

**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Monomoy Regional High School Library
75 Oak Street, Harwich, MA 02645**

TO JOIN PUBLIC COMMENT VIA ZOOM and VIEW REMOTELY:
<https://zoom.us/j/92757697797?pwd=VWdsQzFVNytjaGc3dFNIWERPWU40UT09>
Meeting ID: 927 5769 7797 / Passcode: F7aGJ9

Members present: Nancy Scott; Terry Russell; Joseph Auciello; Meredith Henderson; Jackie Zibrat-Long; Sharon Stout; Danielle Tolley; Tina Games

Administrators present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent; Marc Smith; Michael MacMillan; Jim Birchfield; Joy Jordan.

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Superintendent Carpenter.

B. Vote for Chair, Vice Chair of the Monomoy Regional School Committee

Dr. Carpenter called for a nomination for Chair of the Monomoy Regional School Committee.

MOTION: Joseph Auciello moved to nominate Nancy Scott as Chair for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was seconded by Sharon Stout. No further nominations were made.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

Ms. Nancy Scott called for nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to nominate Meredith Henderson as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Terry Russell. No further nominations were made.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

C. Adjournment Roll Call Vote to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A section 2 (a) paragraph 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Monomoy Regional Educators Association (MREA) Units A & B if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the District's bargaining or litigating position and the Chair so declares it. Coming out for regular open session at approximately 7PM.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Jackie Zibrat-Long: aye; Meredith Henderson: aye; Joseph Auciello: aye; Sharon Stout: aye; Terry Russell: aye; Danielle Tolley: aye; Tina Games: aye; Nancy Scott: aye.

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns to Executive Session and will come out for regular open session at approximately 7PM.

At 6:59PM the Regular Open Session resumed.

D. Approval of Minutes - June 10, 2021 MRSC Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the meeting minutes of the June 10, 2021 school committee meeting, seconded by Tina Games.

UNANIMOUS with Danielle Tolley abstaining from the vote.

E. Public Comment: None

F. Reports and Discussions

1. Welcome new School Committee member, Danielle Tolley

Chair Scott welcomed new Monomoy Regional School Committee member Danielle Tolley. Ms. Tolley is a Chatham representative who joins the committee as Jo-anne Sheehan's term expires.

2. Report out on Executive Session for MREA contract negotiations

Upon the return to Regular Open Session from Executive Session, it was reported that negotiations with the MREA contracts for both Units A & B have successfully concluded. This new collective bargaining agreement reflects cost of living increases over the next three years of 1%, 2.5% and 2.75%. Other highlights include a restructuring of elementary instructional leadership by grade level across the building, an evaluation subcommittee and stipend review committee. The MOAs for Units A & B will be posted to the District's website. Unit C negotiations will begin next week. As the contracts were approved in Executive Session they must also be approved in open session.

MOTION 1: Joseph Auciello moved to approve the 2021-2024 Unit A contract, seconded by Terry Russell.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

MOTION 2: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the 2021-2024 Unit B contract, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

3. Discussion of Treasurer Finalist and vote to appoint

VOTE REQUIRED

As the current District Treasurer, Don Mercure, will retire in July 2021, the interview process began in May to review potential candidates. Three candidates were interviewed and two were forwarded for final consideration.. The interview committee selected Paul Donlan. Mr. Donlan will join the district in late July 2021.

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the appointing of Paul Donlan as the new District Treasurer, seconded by Terry Russell.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

4. Subcommittee Assignments - preferences due July 14, 2021

The sign-up sheet for subcommittee assignments was included in the agenda packets. Chair Scott asked all members to submit their preferred subcommittee choices to her in time for the next meeting on July 14, 2021. Further discussion occurred around the different subcommittees, their purpose and preferred number of members per subcommittee.

