



**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Monomoy Regional High School Library, 75 Oak Street, Harwich, MA 02645**

This meeting will be broadcast to Channel 22 as well as live-streamed/recorded to the [MRSC YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

Members present: Meredith Henderson, Brad Schiff, Stephen Davol, Ryan Clarke, Betty Gray, Ryan Edwards

Members not present: Jackie Zibrat-Long

Administrators present: Dr. Scott Carpenter, Michael MacMillen, Joy Jordan, Jennifer Kelly, Christie Cutone, Sean Dutch, Jennifer Police, Lindsey Hooper, Kristen Callahan

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

Meredith Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

MRHS High School Student Dan Morgan was welcomed by the School Committee as the new MRHS Student Representative.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- i. November 20, 2025 Minutes

MOTION: Betty Gray motioned to approve the November 20, 2025 minutes, seconded by Brad Schiff.

The motion passes with five ayes and Betty Gray abstaining from the vote.

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

Community member Ann Marie Varella expressed concerns about the accessibility of survey results related to school climate, culture, and the Superintendent search. She requested that the results be released before community meetings, emphasizing the importance of these findings in making informed decisions about hiring a new Superintendent.

Community member Charles Gruska highlighted key insights from the preliminary FY27 school budget, emphasizing the significance of budget management in ensuring quality education. They urged the school committee to thoroughly understand and justify the principals' budget requests, especially in light of potential financial constraints from the town of Harwich.

D. Reports and Discussions

- i. Superintendent Search Finalists, Schedule, and Interview Questions

VOTE REQUIRED

School Committee Chair Meredith Henderson thanked the Superintendent Search Committee members for their work over the last several weeks. The names of the three finalists were announced:

Vanessa Beauchaine, EdD. holds a doctorate in educational administration from Boston College, a principal certification from Northeastern University, a master's degree in elementary education from Boston University, and an undergraduate degree from Colby College, as well as a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate from Cornell University. Dr. Beauchaine is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for Wrentham Public Schools, a role she has held since 2018. Her previous administrative positions include Principal of Charles E. Roderick School in Wrentham, Principal of John D. Runkle School in Brookline, and Principal of Parkview School in Easton.. Her teaching experience includes roles as K-4 general and special education teacher and middle school ELA and math teacher. She holds active certifications as Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent and Principal (PK-6, 5-8, 5-12) in Massachusetts.

David Thomson, Ed.D., holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Northeastern University, a masters in education from Framingham State University, and a bachelor's degree from Framingham State University. Dr. Thomson is currently the Interim Superintendent of Schools for Wilmington Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year. His previous administrative positions include Interim Superintendent of Schools for Mashpee Public Schools, Superintendent of Schools for Norwood Public Schools, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment, Technology, and ELL for Blackstone Millville Regional School District, Principal at Raynham Middle School, Principal at Qualters Middle School, and Assistant Principal at Duxbury Middle School. His teaching experience includes a role as a middle school science and pre-algebra teacher. He holds active certifications as Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent and Principal (5-9, 9-12) in Massachusetts and as Superintendent of Schools in Rhode Island.

Robin Millen, Ed.D., holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership, Elementary-Secondary Education, from Johnson and Wales University, a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership from Johnson and Wales University, a masters degree in Education from the University of New Haven, and a bachelor's degree from Charter Oak State College. Dr. Millen is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for Monomoy Regional School District, a role she has held since 2023 (initially as Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment). Her previous administrative positions include Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for Nauset Regional School District, Principal of Chatham Elementary School, and Assistant Principal of Harwich Elementary School. Her teaching experience includes roles as a Grade 6 mathematics and ELA teacher and a Grade 3 classroom teacher. She holds active certifications as Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent, Principal/Assistant Principal, and Elementary Teacher in Massachusetts.

The next steps are for the School Committee to review each candidate's packet and check references before the interviews next week. Dr. Beauchaine and Dr. Thomson will visit the schools on Monday, 12/15/25 and Dr. Millen will visit on Tuesday, 12/16/25. There will be opportunities during the visits for both students and staff to interact with the candidates as well as separate after school faculty/staff forums and community forums for each candidate. The candidate interviews with the School Committee will take place on Wednesday, December 17th starting at 5:00 PM and will be livestreamed.

School Committee Members reviewed the list of interview questions and were able to select two questions each to ask the candidate on December 17th. The 13 questions were compiled from individual suggestions by each school committee member and were then combined into questions that would cover all the major themes.

