

Erin Liese

From: Mark Reynolds <mark.reynolds11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Erin Liese
Subject: Letter to Town Council Supporting Jessica Purcell Appointment to School Comm

Mark T. Reynolds
18 Bracken Hill Ct
Carolina, RI 02812

January 11, 2023

Richmond Town Council
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd
Richmond, RI 02898
Via Email

Dear Town Council Members:

I am writing to urge you to appoint Jessica Purcell to the vacancy created on the Chariho School Committee by the resignation of Gary Ligouri. This appointment must be made in accordance with applicable law. The laws that apply are the Chariho Act and Richmond's Home Rule Charter. These laws need to be applied in a way that gives effect to each. This is the same approach a court would take. The Chariho Act simply states that a vacancy is filled by the Town Council. The Richmond Home Rule Charter dictates how the Town Council makes the appointment. The Home Rule Charter states that if "a school committee seat becomes vacant, the Town Council shall appoint the unelected candidate who received the greatest number of votes for that office in the most recent general or special election." So, although the Town Council makes the appointment, it must follow the Home Rule Charter when doing so. The unelected candidate who received the greatest number of votes in the November 2022 election was Jessica Purcell. Therefore, the Town Council must appoint her to fill the vacancy.

Also, Jess is the best choice for this position. She put her name forward the last time there was a vacancy on the school committee, but no unelected candidate available for the Town Council to appoint. She is involved in our schools as a volunteer and regularly attends School Committee meetings. She ran for school committee in 2022 and was only 28 votes away from being elected. She has done the work to become knowledgeable about

the issues facing our schools and made the effort to run for office. The voice of the people from the election must be recognized. Jessica Purcell is the candidate the citizens of Richmond voted to put on the school committee after the two that were elected in November 2022.

Very truly yours,

Mark T. Reynolds

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