5. Second Reading: 2020-2021 Superintendent Evaluation

VOTE REQUIRED

At the June 10, 2021 MRSC meeting, each member shared their evaluations highlights for the 2020-2021 Superintendent Evaluation. This evening, the summative evaluation was presented and read aloud by Joseph Auciello. The summative evaluation report gives Dr. Carpenter an overall rating of proficient for the year.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the 2020-2021 Superintendent Evaluation as presented, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS with Danielle Tolley abstaining from the vote.

6. Superintendent Evaluation Cycle

VOTE REQUIRED

As discussed at the June 10, 2021 MRSC meeting, Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee Chair Joseph Auciello asked for the full committee to vote on the 1-yr. vs. 2 yr. cycle proposal. On June 10, 2021, the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee voted 2:1 to stay with the 1-yr. evaluation cycle and forwarded this recommendation for full committee consideration.

MOTION: Joseph Auciello moved to approve the 1-yr. Superintendent Evaluation cycle, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

In discussion, Joseph Auciello shared his reasons for supporting the motion as a whole but his personal reasons for voting against the proposal. Other school committee members shared their reasons for supporting the motion.

The Motion passes 7-1 with Joseph Auciello voting against.

7. FY22 Budget Re-vote

VOTE REQUIRED

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan requested a vote of approval for the new assessment figures that have shifted due to a rounding error. As the MRSC approved the budget with a different assessment on March 11, 2021 a new vote must be taken to approve the assessment shift for both the Towns of Harwich and Chatham.

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the new assessment to the Town of Harwich in the amount of \$27,361,049 and to the Town of Chatham in the amount of \$8,524,697 for a total assessment of \$35,885,746.00. The motion was seconded by Tina Games.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

8. HES Playground Donation

POTENTIAL VOTE

The District has a revolving fund of \$82,219.51 for the HES Playground. These funds were raised through various donations and fundraising events for the new playground to replace the Castle in the Clouds at Harwich Elementary School. As the Town of Harwich now oversees the construction of the playground, the MRSC must approve the donation of funds from the revolving account to the Town of Harwich for costs associated with the new playground.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve a donation of \$25,000.00 from the Harwich Elementary School Playground Revolving Fund to the Town of Harwich for costs associated with the construction of a new playground. The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

9. Regional Transportation Assessment

VOTE REQUIRED

Each year, the Monomoy Regional School District receives state transportation reimbursements. If the actual reimbursement is greater than the estimated amount, the school committee can vote to use the excess to offset future assessments. In FY21, the district had budgeted \$512,412 in estimated aid but received \$711,760 therefore the difference of \$199,348 can be used for that offset.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved that the school committee to approve an offset of \$199,348 to be applied to the FY23 Transportation portion of the Assessment, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

10. Strategy on use of ESSER funds

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan presented the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funding plan to the committee. Mr. MacMillan shared the grants already received, the additional funds anticipated, and the dates by which the funds must be spent and each fund's allowable uses, which vary from fund to fund.

ESSER I funds, in the amount of \$169,013 are to be spend by 9/30/22 and can be used for:

- Any activities currently covered by Title grants and IDEA grants.
- Planning / response to COVID, including coordination with state/local/other agencies.
- Address the needs of individual schools.
- Activities to address unique needs of specific student populations (e.g low income, special ed, ELL etc)
- Training for staff on health and safety (including sanitation and cleaning).
- Cleaning supplies.
- Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures.
- Educational technology.
- Providing mental health services and supports.
- Addressing learning loss e.g. through summer learning and afterschool programs.
- Other activities to maintain the operation of and continuity of services and continuing to employ staff.

ESSER II funds, in the amount of \$653,939, are to be spent by 9/30/23 and can be used for the same as ESSER I funds above. Noting that in ESSER II, \$10,000 of the funds must go to student mental health services.

ESSER III funds, in the amount of \$1,501,935 are to be spent by 9/30/24. The district will focusing on using the funds towards:

- improving indoor air quality;
- Activities to address unique needs of specific student populations (e.g low income, special ed, ELL).
- planning / implementing activities related to summer learning and after-school programs;
- addressing learning loss; and

- other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of and services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff.

