

Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:30 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: Tina Games, Vice Chair; Brad Schiff; Bre Rose; Jackie Zibrat-Long; Meredith Henderson

Members not present: Jessica Rogers; Ryan Clarke; Betty Gray

Administrators present: Dr. Scott Carpenter, Superintendent; Dr. Robin Millen; Michael MacMillan; Melissa Maguire; Joy Jordan

A. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice Chair Tina Games.

B. MRHS Student Representative

MRHS Student Representative Jason Elhilow shared his updated report with school committee members. Highlights included the pep rally held on September 27th, the homecoming dance and football game, the 'Latinos on Cape Cod' event and MRHS celebrating LGBTQ History Month. Mr. Elhilow also noted that the Animal Welfare Club is collecting donations for pets affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton, the Political Action Club hosted a debate between three Cape and Islands senators and the Interact Club has been involved in community service, including a partnership with CAPABILITIES and volunteering at the Oktoberfest in Chatham.

C. Approval of Minutes: October 10, 2024 MRSC Meeting

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2024 MRSC meeting, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes.

D. Public Comment: None

E. Reports and Discussions

Vii MRHS Debt Refinancing (presented out of order)

MRSD Treasurer Paul Donlan shared the following information with school committee members:

The district is seeking to refinance the outstanding portion of its high school construction loan, which is expected to result in total savings of \$1,002,387.50. This would translate to an average annual savings of approximately \$67,000. In 2014, the district issued a \$28 million, 25-year bond to finance the construction of the high school. With 15 years remaining on the loan, we engaged Hilltop Securities Inc. to explore refinancing options. On October 22, 2024, the district received competitive bids from bond underwriters for a new \$15,160,000, 15-year general obligation bond issue. Huntington Securities, Inc. emerged as the winning bidder with an average interest rate of 2.971%. The proceeds from this new bond issue will be used to refinance the existing loan, generating the anticipated savings of \$1,002,387 over the remaining life of the refunded bonds.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the vote of the School Committee as prepared by Bond Counsel to the District and presented to this meeting, which vote, among other things, formally award the bonds to the low bidder determined at a competitive sale held on October 22, 2024, and establish the terms thereof. The formal terms of the votes prepared by Bond Counsel to the District and approved by this motion shall be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

i. National Education Support Professional Day: November 20, 2024 - Cindy Gushee

HES Instructional Assistant and MREA school committee liaison Cindy Gushee shared that November 20, 2024 is National ESP Day. Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are Instructional Assistants, Custodians, and Food Service staff, as well as clerical and administrative, transportation, health and student service, and computer professionals.

ii. Wellness Report - Melissa Maguire

Melissa Maguire and Dr. Nicole Camp presented the district's wellness report, focusing on social emotional learning (SEL) and mental health support. The district uses the Second Step curriculum for SEL, which aligns with the DESE wellness frameworks and addresses self-awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making. The district also uses the Botvin Life Skills Training for anti-addiction education and the Hope curriculum for grades 9-12. The district has implemented a comprehensive, tiered system of mental health support, including threat assessments, peer mediation, and collaborative problem-solving.

Ms. Maguire then continued by sharing the results of the Mental Health Resource Survey which was conducted to gauge awareness of mental health resources among students, parents, and staff. The survey results showed that while many students and staff are aware of resources, there are many who are not. The district plans to develop a resource directory and offer more parent training on mental health. The importance of effective communication and making resources easily accessible was emphasized.

iii. MRMS Siding Project Update - Michael MacMillan

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan introduced Steven Watchorn and Molly Parris of Raymond Design Associates to update committee members of their findings from the MRMS siding replacement feasibility study. The scope of work included studying the siding and building envelope to identify issues and make recommendations. Findings revealed decay, including loose and missing shingles, rotted trim, and water infiltration. Test cuts confirmed water damage and the lack of proper window flashing, leading to recommendations for repairs and improvements.

