

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the eighth day of January 2024 A.D. a Special Town Council Meeting was held in order to attend the Community Vision Meeting held in the Chariho Regional High School Library at 453 Switch Road, Wood River Junction, RI at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Hopkinton Town Council members: Michael Geary, President, Scott Bill Hirst, Vice President, Sharon Davis, Robert Burns, Stephen Moffitt, Jr.; Town Manager Brian Rosso, Town Clerk Marita Murray. Also present were Superintendent Gina Picard and presenters for the meeting.

PRESENTATION

The meeting commenced with an introduction of the Student Education Advisory Panel which was made up of students from each of the elementary schools, Chariho Middle School and Chariho High School. It was noted that this panel meets monthly to discuss many different topics.

Kristen, Program Planner for the Planned Collaborative commenced the meeting by noting that they were currently in Stage II of the application process. She explained that they were required to address school facilities and consider new schools per the RIDE criteria. Based on the age of the elementary schools, they believed they had a unique opportunity to modernize the educational facilities with bonuses that the state was currently offering. For new facilities they wished to focus on education enhancements to support 21st-century learning; identifying cost effective strategies that will decrease the operating budget; place priority on health and safety issues; improve the environment for teaching and learning; and serve the communities. Stage II was the creation of the Capital Improvement Plan that every district must have, and it must be approved by RIDE. An architect was hired to design what the district can support based on a formula for new construction/renovation or a plan to maintain, upgrade and address the need. They showed the site plans of the Charlestown, Richmond and Ashaway Elementary Schools and noted that they wished to demolish the old buildings and rebuild new schools on the same footprint. It was noted that they could not fit a modern school building at the Hope Valley Elementary School site and the district will begin creating a plan to phase out Hope Valley Elementary School. There was discussion on what features each school

would have and how the residents wished to see these schools laid out. They asked the audience to answer two questions regarding the elementary school in their town, which were: What unique characteristic would enhance individualism? And What specific elementary space do you believe would strengthen relationships within the Chariho community. They noted that the elementary schools would be Kindergarten through Fourth Grade with a flex classroom and the schools would still participate in the same themes which are Ashaway – STEAM; Charlestown – outdoor/nature; and Richmond – health/wellness. It was noted that Stage II was to discuss what people would like to see in the schools and not what the actual buildings would look like. There was a slide which included a diagram study of how they thought these schools should be set up with classrooms and teachers’ areas on one side that could be locked and on the other side a public section for when there were school events. Thereafter an activity was performed regarding what type of curricular people would like to see and how this could be supported.

Most members of the Town Council left this meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Marita D. Murray

Town Clerk