The ESSER III grant application process differs slightly from I & II. The application requires a *Stakeholder Engagement*. Mr. MacMillan shared the next steps of that process. The ESSER III application is due October 4, 2021.

11. Superintendent recommendation regarding assessment with regard to Elementary Operating Budget

Dr. Carpenter walked school committee members through his assessment recommendation for financial equity in the elementary schools. He started by presenting the official MRSD Regional Agreement, from which the district currently operates, and the red-lined version of the agreement that the committee has revised over the years to remove and/or update language from the original version. Dr. Carpenter then presented a multi-colored version of the regional agreement that reflects the red-lined edits, additional clarifying language and suggestions, and incorporates recommended language from DESE (highlighted in light blue).

For the purposes of this conversation, Dr. Carpenter asked members to focus on the sections highlighted in yellow as it relates to the conversation of elementary equity.

Dr. Carpenter directed members to page 2, section VII that recommends adding a sentence related to school choice funds to be proportionately allocated to offset each school's budget based on the average ratio of enrollment.

Next, school committee members were directed to page 3 section IX which continues with a recommended method of assessment. Citing the Mount Greylock Regional School District's Regional Agreement as an example of the change Monomoy is looking to achieve with its Regional Agreement, Dr. Carpenter explained how their assessment method works by, 'applying the minimum required contribution, then assesses elementary costs to the member town for their elementary schools and splits the remaining costs by using a three-year rolling average of foundation enrollment.'

Dr. Carpenter also noted his recommendation to update the language found in the current red-lined version of the Regional Agreement related to Capital Costs and Debt Service to the new language found in the last paragraph on page 4 and section D on page 5 of the multi-colored version.

Discussion then occurred regarding a comparison of Mount Greylock's enrollment ratio to Monomoy's enrollment, how their assessment method would work and examples of the numbers if applied to the FY22 budget and what the next steps would be for the approval process of the multi-colored version of the Regional Agreement.

12. Regional Agreement Working Group - Future Plans

Tina Games updated the committee on the Regional Agreement Working Group. The working group, composed of Chatham and Harwich Town Managers, Finance Directors, the Superintendent, Business Manager and 3 school committee members, was started in December 2020 and has been focusing on the financial inequities and enrollment. Discussion occurred among the group on what the group might look like going forward, who would participate and if it would be transitioned to a more of a liaison role for the Chair and Vice Chair of the MRSC. General consensus of the school committee was that the working group would meet at least one more time and have an equal number of school committee representatives from Harwich and Chatham.

G. Subcommittee Reports

1. First Reading: Policy File JIB - Student Involvement in Decision-Making

On behalf of the Policy Subcommittee, Sharon Stout presented **Policy File JIB: Student Involvement in Decision-Making**. No edits were made. It was noted that as this goes for committee approval, there will be a verbal amendment for the process of student selection to take place in the fall of '21 only. This policy will be forwarded for a seconded reading and approval vote at the July 14, 2021 MRSC meeting.

2. First Reading: Policy File DBJ - Budget Transfer Authority

On behalf of the Policy Subcommittee, Sharon Stout presented **Policy File DBJ - Budget Transfer Authority**. Questions related to the fourth paragraph of the policy were raised. This policy will go back to the subcommittee for more clarification and return at a later school committee meeting for a new first reading.

3. First Reading: Policy File DIF- District Fraud Policy

On behalf of the Policy Subcommittee, Sharon Stout introduced **Policy File DIF- District Fraud Policy**. Michael MacMillan provided additional information related to the origin of the policy as based on a recommendation from the district auditor, No edits were made. This policy will be forwarded for a seconded reading and approval vote at the July 14, 2021 MRSC meeting.