The recommendations for the Siding Replacement are:

demolish all existing siding and wood trim down to plywood sheathing, replace rotted sheathing on a unit price basis, replace batt insulation on a unit price basis, new finish siding, new composite trim to match, flash window and door openings, existing windows and doors to remain, replace bay windows, remove and replace downspouts, light fixtures, and miscellaneous items, selective repairs to roof edges, gutters, and foundation. With soft costs, the estimated total project cost is approximately \$6,300,000.

Next steps include approval of the feasibility study, infrared moisture testing of the exterior walls, material mock-ups, and anticipated Spring 2025 bidding.

iv. MRMS Building Committee Formation

Connecting to the previous agenda item, committee members discussed the formation of a MRMS Building Committee. The committee would benefit from having experience in architecture, engineering, construction, or finance as well as representatives from each member town. Both Brad Schiff and Jackie Zibrat-Long expressed interest in being on the committee. The conversation will continue to make sure a Harwich member(s) is/are also on the committee.

v. Budget Five-Year Forecast

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan introduced the five-year budget forecast, highlighting the importance of looking beyond the next budget year to prepare for future challenges. The forecast includes potential impacts from government elections, new employment contracts, and capital projects like roof replacements and boiler replacements. Mr. MacMillan also discussed the impact of enrollment trends on budget decisions, noting that fewer students mean fewer teachers, but the need for specialist

teachers may increase. The presentation included data on population trends, birth rates, and enrollment changes, showing a gradual decline in school-age populations.

vii. **First Readings - Policy Files: IJOA Travel Abroad & IHBA-A IEP Electronic or Digital Signatures**

On behalf of the Policy Subcommittee, Brad Schiff shared policy files IJOA Travel Abroad & IHBA-A IEP Electronic or Digital Signatures for a first reading. There was one minor edit to policy file IJOA - both will come back for a second reading and approval vote at the November 7, 2024 MRSC meeting.

F. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

- i. **Policy Subcommittee** - Reviewed Policy Files (E vii) and shared that more policies will be coming before the committee as the year progresses.

G. Superintendent's Report

i. **Recognition of Donations, Grants, and other Acknowledgments**

Dr. Carpenter shared the following recognition:

The students of Monomoy Regional High School's Political Action Club, a nonpartisan group, hosted a forum with the candidates for election to the Massachusetts State Senate for the Cape and Islands District with incumbent State Sen. Julian Cyr and challengers Christopher Lauzon and Joe van Nes. The event was organized by the student members of the club – the candidates answered questions from a panel of students overseen by a student moderator. All other aspects of the debate were also run by Monomoy students, including timing, lighting, and sound operations.

ii. **New Admin Assistant / School Committee Recording Secretary**

Dr. Carpenter shared that Leah Tambolleo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the Recording Secretary for the Monomoy Regional School Committee will be going into the role of District Accountant at Monomoy. Dr. Carpenter announced that Roberta Simmons, who has been in the front office of the Middle School for 22 years, will move into the role of Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. They are currently looking for someone to become the Recording Secretary for the School Committee.

H. Action Items - Vote Required

i. **MRHS Debt Refinancing**

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the vote of the School Committee as prepared by Bond Counsel to the District and presented to this meeting, which vote, among other things, formally award the bonds to the low bidder determined at a competitive sale held on October 22, 2024, and establish the terms thereof. The formal terms of the votes prepared by Bond Counsel to the District and approved by this motion shall be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

ii. **Second Reading: 2024-2025 Superintendent Goals**

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the 2024-2025 Superintendent Goals as presented, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

iii. **Approval of FY24 Prior Year Invoices**

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the payment of one thousand, eight hundred and sixty eight dollars and twelve cents in FY24 invoices not previously encumbered, as presented to the School Committee. The motion was seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

I. Presentation of the Warrants

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

J. Adjournment

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah Tambolleo
Recording Secretary