

**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Monomoy Regional High School Library - 75 Oak Street, Harwich, MA 02645**

This meeting was broadcast to Channel 22 as well as live-streamed/recorded to the [MRSC YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

Members present: Jackie Zibrat-Long, Chair; Meredith Henderson, Vice Chair; Terry Russell; Betty Gray; Tina Games

Members not present: Jessica Rogers

Members attending remotely via Zoom: Sharon Stout

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

A. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM by Chair Jackie Zibrat-Long.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE: Sharon Stout: present; Tina Games: present; Betty Gray: present; Terry Russell: present; Meredith Henderson: present; Jackie Zibrat-Long: present.

B. Adjournment to Executive Session Roll Call Vote to adjourn to Executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns to Executive Session at 6:14 PM.

Regular Open Session resumes at 6:59 PM.

C. Approval of Minutes

i. January 26, 2023 Regular MRSC Meeting

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the January 26, 2023 MRSC meeting minutes, seconded by Tina Games.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

ii. February 2, 2023 FY24 Budget Hearing

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the February 2, 2023 FY24 Budget Hearing meeting minutes, seconded by Betty Gray.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

iii. February 2, 2023 Regular MRSC Meeting

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the February 2, 2023 MRSC meeting minutes, seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

D. Public Comment: None

E. Reports and Discussions

i. First Reading: 2023-2024 MRSD School Calendar

The school committee was presented with the first draft 2023-2024 school calendar. A tentative list of the 2023-2024 MRSC meetings was also provided. There are 180 days of student instruction and the first day of school for students is scheduled for September 5, 2023. The calendar will be presented for a second reading and approval vote at the March 9, 2023 meeting.

ii. MRSD Regional Agreement - Conversations with the Select Boards

Potential Vote

Dr. Carpenter shared that on February 14, 2023 he met with the Chatham Select Board to discuss both FY24 Budget and the proposed changes to the Regional Agreement. The Board found no issue with the proposed changes intended solely to clean up obsolete language of the Regional Agreement. The only modification needed is to add Jeffrey Dykens' name and title to the signature page. Dr. Carpenter will meet with the Harwich Select Board in late February for the same conversation and report back to the committee with any feedback. In conversation, it was agreed that the school committee should have an approval vote on the updated Regional Agreement, therefore:

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the updated language to the MRSD Regional Agreement as presented with the only addition being Jeffrey Dykens, Chair of the Chatham Select Board, to the signature page. The motion was seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

iii. Preschool Fees

Potential Vote

MRSD Director of Student Services Melissa Maguire and Business Manager Michael MacMillan presented their proposal of the updated fee schedule for the preschool program, to start in FY24. The proposals seeks to eliminate the preschool fee of \$150/month (over 10 months) for the program in an effort to promote equity and to better meet the state mandated ratios of special needs students to community peers.

The preschool program currently holds a revolving account balance of \$90,000, which has not been applied to the budget since 2021. This, along with state funding calculations based on enrollment, would help sustain the programming without being fee-based.

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve discontinuing the monthly fee for community friends across the districts six preschool programs starting in the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

iv. ESSER update

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan provided a recap and update Monomoy's ESSER funding (the federal funding provided to help schools respond to COVID and its impact on education). Monomoy has received a total of \$2.3M in ESSER funds, which needs to be spent by September 2024.

The spending of these ESSER funds has been focused on the areas of Instruction, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) & Mental Health, Facilities & Equipment, and Health Services. The district is spending more on SEL / Mental Health with the addition of a Mental Health Coordinator and a Social Worker position than originally anticipated and will seek school committee approval to transfer ESSER funds from Instruction, Facilities & Equipment, and Health Services to support these SEL / Mental Health related costs.

This budget transfer request will be presented for an approval vote at the March 9, 2023 meeting.

v. FY24 Budget update

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan stayed at the podium to share a brief update on the FY24 budget.

The district now knows that the Health Insurance percentage increase, originally anticipated to be 8%, is set at a 4% increase, which reduces the overall budget by roughly \$260,000. It is however estimated that our transportation costs will increase, which will offset that savings. Other small changes of note are the anticipated prioritizing of items that hadn't been previously included in the first draft of the budget.

The FY24 Budget will be presented as a final draft and approval vote at the March 9, 2023 meeting.

F. Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report

i. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee - reporting out

On behalf of the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee, Meredith Henderson shared that the committee had met to review the Superintendent's 2022-2023 goals. Dr. Carpenter then spoke on those goals and the progress made to date towards each.

Tina Games also shared that she was recently appointed to the MASC state legislative committee and the regional schools committee. Ms. Games will be participating in a 'Day on the Hill' and will be advocating for state legislation.

G. Superintendent's Report

i. Recognition of Donations, Grants, and other Acknowledgments

Dr. Carpenter thanked and recognized the following for their contributions to the district and community:

Last week was National School Counseling Week - many thanks to our counseling team for the important work they do to support our students in so many ways.

February 15th was National School Resource Officer Day, and we thank our SROs for being an integral part of our school community.

The Chatham Orpheum for hosting our 7th grade students for a special movie outing this week

Lastly, on behalf of the Bourne-Thomas family, we want to thank the many businesses, organizations, and individuals who have reached out with support over the past week.

Our community has really come together to donate goods, services, and financial aid to the family. We were able to run thank-you ad in this week's Chronicle, thanks to the paper donating the space for the ad.

H. Action Items - Vote Required

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the updated language to the Regional Agreement as presented with the only addition being Jeffrey Dykens, Chair of the Chatham Select Board to the signature page. The motion was seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

i. Preschool Fees

Potential Vote

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve discontinuing the monthly fee for community friends across the districts six preschool programs starting in the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

ii. Approval of FY22 prior year invoice/billing

MOTION: Meredith Henderson approve the payment from the FY23 general fund of \$12,508.17 of prior year expenses related to the January 2022 storm damage insurance claim. The motion was seconded by Terry Russell.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye

UNANIMOUS motions passes.

I. Presentation of the Warrants

Accounts Payable and Payroll warrants were presented for school committee member signatures.

J. Adjournment

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Betty Gray.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sharon Stout (1): aye; Tina Games (1): aye; Betty Gray (.5): aye; Terry Russell (1): aye; Meredith Henderson (1): aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long (.5): aye.

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah Tambolleo
Recording Secretary

Documents reviewed and available upon request

February 16, 2023 MRSC Meeting Agenda
January 26, 2023 Regular MRSC Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2023 FY24 Budget Hearing Minutes
February 2, 2023 Regular MRSC Meeting Meeting Minutes
Draft 2023-2024 MRSD School Calendar
MRSD Regional Agreement
Preschool Fees
FY22 prior year invoice/billing