H. Superintendent's Report

1. Recognition of Donations, Grants, and other Acknowledgements

Dr. Carpenter thanked and recognized the following for their donations or contributions to the district, including:

- The Friends of Pleasant Bay for the 2021 Virtual Learning Grant in the amount of \$6,250 to the Monomoy Regional Middle School for the purchase of 25 chromebooks for economically disadvantaged students.
- Mom and Pop's, located in Chatham, for donating and serving lunch to the Monomoy Middle School staff on Friday, June 18th as a thank you to the teachers.
- Mr. White at Chatham Village Market for their donation of hamburgers, buns and water.
- Ms. Cofran at Shaws for the \$100.00 Shaws Gift Card
- Mr. Guilmain at Stop and Shop for the \$50.00 Stop and Shop Gift Card
- The Chatham Fire Department - for volunteering their time to cook at the CES PTO and Monomoy Community Services "last day of school event" at Harding's Beach event.

2. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Carpenter announced that the COVID-19 dashboard on the district website has been officially retired. Dr. Carpenter also shared that the teacher professional development days were held mask-free - within CDC guidelines - and shared that he was cautiously optimistic for a pre-COVID return to school in the fall.

3. Chatham Annual Town Meeting

On June 12, 2021 the Monomoy Regional School District FY22 budget was approved at the annual Chatham Town Meeting.

I. Action Items

1. Second Reading: 2020-2021 Superintendent Evaluation

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the 2020-2021 Superintendent Evaluation as presented, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS with Danielle Tolley abstaining from the vote.

2. Superintendent Evaluation Cycle

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Joseph Auciello moved to approve the 1-yr. Superintendent Evaluation cycle, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

In discussion, Joseph Auciello shared his reasons for supporting the motion as a whole but his personal reasons for voting against the proposal. Other school committee members shared their reasons for supporting the motion.

The motion passes 7 ayes to 1 nay with Joseph Auciello voting against.

3. FY22 Budget Re-vote

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the new assessment to the Town of Harwich in the amount of \$27,361,049 and to the Town of Chatham in the amount of \$8,524,697 for a total assessment of \$35,885,746.00. The motion was seconded by Tina Games.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

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POTENTIAL VOTE

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UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

5. Regional Transportation Assessment

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved that the school committee to approve an offset of \$199,348 to be applied to the FY23 Transportation portion of the Assessment, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

6. MRSD Treasurer appointment

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the appointing of Paul Donlan as the new District Treasurer, seconded by Terry Russell.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

7. MREA contracts

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION 1: Joseph Auciello moved to approve the 2021-2024 Unit A contract, seconded by Terry Russell.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes

MOTION 2: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the 2021-2024 Unit B contract, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

8. Second Reading: Policy File - BDG School Attorney

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat Long moved to approve policy file BDG- School Attorney. The motion was seconded by Sharon Stout.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

**9. Second Reading: Policy File -ADF Wellness Policies
on Physical Activity and Nutrition**

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION Meredith Henderson moved to approve policy file ADF- Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition. The motion was seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long. In discussion, Sharon Stout expressed her opposition to the abbreviated policy.

Ayes: Jackie Zibrat-Long; Meredith Henderson; Joseph Auciello; Nancy Scott; Terry Russell; Tina Games

Nays: Sharon Stout; Danielle Tolley

The motion passes 6:2.

10. Presentation of the Warrants

Accounts Payable and Payroll warrants were presented for School Committee signatures.

J. Adjournment

MOTION: Sharon Stout moved to adjourn, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns at 10:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah Tambolleo
Recording Secretary

Documents reviews and available upon request

June 24, 2021 MRSC Meeting Agenda
June 10, 2021 MRSC Meeting Minutes
District Treasurer finalist information
Subcommittee Assignments form
2020-2021 Superintendent Evaluation
FY22 Budget Re-vote figures
HES Playground donation information
Regional Transportation Assessment
ESSER Funds information
MRSD current, red-lined and recommended Regional Agreement drafts
Policy File JIB - Student Involvement in Decision-Making
Policy File DIF - District Fraud Policy
Policy File DBJ - Budget Transfer Authority
Policy File - BDG School Attorney
Policy File - ADF Wellness Policies on Physical Activities and Nutrition