MOTION: Betty Gray moved to approve the candidates as presented, seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

ii. MRMS roof submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority

VOTE REQUIRED

Project Overview

- Approval sought for schematic design submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for middle school roof replacement.
- The project team has developed the design, budget, and key steps involved in the roof replacement process.
- Upcoming MSBA board meeting scheduled for February to review submission.

Key Discussion Points

- Solar Readiness Options:
 - Minimum requirement: 4% of roof is solar-ready (basic design).
 - Extended option: Up to 20% solar coverage requiring significant structural support (costing \$800K - \$1M).
 - Approved option: Include metal roofing on all sloped roofs with a minimum of solar readiness, adding about \$300,000 to the budget for long-term durability.
- Roof Material Considerations:

- The architect recommends metal roofing for longevity (50+ years) versus asphalt shingles (20-25 years).
- Ongoing exploration of metal roofing design will continue during the finalization phase.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Submit the schematic design to MSBA for approval.
- Monitor feedback from MSBA and prepare for town meetings to discuss funding.
- Continue evaluating accessibility requirements for the project budget

MOTION: Betty Gray moved to approve that the District submit a Schematic Design proposal to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the replacement of the Monomoy Regional Middle School roof, seconded by Ryan Edwards.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iii. Q&A on Principal's Budget Requests

Budget Workshop Followup Clarifications by School:

- **Chatham Elementary School**
 - Principal Jen Kelly outlined necessary budget items for the upcoming school year, emphasizing the need for an additional instructional assistant.
- **Harwich Elementary School**
 - Principal Christy Cutone confirmed requests are the bare minimum, including essential items from previous years still unfulfilled.
 - Specific needs highlighted include decodable readers for foundational reading and improvements to AV presentation systems.
- **Middle School**
 - Assistant Principal Sean Dutch confirmed no additional requests outside current budget needs and emphasized the importance of universally designed seating for all students.
- **High School**
 - Principal Jen Police shared the MRHS requests were largely focused on a math interventionist and administrative support for the internship program.
 - Discussions revolved around the impact of prior educational disruptions on students and the urgency to address math skill gaps.

Harwich Selectboard members Don Howell, Jeff Handler and Mark Kelleher were present for tonight's meeting. Jeff Handler asked each principal if the budget they presented is sufficient to meet needs for the 2026-2027 school year without further requests. Each principal replied that they had submitted all their requests for the next school year.

The next steps will be to review and prioritize budget requests from all schools, continue discussions on the implications of educational support and interventions needed for student success and schedule follow-up meetings to refine budget allocations and address outstanding questions.

iv. Draft Budget Presentation

Budget Draft Presentation

Monomoy Business Manager Michael MacMillen presented the first draft of the FY27 budget, showing a proposed increase of 6.36%, totaling \$52,375,554.

Key drivers of the budget increase include:

- Health Insurance Costs: Anticipated to increase by 15%, primarily due to rising healthcare utilization and an aging workforce.

- Utilities and Property Insurance: Both projected to rise, with property insurance expected to increase by around 15%.
- Staffing Changes: Budget includes reductions of 8.3 positions, offset by new requests for 4.5 positions, resulting in a net decrease of 5.2 positions.

Capital Projects and Revenue Sources

- Significant investment in capital projects is planned, including:
 - Upgrades to school facilities and technology.
 - Continued funding for a \$50,000 stabilization fund for capital emergencies.
- Increased reliance on state funds such as Circuit Breaker and School Choice to support the budget, while being cautious of potential future reductions in federal grants like IDEA and Title I.

Assessment Calculations

- Proposed assessments for towns are projected to increase by:
 - 6.47% for Harwich and 6.22% for Chatham, with final numbers potentially rising to 7.6% and 7.17% when including middle school project debt.
- The minimum local contribution from each town is still pending and will significantly impact final assessments.

At this time the district will continue discussions and refine budget details leading to the official draft in January. We will continue to monitor updates on health insurance costs and state funding to adjust budget forecasts as necessary and plan for further meetings to address questions and provide clarity on the budget process.

v. Sabbatical Request

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Brad Schiff moved not to approve the sabbatical request, seconded by Betty Gray.

