

**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:15 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: Betty Gray, Chair; Tina Games, Vice Chair; Brad Schiff; Bre Rose; Jackie Zibrat-Long; Ryan Clarke; Meredith Henderson.

Members not present: Jessica Rogers.

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 6:16PM by Chair Betty Gray.

B. Adjourn to Executive Session Roll Call Vote to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. Regular Open Session to resume at approximately 6:30 PM.

MOTION: Tina Games moved to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Meredith Henderson.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Bre Rose: aye; Brad Schiff: aye; Ryan Clarke: aye; Jackie Zibrat-Long: aye; Meredith Henderson: aye; Tina Games: aye; Betty Gray: aye.

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns to Executive Session.

Regular Open Session resumes at 6:30 PM.

C. Public Comment: Speakers are limited to three minutes; additional time is at the discretion of the Chairperson

MRSD parent Suzanne Berry spoke on behalf of Courtney Wittenstein regarding the air quality issues at the Monomoy Regional Middle School.

MRSD parent Ann Sullivan spoke regarding the Preschool program as presented at the December 12, 2024 MRSC meeting.

MRSD parent Ryan Edwards spoke regarding the Preschool program.

MRSD parent Christy Lin spoke regarding the Preschool program.

MRSD parent Lindsay Sullivan spoke regarding the Preschool program.

D. Approval of Minutes:

i. November 21, 2024 MRSC Meeting

MOTION: Tina Games moved to approve the meeting minutes from the November 11, 2024 MRSC meeting, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

ii. December 12, 2024 MRSC Meeting

MOTION: Tina Games moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December 12, 2024 MRSC meeting, seconded by Brad Schiff.

The motion passes with Jackie Zibrat-Long abstaining from the vote.

E. Reports and Discussions

i. Relations with Non-Public Schools - Cape Cod Christian Academy

Dr. Tracy Waters returned to be available to answer more questions from the Monomoy Regional School Committee. After another round of Q & A, committee members moved to vote.

MOTION: Tina Games moved to accept the proposal that the Cape Cod Christian Academy operate as a Private School in Harwich, MA. The motion was seconded by Ryan Clarke.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

ii. FY26 Revised Preschool Recommendation

MRSD Director of Student Services Melissa Maguire shared her presentation of the update proposal for the Integrated PreSchool program. Ms. Maguire started with the preschool referral process and the programs and services within the integrated preschool program, as well as historical trends in placement at both Harwich and Chatham Elementary School locations. After sharing the projected enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year, Ms. Maguire noted that the preschool programs will be housed at Harwich Elementary School and shared her vision for the 3 and 4-year old sessions as well as the morning / afternoon programs and projections. While the committee did not feel ready to vote on the actual specifics of the preschool program and schedule, it was recommended that the committee vote to approve the location. Therefore:

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to approve that Harwich Elementary School be the location for the Integrated Preschool program. The motion was seconded by Tina Games.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

iii. Competency Determination requirements for MRHS graduation

In November, Massachusetts voters changed the state's requirements for graduation, with the removal of MCAS as a measure of 10th grade mastery. Dr. Robin Millen outlined the need for the district to determine mastery of 10th grade curriculum and standards, recommending quick action and emphasized the importance of aligning procedures and possibly a policy to meet the new law language, with the policy subcommittee to consider this for the 2025 graduates.

iv. FY26 Budget Discussion

Vote Required

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan presented the draft of the FY26 Budget of \$49,607.032. The budget represents a 6.3% increase over FY25, which includes an increase to property insurance, \$315K in budget requests, an estimated 10% in health insurance and \$80K in building maintenance costs. Unknowns at this time are Chapter 70 funding, actual health insurance costs, E&D, and other miscellaneous revenues to help offset the FY26 budget. Budget conversations will continue to happen with the committee and member towns, and Monomoy will hold its FY26 public budget hearing on February 13, 2025.

