public schools, were lowered owing to CRT and the restorative justice agenda being pushed, she added.

Opportunities for black people have never been better than today and ultimately, success depends on a person’s attitude, she said.

Swain shared that as one of 12 children, she had dropped out of high school, married at 16, and had three small children by the time she was 21. Despite that, she went back to school, got a high school equivalency, and went to a community college where she got the first of her degrees.

She pointed out that she was able to achieve success and overcome the circumstances of her birth because she believed that hard work mattered and applied herself as such.

"I did not see myself as handicapped because I was black, poor, a woman," the professor said. "I took advantage of what America offered."

Among today's youth, minorities are being "crippled in their minds because they've been told by the political left what they can't do and they are being handicapped," she warned.

"They're not even being held to the same standards that people of my generation were held to at colleges and universities. And as a consequence, they do feel inferior. A lot of what is crippling them is what they have been indoctrinated with."

In her view, the racism coming from the political left is a forced re-segregation, and the lowered standards being pushed out for racial, ethnic minorities are impeding the development of their fullest potential.

## **Racism Serves Political, Financial Interests**



Protesters march to the state Capitol in Baton Rouge, La., Sunday, July 10, 2016. People are protesting the shooting death of a black man, Alton Sterling, by two white police officers at a convenience store parking lot last week. (Scott Clause/The Daily Advertiser via AP)

Inciting racism serves the political interests of the Democrats who use the CRT to sow

divisions between races in order to secure the black votes that they need to maintain their power, Swain said.

Any time some progress is made with race relations, an incident is found “to play up in the media to get Americans all worked up and divided by race. And it’s very easy to do because there’s always something happening somewhere,” she added.

She pointed to the many incidents like police shootings that have been played up by the media, acting to inflame people’s emotions and distract the public “during a time when there’s something in the news that is not favorable to the progressive agenda.”

It makes black people keep feeling like there is so much racism and blames Republicans or white people for being guilty of this racism, Swain continued.

“They are creating a very dangerous situation in this country because they’re demonizing all white people, including themselves and their own children,” she said, adding that hatred, once unleashed, cannot be easily “put back in the box.”

Black Lives Matter (BLM), an openly Marxist organization, was able to capitalize on the public’s reaction to George Floyd’s death and raise millions of dollars for progressive black causes, Swain said. People around the world who care about black people were shocked by the video of Floyd’s death, which was played over and over again in the news and many then donated money to the organization because they believed in the slogan “Black Lives Matter.”

“Black lives do matter, all lives matter,” she said. But “that money did not go into black communities. It didn’t change black lives.”

The Epoch Times has reached out to Black Lives Matter for comment.

Swain went on to encourage Americans to counter the negative impact of CRT by becoming informed about CRT and “where it comes from, and how it operates, and how it’s contrary to the Constitution, and the Equal Protection Clause and civil rights laws.”

“If people become equipped by knowledge and have the courage to stand up on principle, to fight for principles they believe in, there’s no way that this radical agenda can take down our nation,” she said.

"You should know the truth and the truth shall make you free," Swain said, citing the Bible.

If people, however, allow CRT to advance through the nation's institutions of power and reshape the way the society functions, then state-sanctioned discrimination will soon be instituted by the U.S. government—by the highest echelons of power—weakening and destroying the nation from within, she warned.

"The remedy is the American people standing on principles, standing on values, standing on their history, and being courageous enough to fight back," said Swain.

*Joshua Philipp contributed to this report.*

---

**To:** Donna Sieczkiewicz  
**Subject:** FW: A few follow ups  
**Attachments:** Unmask our Children Letter.docx

**From:** Gina Picard <Gina.Picard@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 23, 2021 5:47 PM  
**To:** Gina Picard <Gina.Picard@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Subject:** A few follow ups

Good Evening,  
I was asked to share the attached letter with you. I have included my response below for your convenience.  
Have a wonderful weekend.  
Gina

*Gina M. Picard  
Superintendent  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
Phone: (401) 364-7575*

*All Kids. All of the Time.*



#WeLoveChariho  
#LuckyToBeInChariho

---

**From:** Gina Picard <Gina.Picard@chariho.k12.ri.us>  
**Date:** Friday, July 23, 2021 at 5:40 PM  
**To:** Beth L Korecky <blbsunrat@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Parent Letter Re Masking

Dear Ms. Korecky,  
Thank you for your email. In regards to your mask question the School Committee will be discussing the mask policy at their August 10th meeting. While we have already shifted during the summer to a strong recommendation vs requiring masks we recognize that the continued prevalence of COVID-19 and all its variants create a dynamic emergent situation resulting in the potential change in public health and safety recommendations and orders from the CDC, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Governor of the State of Rhode Island or in the district's approach to

health and safety measures. In the event any mandatory order is issued in this regard, or in the event of an unanticipated change in circumstances in which the District determines it is necessary to immediately alter the District's response to the COVID -19 pandemic and we would need to conform with all such orders.

