

**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 27, 2025 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: Betty Gray, Chair; Tina Games, Vice Chair; Brad Schiff; Jackie Zibrat-Long; Meredith Henderson.

Members not present: Jessica Rogers; Bre Rose; Ryan Clarke

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 6:31 PM by Chair Betty Gray.

B. Superintendent Scholar Award for Academic Excellence

Superintendent Scott Carpenter awarded MRHS Senior Lucy Bates with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award for Academic Excellence. These awards are given to high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers. Criteria for the award looks at the three-year cumulative average, rank in class and selection by the superintendent from the top 5%.

C. MRHS Student Representative Report

MRHS Student Representative Jason Elhilow shared his February update with School Committee members. Some highlights included the Mock Trial event, MA All State Music Festival with MRHS students Emery Hines and Wellington Holmes, The V-5 Robotics Team event, and the Cape Cod Youth Climate Action summit, hosted by Mass Audubon.

D. Approval of Minutes

i. January 23, 2025 MRSC Meeting

MOTION: Tina Games moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January 23, 2025 MRSC meeting, seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

ii. February 13, 2025 FY26 Budget Public Hearing

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January 23, 2025 FY26 Budget Public Hearing, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

E. Public Comment: None

F. Reports and Discussions

i. MRHS Empty Bowls, Full Hearts event - Cherian Armstrong

MRHS Seniors Fiono Moore and Ashley Anderson presented information related to the Empty Bowls, Full Hearts event that will take place at the High School on Thursday, March 20, 2025. There will be 2 seatings and 5pm & 6:15PM. The event will cost between \$10-\$25 and will benefit the Family Table Collaborative of Cape Cod.

ii. 2026 Student Trip Proposal to Australia/New Zealand - Dustan Burns

MRHS Teacher Dustan Burnes shared his proposal to lead a student trip to Australia in April 2026. The trip is estimated to cost \$6500 per student, with fundraising opportunities to come. School Committee members will be asked to vote to approve the trip at their next meeting on March 13, 2025.

iii. 2025-2026 SPED Budget Presentation

MRSD Director of Student Service Melissa Maguire presented an overview of the Special Education budget, focusing on student enrollment and budget considerations. As of February, 322 students were receiving special education services, with 54 currently being evaluated. The circuit breaker reimbursement covers costs above \$52,000, with 75% reimbursed and new transportation reimbursement. The 2026 budget for out-of-district tuitions is \$1,385,000, offset by \$606,000 in circuit breaker reserves. The district saves nearly \$4 million by providing in-district services, with 65 students in specialized programs. Transportation costs are projected at \$651,000, and extended school year services are budgeted at \$110,000.

iv. FY26 Budget Update

MRSD Business Manager Michael MacMillan gave an update on the FY26 budget process and timeline. Since the FY26 public hearing, the budget has been presented to the Harwich and Chatham Select Boards and their Finance Committees. The final draft of the budget will be presented at the March 13, 2025 MRSC meeting for an official MRSC approval vote.

G. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

i. MRMS Middle School Restoration Project Update

Both Meredith Henderson and Dr. Carpenter shared that there had been an update on testing at the middle school. The testing found high readings in the library due to moldy books and elevated readings in two locker rooms. Dr. Carpenter explained that the elevated readings in the locker rooms are likely due to water in the traps and suggested considering the future use of the space. Dr. Carpenter also discussed the core sampling process through drywall to check for mold, which all came back clean. He also mentioned the need for plywood replacement and highlighted the issue of window flashing and the siding material options, including the pros and cons of cedar shake versus other materials.

ii. Finance Subcommittee Update

Members confirmed an upcoming Finance Subcommittee meeting scheduled for March 5, 2025, at which time they'll be discussing the FY26 budget in preparation for the final draft vote at the March 13, 2025 MRSC meeting.

H. Superintendent's Report

i. Recognition of Donations, Grants, and other Acknowledgments

Dr. Carpenter shared the following recognition, *"This week is Public Schools Week, a time to honor the incredible work of our public schools and the educators, staff, parents, and school board members dedicated to supporting students. This year's theme, Community Engagement, highlights how schools and their communities work together to advance student achievement and success."*

ii. Update on Equity Audit

Dr. Carpenter shared a personal anecdote about receiving an email regarding the equity audit and funding termination, discussing the Department of Education's stance on equity programs and explained the pushback against the Department of Education's decision and the school committee's goal for equity.

I. Action Items - Vote Required

i. 2025 NAFME Eastern Division Honors Ensemble Student trip

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the 2025 NAFME Eastern Division Honors Ensemble Student trip as presented at the February 13, 2025 MRSC meeting. The motion was seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

ii. Second Reading: Policy Files ADDA : Fingerprint-based criminal history record information (CHRI) checks made for non-criminal justice purposes; CORI requirements; DCF Central Registry; JB : Equal Educational Opportunities; AC : Nondiscrimination; ACAB-SH: Sexual Harassment

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to approve the Policy Files as presented in the agenda packet for approval. The motion was seconded by Tina Games,

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

J. Presentation of the Warrants

Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants were presented for MRSC member signatures.

K. Adjournment

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

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah Tambolleo
Recording Secretary