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to accept the draft FY26 budget of \$49,607.032. The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

v. Formalizing the Middle School Building Committee/membership, organization, and purpose

MRSD Business Manager shared the following background:

"The district has set up a School Building Committee to oversee the construction projects currently planned at the Monomoy Regional Middle School. This vote proposes formally establishing the School Building Committee as a sub-committee of the School Committee, elevating its role beyond that of a purely advisory Group. The School Building Committee will provide expert guidance and support to the district on two significant Undertakings: MRMS Siding Project; MRMS Roofing Project.

These complex and vital projects require specialized knowledge and oversight to ensure successful Completion. The School Building Committee comprises residents of both Chatham and Harwich, carefully selected for their expertise in building construction and balanced to ensure equal town representation. Membership also includes representatives from the Chatham and Harwich Finance Committees and the Monomoy Regional School Committee."

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the creation of a School Building Committee for the Monomoy Regional Middle School, as a sub-committee of the Monomoy Regional School District. The motion was seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

vi. Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Process

As part of the MRMS Building Project, there is a requirement to hire an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) to oversee the work as its costs are due to exceed \$1.5 million. The process for hiring the OPM includes issuing a request for qualifications, a conference with OPM firms, and a recommendation by the MRMS Building Committee, which will be made at their next meeting.

vii. MRMS Indoor Air Quality Testing

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan provided an update on the air quality and mold control measures being taken at the middle school and shared that recent air quality tests show no significant issues, with outdoor samples often higher than indoor samples. The district has been conducting extensive repairs and maintenance to address these issues, including roof repairs, flooring replacements, and HVAC improvements. The district will continue to monitor air quality and remediate any issues as they arise, with ongoing projects to improve the building's condition.

F. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

i. Middle School Building Renovation Subcommittee, report out on first meeting

On behalf of the MRMS Building Renovation Subcommittee, Jackie Zibrat-Long shared that at their first meeting they discussed the Middle School Building Renovation, focusing on the need for extensive repairs and potential new construction. Key issues include roof replacement, HVAC systems, and mold remediation. Marina Brock, a health expert, conducted air and surface tests, finding no immediate danger but recommending some precautionary measures. The School Building Committee, including local building experts and town representatives, is overseeing the project. Communication strategies and potential health department representatives were also discussed.

ii. Negotiations Subcommittee

On behalf of the Subcommittee, Betty Gray shared that they are still in negotiations with the Custodians Union.

iii. Legislative Liaison - Report

Tina Games shared, as the Legislative Liaison, that new legislators and senate president Karen Spilka made a commitment to revisit the funding formula for Chapter 70, especially for small districts. Ms. Games also shared that she will be attending the Massachusetts Association School Committee's Leadership Meeting to talk about legislative parties for the next year, including the rural schools bill.

G. Superintendent's Report

i. Recognition of Donations, Grants, and other Acknowledgments

Dr. Carpenter recognized the contributions of student volunteers and the passing of a former teacher, Phyllis Wilkinson. He also noted that January is school board recognition month, and thanked the members of the school committee for their dedication.

ii. MAEC Equity Audit

Dr. Carpenter also announces the start of an equity audit with the MAEC Center. Dr. Carpenter will provide more information in the upcoming weeks.

H. Action Items - Vote Required

i. Relations with Non-Public Schools - Cape Cod Christian Academy

MOTION: Tina Games moved to accept the proposal that the Cape Cod Christian Academy operate as a Private School in Harwich, MA. The motion was seconded by Ryan Clarke.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

ii. FY26 Revised Preschool Recommendation

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to approve that Harwich Elementary School be the location for the Integrated Preschool program. The motion was seconded by Tina Games.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

iii. Building Committee membership and organization

iv. FY26 Budget

Vote Required

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to accept the draft FY26 budget of \$49,607.032. The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

v. Formalizing the Middle School Building Committee/membership, organization, and purpose

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the creation of a School Building Committee for the Monomoy Regional Middle School, as a sub-committee of the Monomoy Regional School District. The motion was seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

vi. Second Reading of Policy Files: EFD School Nutrition Program Charge; EHAA District Security Relating to Technology; EHB Data and Records Retention; GBEE Personnel Use of Technology

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to accept and approve the two policies as presented in the agenda packets, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

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 9:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah Tambolleo
Recording Secretary