

Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 13, 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; Bre Rose; Brad Schiff; Ryan Clarke; Jackie Zibrat-Long; Meredith Henderson (arrived at 6:28PM).

Members not present: Jessica Rogers; Tina Games

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

A. Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:15 Pm 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: Ryan Clarke moved to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Brad Schiff.

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

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns to Executive Session at 6:16PM.

Regular Open Session resumes at 6:30 PM with Meredith Henderson now in attendance.

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

Harwich Town Manager Joseph Powers read aloud an email previously sent to School Committee members expressing concerns held by the Harwich Select Board regarding the MRSD proposed FY26 Budget.

Harwich resident Charles Gruszka spoke in support of the FY26 Budget.

Harwich resident Todd Telismanik addressed the school committee regarding the Preschool Program.

D. Approval of Minutes: February 27, 2025 MRSC Meeting

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2025 MRSC meeting, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

The motion passes with Bre Rose abstaining from the vote.

E. Reports and Discussions

i. November 2025 Visual Arts Department NYC Trip Proposal - Steve Cass

MRHS Teacher Steve Cass presented the NYC Theatre Tour trip proposal to MRSC members. The trip will be offered first to students in the Visual and Performing Arts department. Students will travel to NYC via coach bus departing December 11, 2025 and see Broadway shows, visit museums and other famous landmarks, have a meet and greet with a Broadway performer and see a performance of The Nutcracker. The trip is estimated to cost approximately \$1200 per student traveller. This trip will be presented for an approval vote at the March 27, 2025 MRSC meeting.

ii. First Reading: 2025-2026 MRSD Calendar

The first draft of the 2025-2026 MRSD district calendar was shared with committee members. Professional Days, holidays and other notable dates and events are outlined on the calendar. The first day of school will be September 2nd for grades 1-12. Kindergarten will start on September 4th and Preschool will begin on September 8th. The 2025-2026 calendar will be presented for a second reading and approval vote at the March 27, 2025 MRSC meeting.

iii. FY26 Budget Update & Vote, Harwich Select Board Messaging

Michael MacMillan presented the final draft of the FY26 budget, which is \$49,641,990, a 6.73% increase from FY25. The budget includes increases in special education placements and transportation costs, offset by savings on health insurance. The Harwich assessment increased by 6.73%, while Chatham's assessment went up slightly more. The budget also includes changes in instructional assistants due to student IEPs and enrollment numbers.

MOTION 1: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the FY26 Budget of forty nine million, six hundred and forty one thousand, nine hundred and ninety dollars (\$49,641,990). The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

The motion passes with 4 ayes and 1 nay.

MOTION 2: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the FY 26 assessments as follows:

To the Town of Harwich, thirty one million, four hundred and fifty one thousand, one hundred and fifty seven dollars (\$31,451,157) and

To the Town of Chatham, eleven million, two hundred and ten thousand, one hundred and three dollars (\$11,210,103).

The motion passes with 4 ayes and 1 nay.

iv. MRMS Restoration Project Budget Number for Town Meeting Warrants

Michael MscMillan and David Choi presented the budget for the Monomoy Regional Middle School restoration project, which includes siding, windows, and necessary repairs. The total estimated budget is \$11,507,030, with the OPM fee primarily during construction. The project includes a feasibility study, architect costs, mockups, and administrative costs. The project will require debt authorization, with a motion to approve \$9,707,030 for additional costs.

v. MRMS Restoration Debt Authorization Vote

Last year, the district and the Towns of Chatham and Harwich approved that the district incur debt for the purposes for repairing the siding and trim of the Monomoy Regional Middle School. At that time, \$2.5m was approved for this project. Since that time, the district has engaged the services of Raymond Design Associates as designer and ECC Corporation as owner's project manager. With the School Committee's approval the district has also set up a Building Committee to oversee this project.

Significant testing and further study of the building has been conducted. With the advice of all parties involved, the cost of the project is now estimated at \$11,507,030. The original estimate of the siding replacement failed to fully capture the necessary project costs. In addition the scope has been expanded to include the replacement of the windows.

MOTION 1: Jackis Zibrat-Long moved to approve that the amount of nine million, seven thousand and thirty dollars (\$9,007,030) is appropriated to pay additional costs of renovating and reconstructing the siding and windows of the Monomoy Regional Middle School, including all other work incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair of the Committee,

is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 71, §16(d), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the District therefor. The amount authorized to be borrowed by this vote shall be expended in addition to the two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) previously authorized to be borrowed for this project for a total project budget of \$11,507,030. The motion was seconded by Ryan Clarke.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

MOTION 2: Jackis Zibrat-Long moved to approve the following:

FURTHER VOTED:

That within seven days following the date of this vote, the District Secretary is directed to give written notice of the amount of the debt authorized by this vote and of the general purposes for which it was authorized, to the Select Board in Chatham and the Select Board in Harwich.