The motion passes with four ayes, Ryan Edwards and Ryan Clarke abstaining.

vi. MRHS/STEM Field Trip to London

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Ryan Edwards moved to approve the MRHS/STEM field trip to London as presented, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

vii. MRHS Donation to Cape Cod Healthcare from Spirit Club

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Stephen Davol moved to approve the MRHS Donation to Cape Cod Healthcare from the Spirit Club, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

viii. MRHS Donation to Independence House from the Animal Welfare Club

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Ryan Edwards moved to approve the MRHS Donation to Independence House from the Animal Welfare Club and the Young Women's Club, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

ix. Cancellation of School Committee meeting December 18, 2025

School Committee Chair Meredith Henderson announced that the meeting scheduled for December 18th is cancelled. The Candidates will be interviewed and voted on during the public session on December 17th.

- Majority of deliberations (over 90%) typically occur and are resolved the same night.
- Discussion clarified that the plan was to conduct everything in a single session.
- Members expressed agreement with the outlined process and timeline.

- x. First Reading Policy Files: File CBD - Superintendent's Contract, File CE - Administrative Councils, Cabinets, and Committees, File CF - School Building Administration, File CH - Policy Implementation, File CHA/CHC - Development of Procedures, File CHB (also BGD)- School Committee Review of Procedures, File CHD - Administration in Policy Absence

School Committee Member Ryan Edwards reviewed the policies for the first reading and highlighted changes made by the Policy Subcommittee including the combination of policies CH and CHA, which were merged for better clarity. He also noted that policies CHB and BGD are the same, leading to the recommendation to dissolve one. The presented policies will be moved forward for a second reading at the next school committee meeting

- xi. Second Reading Policy Files: File BGE - Policy Dissemination, File BGF -Suspension of Policies, File BHC - School Committee-Staff Communications, File BIA - New School Committee Member Orientation, File BIBA - School Committee Conferences, Conventions and Workshops, File CA - Administration Goals (Responsibilities), File CB - School Superintendent **VOTE REQUIRED**

MOTION: Ryan Edwards moved to approve the policies as presented, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

- xii. Approval of Prior Year Encumbrance

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Ryan Edwards moved to approve the payment of four hundred and fifty dollars of FY25 invoices not previously encumbered as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Ryan Clarke.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

E. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

- i. Finance Subcommittee

The budget information was previously shared in tonight's meeting. The Finance Subcommittee discussed Universal Pre-K but depending on how the budget continues to develop for FY27 it may be something that has to wait for the following year. It was noted there may be grant money available next year to help with the funding for the PUPS Pre-K program.

- ii. Superintendent Search Subcommittee

The Superintendent Search Subcommittee announced the finalists previously in tonight's meeting.

F. Superintendent's Report

- i. Recognitions

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently recognized Chatham Elementary School for increased growth in MCAS math and literacy scores, reaching pre-pandemic levels of achievement. Chatham Elementary School was one of 92 schools across the state honored for meeting this benchmark. To acknowledge this milestone, DESE invited school officials to attend its Celebrating Academic Success Conference on December 3, 2025, where the Chatham Elementary School team hosted a session titled Fin by Fin: Maximizing PBIS & MTSS to Improve Student Outcomes, focused on the school's journey of transforming their Response to Intervention model into a fully integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports, which led to exponential growth across all areas of student development.

Thank you to Stop & Shop for the donation of 12 dozen dinner rolls to Monomoy Regional Middle School for a multidisciplinary project. Students learned how to churn butter in science class, and then practiced their descriptive writing skills in English class. They learned the science behind making butter and then wrote about the process. They then were able to sample the butter they had made by putting it on rolls donated by Stop & Shop.

G. Action Items -Vote Required

- i. Superintendent Candidate Finalists
- ii. MRMS roof submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority
- iii. Sabbatical Request
- iii. MRHS/STEM Field Trip to London

- iv. MRHS Donation to Cape Cod Healthcare from Spirit Club
- v. MRHS Donation to Independence House from the Animal Welfare Club
- vi. Second Reading Policy Files: File BGE - Policy Dissemination, File BGF -Suspension of Policies, File BHC - School Committee-Staff Communications, File BIA - New School Committee Member Orientation, File BIBA - School Committee Conferences, Conventions and Workshops, File CA - Administration Goals (Responsibilities), File CB - School Superintendent
- vii. Approval of Prior Year Encumbrance

H. Presentation of the Warrants

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

I. Adjournment

MOTION: Betty Gray moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by ?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Simmons
Recording Secretary