However, we have prepared a draft mask policy that I will be sending to families prior to the school committee meeting to receive feedback. At this time we are requesting that the committee adopt the policy that uses the CDC language strongly recommends vs requires. This would mean that it would be a parent's choice unless the situation in our state, region, district, school changes.

Per your request I will also forward your letter to the school committee.

Take care,

Gina Picard

*Gina M. Picard  
Superintendent  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, RI 02894  
Phone: (401) 364-7575*

*All Kids. All of the Time.*



#WeLoveChariho  
#LuckyToBeInChariho

---

**From:** Beth L Korecky <[blbsunrat@aol.com](mailto:blbsunrat@aol.com)>

**Reply-To:** Beth L Korecky <[blbsunrat@aol.com](mailto:blbsunrat@aol.com)>

**Date:** Friday, July 23, 2021 at 3:50 PM

**To:** Lisa Macaruso <[Lisa.Macaruso@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:Lisa.Macaruso@chariho.k12.ri.us)>, Gina Picard <[Gina.Picard@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:Gina.Picard@chariho.k12.ri.us)>

**Subject:** Parent Letter Re Masking

Hello,

Please find the attached letter that I wish to submit to the Chariho School Committee and Superintendent regarding the masking of our children.

Please read our thoughts, as I share many similar thoughts with our community. We are stressing daily about the upcoming school year. Thank you,

Beth L Korecky

cell (347) 623-6881  
office (401) 294-9316

Hello,

My name is Beth Korecky, and we live in Hopkinton RI. We have 4 little ones attending the Chariho school system as we continue to grow our forever home here on North Rd. Two of them are beyond excited to start their Kindergarten and Second grade year at Ashaway elementary, now that we are back to a normal school environment. I never thought that we would have to voice our opinion this year regarding masking our children, but it seems like this might continue to be a requirement in our schools? We are shocked. The CDC and RIDOH have both left this decision up to the districts to proceed with optional masking, yet I'm seeing negative posts on Friends of Chariho that we may be forced again to mask our little ones? I honestly hope this is just a rumor and we are not revisiting the past with last year's nightmare policies during the pandemic. We are (thankfully) no longer in a state of emergency, we have not seen masks on anyone in nearly 3 months, and we are all enjoying life as it should be. I really truly hope that masking our children is not even a thought amongst our school committee this year. We cannot mask our children any longer. What is the purpose of the masks? If we are "protecting" our children, that doesn't make any sense. Children are not passing this virus asymptotically and they are also not getting sick from this virus. Johns Hopkins Research shows a mortality rate of zero among children without a pre-existing medical condition such as leukemia. Children are also not passing this virus asymptotically, as the DOH reiterated to me over and over again when my family and friends tested positive. They said just keep the kids home for 10 days to monitor for symptoms. If they do not have symptoms, they cannot spread anything. We didn't have this information last year, thankfully now we do. If there are children that are sick, let them wear a mask. If we are protecting the teachers from the children, well they are all vaccinated. So that shouldn't be an issue. If we are protecting the schools from receiving law suits if a child tests positive, then sign waivers. Have all parents that do not want their children to wear masks, sign waivers. The entire school will be signing waivers. There is not one parent out there that wants their child masked at this point in the "pandemic", which is truly no longer a pandemic. The school committee should be listening to the COMMUNITY. We do not want our children masked. We do not want to see more of the depression, division amongst children, the awkwardness, nervousness- these are our children. They need to see smiles, hear and see emotion, feel reassured, feel