The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderso.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

- vi. **MSBA 2025 Accelerated Repair Program: MRMS Windows and HES Boilers** **Votes Required**
MRSD Business Manager presented the following information regarding the vote:

The district has prepared two Statements of Interest (SOI) to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Accelerated Repair Program. One SOI is for replacement of the Monomoy Regional Middle School windows, and the second is for the replacement of the Harwich Elementary School boilers. A vote of the school committee authorizing the superintendent to submit the Statements of Intent is required by the MSBA.

MOTION: Jackie Jabrat-Long moved to approve:

VOTE 1: Monomoy Regional Middle School: Windows Replacement

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 13, 2025, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Monomoy Regional School District, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 2025 for the Monomoy Regional Middle School located at 425 Crowell Road, Chatham, MA 02633 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: the replacement of all windows under Priority 5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Monomoy Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved to approve:

VOTE 2: Harwich Elementary School: Boiler Replacement

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 13, 2025, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Monomoy Regional School District, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building

Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 2025 for the Harwich Elementary School located at 263 South Street, Harwich, MA 02645 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future: the replacement of the current boilers under Priority 5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Monomoy Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

F. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

i. MRMS Restoration Project Update

The building committee discusses the budget for the Monomoy Regional Middle School restoration project, including contingencies for material costs.

ii. Finance Subcommittee Update

The finance subcommittee reviewed and voted on the FY 26 budget, as presented earlier on the agenda.

G. Superintendent's Report

i. Recognition of Donations, Grants, and other Acknowledgments

Dr. Carpenter shared the following recognitions:

Massachusetts Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler recently visited Monomoy High to talk with students about college opportunities, financial aid, and more. As part of the Higher Education Financial Aid Road Show, Secretary Tutwiler and his team had a conversation with a small group of juniors about completing the FAFSA, the nearly \$400 million available in state financial aid, free community college, and sought student suggestions on how to best share this info with classmates. We're honored that Monomoy was one of eight high schools in the state to participate.

The Monomoy Regional High School Jazz Band came home with a silver medal after competing at the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators' Cape Coastal District Festival on Feb. 25 at New Bedford High School, competing alongside 10 schools from across the South Coast.

The Massachusetts School Nurse Organization has named Harwich Elementary School Nurse Janie Ginsburg as a 2025 Rising Star. MSNO describes a Rising Star as a school nurse who has been in the school nursing practice for less than 5 years and has shown professionalism, passion for the specialty, growth in their practice and a positive impact on their students. Ginsburg will receive her award at a ceremony in May.

Tuesday was opening night for the high school's production of Mamma Mia, and you can still catch the show Friday or Saturday night or at a matinee on Saturday. Our students have been working hard to prepare and it's a fantastic show - don't miss it.

A reminder that the annual "Empty Bowls, Full Hearts" event is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, where you can enjoy a delicious bowl of soup, take home a colorful handmade ceramic bowl, and help address local food insecurity. The event is our High School's annual fundraiser for the Family Table Collaborative of Cape Cod, coordinated by students Fiona Moore and Ashley Anderson.

H. Action Items - Vote Required

i. FY26 Budget Vote

MOTION 1: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the FY26 Budget of forty nine million, six hundred and forty one thousand, nine hundred and ninety dollars (\$49,641,990). The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

The motion passes with 4 ayes and 1 nay.

MOTION 2: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to approve the FY 26 assessments as follows:

To the Town of Harwich, thirty one million, four hundred and fifty one thousand, one hundred and fifty seven dollars (\$31,451,157) and

To the Town of Chatham, eleven million, two hundred and ten thousand, one hundred and three dollars (\$11,210,103).

The motion passes with 4 ayes and 1 nay.

ii. 2026 Student Trip Proposal to Australia

MOTION: Meredith Henderson moved to approve the 2026 Student trip to Australia as presented at the February 27, 2025 MRSC meeting, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

iii. Approval of Prior Year FY24 Invoice - Not Presented

iv. MRMS Restoration Debt Authorization Vote

MOTION 1: Jackis Zibrat-Long moved to approve that the amount of nine million, seven thousand and thirty dollars (\$9,007,030) is appropriated to pay additional costs of renovating and reconstructing the siding and windows of the Monomoy Regional Middle School, including all other work incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair of the Committee, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 71, §16(d), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the District therefor. The amount authorized to be borrowed by this vote shall be expended in addition to the two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) previously authorized to be borrowed for this project for a total project budget of \$11,507,030. The motion was seconded by Ryan Clarke.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

MOTION 2: Jackis Zibrat-Long moved the following:

FURTHER VOTED:

That within seven days following the date of this vote, the District Secretary is directed to give written notice of the amount of the debt authorized by this vote and of the general purposes for which it was authorized, to the Select Board in Chatham and the Select Board in Harwich.

The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderso.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

v. MSBA 2025 Accelerated Repair Program:

a. **MOTION:** Jackie Jabrat-Long moved to approve:

VOTE 1: Monomoy Regional Middle School: Windows Replacement

The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion passes.

b. **MOTION:** Brad Schiff moved to approve:

VOTE 2: Harwich Elementary School: Boiler Replacement

The motion was seconded by Meredith Henderson.

UNANIMOUS the motion 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 Ryan Clarke.

UNANIMOUS the meeting adjourns at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah Tambolleo
Recording Secretary