# Monomoy Regional School Committee

## Annual Workshop

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

6:00 p.m.

*Minutes*

School Committee Members Present: Betty Gray, Tina Games, Meredith Henderson, Brad Schiff, Ryan Clarke, Jackie Zibrat-Long, Bre Rose

Administrators Present: Dr. Scott Carpenter, Superintendent; Dr. Robin Millen, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Melissa Maguire, Director of Student Services; Joy Jordan, Community Engagement Coordinator; Michael MacMillan, Business Manager; Dr. Abigail Dudley, Monomoy Regional Middle School Principal; Jennifer Police, Monomoy Regional High School Principal; David Alexander, Monomoy Regional High School Assistant Principal

School Committee Members Absent: Jessica Rogers

The workshop was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chair Betty Gray who reviewed several housekeeping items, including a reminder that all School Committee members needed to complete their annual Conflict of Interest Summary and to notify School Committee Clerk Leah Tambolleo upon completion. Chair Gray then turned the meeting over to members of the Monomoy Regional School District administration to present information and proposals for consideration by the School Committee for the purpose of goal-setting for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Communications Update – Community Engagement Coordinator Joy Jordan presented an overview of Monomoy's communication plan, both internal and external, which included social media. This led to a discussion regarding some of the challenges related to social media and what prompted the district's exit from Twitter/X – and the new district policy to close the comment section on all social media platforms which was recommended by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). School Committee members asked clarifying questions which segued into the next presentation regarding student discipline.

- Restorative Justice – MRHS Principal Jennifer Police and MRMS Principal Dr. Abigail Dudley presented student management trends at both the high school and middle school, sharing data as it relates to student discipline over the past three years, noting some of the influences, one being social media. Both principals agreed that our students are growing more dysregulated which is causing great concern for their mental health and its impact on their day-to-day learning. Referencing revisions to Massachusetts General Law that

require consideration of alternative methods to re-engage students in the learning process, both principals recommended that the district transition to a restorative justice approach. MRHS Assistant Principal David Alexander explained the impact it would have on the overall wellbeing of students and the student body as a whole and pointed to a report on Restorative Justice in U.S. Schools which was shared with School Committee members. The recommendation also included the proposal of two additional staff members, one at the high school and one at the middle school, who would be responsible for the implementation and oversight of a restorative justice approach in collaboration with building administrators and teachers. School Committee members asked clarifying questions which led to the next presentation on mental health supports for students.

- Mental Health – Director of Student Services Melissa Maguire walked School Committee members through a brief presentation on the district's comprehensive tiered system of mental health supports, highlighting screeners and what is involved in the three-tiered system. The assessment process was outlined with examples that tied directly to the strategic plan, noting what community partnerships are in place.

After the completion of presentations, School Committee members took a 10-minute recess before returning to discuss goals for the 2024-2025 school year. This process began with a review of the committee's goals from 2023-2024, determining which, if any, needed to be carried into the 2024-2025 goals.

School Committee members settled on five main goals and agreed to review the first draft at the August 14th School Committee meeting.

- **Goal #1:** The MRSC will advocate for affordable and attainable housing to recruit and sustain high-quality teachers and staff. We will also follow any housing challenges that might affect student enrollment causing families to leave the area.
- **Goal #2:** The MRSC will support a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion audit within our district.
- **Goal #3:** The MRSC will recognize and highlight Monomoy's decade of success in educational thought leadership and student achievement.
- **Goal #4:** The MRSC will support discipline improvements at MRHS and MRMS using the restorative justice approach.
- **Goal #5:** The MRSC will review and support the implementation of the strategic plan.

A motion was made by Meredith Henderson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long with all in favor. The workshop was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Games, Vice Chair*
*Monomoy Regional School Committee*