acknowledged. They need to have normal physical fitness activities without covering their mouths during exhaustion. It frightens me what will become of these children, their mental health, and their physical health after breathing in polypropylene for a year in school. Please, please consider their life and the impact that this is having on them. My daughter in first grade would come home crying, depressed, and hating school when she absolutely loved it the 4 years prior to this year. She picked grass alone at recess, that was the highlight of her day. She had zero interaction with anyone. She was the only girl in the class for ¾ of the year. Please consider what the masks are doing to these children and their learning situation. Especially when there is absolutely no need for them to be wearing them in the first place. If the end result is waiting for a vaccine for the children, that's an unrealistic plan. There are about 75% of the parents in this community that will never allow their children to get this experimental vaccine that is not even approved by the FDA. Teens are now having heart attacks as a result of opening up this vaccine to adolescents. We must think of our children as we determine their future. They've already announced dozens of schools that are mask optional. Give the parents the choice to cover their child's mouths for 10 hours a day with a plastic residue mask. Give the parents the choice to do this to their children, please. We beg you. We've already gathered 700 signatures for this district to unmask our children. Please listen to the parents as we are begging you to make the right decision for the children. We all know Hopkinton and Richmond are the HIGHEST ranked towns for suicide. We need to do everything in our power to alleviate this and not to add to it, as masks WILL DO. Please think of your community before you make decisions to harm our children. I've always been proud to live here and I've always been proud of the decisions that you have all made for our children. I hope that you listen to the community on this one. Please think of the children

Thank you,

Beth L Korecky

Parent of 4 Chariho Children

Ashaway Elementary



**Subject:** Re: Request for Resolution to be placed on School Committee Agenda

**Date:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 7:53:11 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Scott Bill Hirst

**To:** Linda Lyall

**CC:** Barbara Watrous, Elizabeth Cook-Martin, Donna Sieczkiewicz, Gina Picard, Borg, Linda, Corey Fyke, jvallee@thewesterlysun.com, news@ricentral.com, Donita Naylor, knagle@golocalprov.com, zz.Scott Bill Hirst, scottbillhirst1953@gmail.com

Ms. Lyall:

An absurd response. You know full well one of the resolutions was adopted by the Hopkinton Republican Town Committee, not the Hopkinton Town Council. In addition, the town council has no authority on this matter. I am responsible for chairing the Republicans in Hopkinton.

I remind you Chariho has nothing to take comfort in this matter. Even Westerly allowed people to speak on their resolution in that town. In addition the contempt for the public and in some cases for local officials speaks for itself. The fact you and the Chariho establishment speaks for itself. Your tardiness in a reply to my email speaks for itself also. You choose not to build bridges to the Vhariho community.

I am sharing this email. It is not sensitive in nature at all. The Chariho establishment is contemptible! You and most of your colleagues are among the reasons the public has a dim view of it as a body. In addition, I suggest you take a course in government. The school committee has almost exclusive power over education locally.

Respectfully,

Scott Bill Hirst

Chariho'71

Chair, Hopkinton Republican Town Committee

On Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 4:59 PM Linda Lyall <[linda.lyall@chariho.k12.ri.us](mailto:linda.lyall@chariho.k12.ri.us)> wrote:  
July 26, 2021

Dear Mr. Hirst,

Thank you for sharing the two resolutions dealing with critical race theory. I have shared the two resolutions with the School Committee, but I have decided not to put either of them on the agenda. The Superintendent of Schools has already made it quite clear that critical race theory is not part of the Chariho curriculum and that there are no plans to add it.

The School Committee has many other issues to attend to. If you would like to have a community discussion about critical race theory, I would encourage you to put it on a Hopkinton Town Council agenda if the Town Council President allows.

Sincerely,

Linda D Lyall

Chairperson, Chariho School Committee

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Distribution and reproduction of this email, without the express consent of the author, are prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not use this email or the information contained in it for any purpose other than to notify us. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this

email from your system. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Chariho Regional School District. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The District accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

---

Chariho Regional School District, 455A Switch Road, Wood River Junction, Rhode Island, USA,  
[www.chariho.k12.ri.us](http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us)

---  
**Scott Bill Hirst**  
**20 Maple Court**  
**Ashaway, RI 02804-1300**  
**Cell: (401) 602-3976**  
**[chariho1971@gmail.com](mailto:chariho1971@gmail.com)/[hopkinton1757@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinton1757@gmail.com)**  
**Town Business Only Please:**  
**[scott.bill.hirst@hopkintonri.org](mailto:scott.bill.hirst@hopkintonri.org).**