

# Reports

CHARIHO SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2021

Attendance:

- ❖ Sarah Algieri
- ❖ Erin Sefranek
- ❖ Nicole Allen
- ❖ Polly Hopkins
- ❖ Jennifer Durkin
- ❖ Mary Markovitz
- ❖ Iris Ornberg

- I. Call to Order at 6:03pm, Zoom meeting
- II. Sign-in, Introductions
- III. Purpose of SEAC, Roles

Current Chairperson: Polly Hopkins  
Current Vice Chairperson: Nicole Allen  
Secretary: Erin Sefranek  
Treasurer: Sarah Algieri

- IV. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Our last meeting minutes were from spring 2019

- V. Recognition

Congratulations to Sheri McCue, from Richmond Elementary, for receiving the Golden Apple Award. Sheri is a special education teacher at Richmond Elementary's self-contained program.

Brian Tetreault is the director of CALA after the great loss of Jeanne Ross - previous director of CALA, HS Special Educator, Dean. She is sadly missed. They will be planting a tree outside of CALA in her memory. Brian has had experience working in the district as high school special educator, dean of students at the high school. He was vice principal of Narragansett Middle School.

- VI. Special Education Director's Report (Mary Markovitz)

We are no longer disproportionate in regards to the eligibility of Native Americans within the district. (2 years) We are continuing our work in regards to supporting culturally diverse learners. We keep checking for learning disabilities – in particular with regards to cultural issues (i.e. whether students have exposure to same/different materials).

We implemented our on-line IEP platform through PowerSchool special programs at the beginning of the year. All IEP documents/assessments, etc. are readily accessibility to case-managers and building principals. The IEP at a glance feature is great –it provides identified classroom teachers access to students in their classroom with IEP's. It applies to RTI plans as well – teachers can access them and it lets teachers know strengths,

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needs, testing accommodations. It outlines their functional performance/academic achievement/ and their accommodations and modifications.

The RI Right to Read Act: legislation that was passed that identifies all teachers need to be trained in the Science of Reading at all levels. Certain staff are identified as needing full training and others are required to have “awareness “training.

Jennifer Durkin is co-chairing a committee with the Assistant Superintendent to identify programs – AIM Pathway, another from URI, etc. Administrators may be trained at the awareness level, others at a deeper level. It will roll out at different levels starting next school year.

Great group on the committee. We will be making recommendation to the Superintendent about which program we will be choosing. Unfortunately it is at the same time as we are implementing our new ELA and math curriculum.

Our **ESY program** is being designed. We were having great difficulty filling positions—but we are currently staffed. Many districts have been experiencing the same concern.

We are in the process of completing the federal grant (consolidated resource grant). This includes reporting differences between students with disabilities and general education (includes RICAS, SAT, PSAT). We did not have that last year and had to look further. Hopefully we will get the grant money after applying and fill positions. We are also expecting federal money through CARES Act.

VII. School Committee Liaison Report

Lisa Macaruso was not in attendance

VIII. New Business

We will need to discuss any election of new officers.

Meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school years are discussed and everyone in attendance was asked if Thursdays at 6pm will continue working.

Our next meeting will take place on zoom on 10/21/21 at 6pm. We discussed having in-person meetings afterwards and Ms. Durkin will check on location availability for the following dates: 1/20/22, 3/17/22, 5/19/22.

We discussed ways to get more attendance at SEAC meetings including robo calls. We also discussed student transitions and ESY, and talking to the principals about scheduling tours of the schools; possibility of a virtual transition Q&A.

At present, assessments are continuing for students. Ms. Durkin has reached out to students that need help, including distance learners, and families as needed. There have

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been difficulties getting responses from DCYF to check on families. She has also reached out to South Kingstown, North Kingstown, and Westerly to collaborate in regards to these types of issues.

Our numbers have been increasing as families/students have been moving into the district. There are new developments in Charlestown and Richmond and several families are in need. Around 30 kids have moved in and several are coming with IEP's.

IX. Old Business

X. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Sefranek  
Recording Secretary